VIRGINIA STUDIES 2015 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (CONDENSED) - STUDY GUIDE

VS.5 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — 2020 UPDATE

STANDARD VS.5A REVOLUTION; INDEPENDENCE

Conflicts developed between the colonies and Great Britain over how the colonies should be **aoverned**.

The **Declaration of Independence** gave **reasons for independence** and ideas for self-government.

The colonists and the British Parliament disagreed over how the colonies should be governed.

- Parliament believed it had legal authority in the colonies, while the colonists believed their local assemblies had legal authority.
- Parliament believed it had the **right** to tax the colonies, while the colonists believed they should not be taxed since they had no representation in Parliament.

The **Declaration of Independence, written** by Thomas Jefferson, states that authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings and that all people are created equal



Declaration of Independence

and have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

STANDARD VS.5B **REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS**

Virginians made significant **contributions** during the Revolutionary War era.

American Indians. whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans had various roles during the American Revolution.

Varied roles of American Indians, whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in the Revolutionary War era

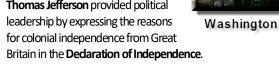


Sattle of Yorktown Oct. 1781- American & French troops storming British fort.

- Virginia patriots served in the Continental Army and fought for independence, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.
- Some American Indians fought alongside the Virginia patriots, while others fought with the British.
- Some Virginians were **neutral** and did not take sides while other Virginians remained loyal to Great Britain.
- Women took on more responsibility to support the war effort.
- Some enslaved African Americans supported the British who promised them freedom.
- Some free African Americans fought for independence in the American Revolution.

Contributions of Virginians during the Revolutionary War era

- George Washington provided military leadership by serving as commanderin-chief of the Continental Army.
- Thomas Jefferson provided political leadership by expressing the reasons for colonial independence from Great



- Patrick Henry inspired patriots from other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation by saying, "...give me liberty or give me death."
- The Marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman, volunteered his service to the Continental Army during the American Revolution.
 - The king of France provided **French troops**, ships and
 - The Marquis de Lafayette contributed to the victory at Yorktown.
- James Lafavette, an enslaved African American from Virginia, served as a spy in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.
 - James Lafayette then had to fight for his freedom and won his freedom many



Lafayette

years after the war with the support of the Marquis de Lafayette.

STANDARD VS.5C

AMERICAN VICTORY AT YORKTOWN

The **last major battle** of the Revolutionary War was fought at Yorktown, Virginia.

The American victory at **Yorktown** resulted in the **surrender** of the British army in 1781, which led to an end to the war.

While this victory did not end the war, it was the last significant military battle involving British forces and the Continental Army.

The war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

STANDARD VS.5D

VIRGINIA'S CAPITAL MOVES

A variety of factors explain the **reasons for moving** Virginia's capital.

Reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond

- The population was **moving westward** for more opportunities.
- Richmond was a more central location.
- Moving to Richmond increased the distance from the sea and possible attack by the British