



THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

What Really Happened - And Where to See It Today.

LIBERTY LINGO

Revolution: A change in government or power.

Defiance: Standing against authority.



Musket: Common colonial firearm.

Militia: Local volunteer soldiers.



Loyalist: Colonist loyal to Britain.

Redcoat: A Nickname for British soldier.

Treason: Crime of betraying one's country.



BOSTON

Boston didn't just witness the sparks of revolution—it struck the match.

In **March 1770**, tensions between British troops and Boston's citizens boiled over in what became known as the **Boston Massacre**. Five colonists were killed, and the outrage reverberated through the colonies.

Fast forward to **December 1773**, when a group of patriots—some dressed as Mohawk warriors—boarded British ships in the harbor and dumped an entire shipment of tea overboard in protest. **The Boston Tea Party** was more than a rebellious stunt—it was a bold declaration against taxation without representation.

By **April 1775**, the city was a powder keg. When British forces marched out of Boston to seize weapons in Concord, **Paul Revere** and others rode through the night to warn that the British were coming. What followed were the **Battles of Lexington and Concord**, where the first shots of the Revolution rang out—"the shot heard 'round the world."

Just two months later, colonists faced British troops head-on in the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. Though technically a British win, the heavy losses showed that the patriots would not go down without a fight.

Finally, in **March 1776**, General George Washington fortified **Dorchester Heights**, forcing the British to evacuate Boston altogether. It was the city's final stand—and a turning point in the war for independence.

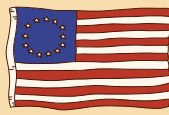
NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

As the Revolution gained steam, New York and New Jersey became the setting for some of its most dramatic turns.

In **May 1775**, American forces captured **Fort Ticonderoga**, securing valuable artillery that would later help liberate Boston. By **fall 1777**, American troops won a major victory at the **Battles of Saratoga**—a turning point that convinced France to join the war. During the British retreat, the **Marshall House** became an unexpected shelter for wounded soldiers and civilians under fire.

In New Jersey, Washington pulled off one of the war's boldest moves. On **Christmas night 1776**, he led a surprise attack at **Trenton**, followed by another win days later at **Princeton**. These victories reinvigorated the cause after months of setbacks.

The **Battle of Monmouth** in **June 1778** closed out the region's major fighting—ending in a draw, but proving the Continental Army could now stand toe-to-toe with the British.



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WORD BANK

Declaration: A formal statement of intent.



Encampment: A temporary military camp.

Congress: Lawmaking group of representatives.



Siege: Military blockade of a town or fort.

Resignation: Voluntarily giving up a position of power.

Treaty: Official agreement ending war.



PHILADELPHIA

If Boston sparked the revolution, Philadelphia gave it a voice.

In **July 1776**, delegates from the 13 colonies gathered at **Independence Hall** to sign the **Declaration of Independence**, making their break from Britain official. Just over a year later, British forces marched into the city after defeating Washington at the **Battle of Brandywine** in **September 1777**.

Despite the loss, the spirit of independence endured. That winter, Washington's army regrouped 20 miles away at **Valley Forge**, enduring bitter cold and disease in a makeshift encampment. By spring, the troops emerged better trained and more unified, thanks to rigorous drills and a renewed sense of purpose.

While the British held Philadelphia for less than a year, their occupation couldn't extinguish the fire of revolution. The city remained the heart of the movement, home to passionate patriots, secret meetings, and influential publications that helped shape public support for the cause.

Philadelphia wasn't just where the paperwork happened—it was where ideals took shape, risks were taken, and the path to independence became irreversible.

WASHINGTON DC & VIRGINIA

Though no major battles were fought in Washington, D.C., the city stands as the custodian of the Revolution's legacy.

At the **National Archives**, you can stand just inches from the original **Declaration of Independence**, the **Constitution**, and the **Bill of Rights**—documents that turned bold ideas into a new nation. A few blocks away, the **DAR Museum** honors the everyday lives of those who helped shape independence, particularly the women whose stories often go untold.

But to truly understand the man who led it all, head south to **Mount Vernon**, George Washington's riverside estate in Virginia. It was here, after the war, that Washington returned not as a conqueror but as a citizen. He would later accept the presidency—reluctantly—and again, after two terms, give it up. Just like he'd done in **December 1783**, when he resigned his military commission to Congress in what may be the most revolutionary act of all: walking away from power.

And of course, **Yorktown** looms large in the region's legacy. In **October 1781**, American and French forces laid siege to British General Cornwallis's army, forcing a surrender that effectively ended the war.

D.C. and Virginia aren't where the Revolution began—but they are where its ideals were put to the test, enshrined in institutions, and passed forward to the next generation.



WHICH PATRIOT ARE YOU?

A Fun Family Quiz by RoadTripTales.com



Get ready to step into your tricorn hat and see which Revolutionary War figure you're most like! Choose the answer that fits you best for each question. Keep track of your letter choices, and tally them up at the end to reveal your result.

1. What's your role in a group project?

- A. I take the lead and make sure the team stays on track.
- B. I spread the word, motivate others, and rally support.
- C. I write the plan and make sure everyone knows the "why."
- D. I jump in to help with whatever's needed... no matter what.
- E. I bring creative ideas and lighten the mood.

2. What's your idea of a great day?

- A. Getting things done and feeling accomplished.
- B. Seeing your friends and helping with something important.
- C. Learning something new or reading a great book.
- D. Solving a problem with your hands or helping someone in need.
- E. Inventing something or cracking a clever joke.

3. How do you handle a challenge?

- A. Stay calm, make a plan, and take charge.
- B. Alert others and move fast.
- C. Think it through and choose your words wisely.
- D. Act quickly and do what needs to be done.
- E. Try something unexpected... maybe even a little unorthodox.

4. What's your leadership style?

- A. Strategic and steady—you lead by example.
- B. Out front and vocal—you rally the crowd.
- C. Persuasive—you win people over with ideas.
- D. Bold and active—you take risks for the team.
- E. Visionary—you see big pictures others miss.

5. What would your friends say is your superpower?

- A. Staying cool under pressure.
- B. Always being the first to show up.
- C. Knowing just what to say.
- D. Having your back no matter what.
- E. Thinking outside the box.

6. How do you prefer to solve a disagreement?

- A. Calm discussion and leadership.
- B. Speak out and get support.
- C. Carefully argue your case.
- D. Let your actions speak louder than words.
- E. Defuse it with humor or perspective.

7. What's your favorite kind of road trip stop?

- A. Historic landmarks or battlefields.
- B. Small towns with local stories.
- C. Museums and historic homes.
- D. Living history sites where you can jump in and try things.
- E. Quirky roadside attractions or inventor museums.

Which letter did you answer the most? check your result below



Mostly A's – George Washington or Phillis Wheatley, The Reluctant Leader. You're calm, responsible, and wise under pressure. People trust you to guide them—and you don't take that lightly.

Mostly B's – Paul Revere or Sybil Ludington, The Midnight Messenger. Quick on your feet and brave in the face of danger, you're the first to sound the alarm when it matters most.

Mostly C's – Abigail Adams or Alexander Hamilton, The Visionary Voice. You think deeply, speak with conviction, and fight for a better future—on paper or in person.

Mostly D's – Molly Pitcher or Nathaneal Greene, The Battlefield Hero. You act fast, step up without being asked, and never back down from helping others—even when it's tough.

Mostly E's – Benjamin Franklin or Mercy Otis Warren, The Revolutionary Thinker. Witty, inventive, and curious—you're a born problem-solver with a flair for the unexpected.