

# Americans defeat the British



# Ben Franklin

- Diplomat- sent abroad early in the war
- secure aid from France

# George Washington

- Commander of the Continental Army
- Organized & trained
- Valley Forge – Transformed the Army

# Valley Forge

- Washington stayed with his men -cold winter nights,
- He earned their respect
- Soldiers low on food & supplies
- Emerged a new Army, confident & ready to fight
- Courageous, ragtag & undisciplined - became a cohesive fighting force.

# Britain's Strategy

- Northern area
- Cut off New England from the other colonies
- Taking control of the Hudson River

# Battle of Lexington

- Paul Revere - alert John Hancock & Samuel Adams of their arrest
- Colonists -expecting a fight
- Organized a group – militia called the Minutemen
- Minutemen were outnumbered.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battle – Started the war

# Battle of Concord

- British soldiers came to Concord
- Moved the arms & ammunition to a hiding place.
- Colonists defeated the British, giving them confidence.

# Battle of Trenton

- Physical & moral victory for Washington & Continental Army.
- Defeated the Hessians

## IMPORTANCE:

- 1<sup>st</sup> time Washington's men defeated a regular army.
- Washington's command was solidified. No more doubts.
- Increased morale. New enlistments & many of the current soldiers reenlisted



# Battle of Saratoga

- General John Burgoyne -lost 86 % of his force
- Turning Point of the war
- American victory
- Gave France confidence in the Colonists -entered the war as our ally.
- French aid - financial & military assistance.

# Battle of Yorktown

- British surrender (**General Cornwallis**) to Continental Army & the French under George Washington.
- The Siege of Yorktown effectively ended the struggle of the Revolutionary War
- Set the stage for a new government & nation.