Choosing Sides

*Explain how the Revolution caused divisions among the population.*

The Revolution divided the population between those who wanted independence from Great Britain and those who remained loyal to the King... and it divided America along social, religious, geographic, and ethnic lines.

Preparing for War

*Describe why each side had trouble raising an army.*

- Washington had trouble getting men to enlist for longer than a year.
  - Washington’s army never numbered more than 17,000.
  - Congress could not supply the army with blankets, food, shoes, guns and ammunition.

(Made up of state **militias** which were untrained and undisciplined volunteers. **Militias** = part-time, emergency fighters, not prepared for the hardship of a long war...i.e. the “Minute Men”... ready to fight at a minute’s notice)

- The British required enlistment for life, which many people wanted to avoid.
  - For personal and political reasons, many British officers refused to fight the Americans (it was an unpopular war among many of the British)
  - The king had trouble recruiting soldiers in Britain, so Britain had to hire mercenaries (the Hessians)

War in the Middle States

*Explain how Washington reversed a series of defeats.*

- For several months the British and Americans fight to control New York.
- Howe forces Washington into retreat.
- By December, the American army is in terrible condition.
- Thomas Paine writes “The American Crisis” to urge them to keep fighting.

- Washington scored a major defeat at Trenton which gave the army hope and attracted new recruits. It also solidified Washington’s leadership of the army.
Britain’s Strategy in the North

*Explain Britain’s northern strategy—and why it failed*

* The British hoped to seize the Hudson River Valley to isolate New England from the other states (the source of the rebellion). It did not work because the three divisions, led by Gen. Burgoyne, St. Leger, and Howe, failed to rendezvous (meet) as planned. (Howe went off to capture Philadelphia and St. Leger was tricked into retreating, leaving Burgoyne’s forces on their own)

*Explain why Saratoga has been called “a turning point.”*

* It prevented the British from isolating New England, and it convinced France and Spain to help America in the war.

*Tell why France and Spain entered the war.*

*France- Britain had been their enemy for many years and joining the American cause would force Britain to spread its resources over several fronts....France gave secret aid to the Americans because they hated the British. Once Americans proved they could win, they became their official ally.*

*Spain entered to expand their holdings in North America (and because they also hated Great Britain)*

*Describe how Valley Forge transformed the American army.*

* Despite the hardships, the American army came out of Valley Forge a well-disciplined fighting force. Washington’s vision inspired the troops to keep fighting. The army receives training from German officer Baron von Steuben*

*Explain why the war spread to the frontier.*

* Americans wanted the British to have to spread their forces and resources over a large area.*

*Explain how Americans expanded the naval war.*
• The Americans used numerous privateers to attack and capture British merchant and supply ships.
• John Paul Jones – naval commander who took the war to the British coast. He defeated the British ship *Serapis*, and after his own ship sunk, he *commandeered* it (took it for his own).

**Section 3-The Path to Victory**

*Explain what happened when the British shifted the war to the South:*

*The Americans shifted to guerrilla tactics, attacking the British and then retreating into hiding.*

- Nathanael Greene is given the command in the South.
- His strategy was to wear out the enemy, by staying one step ahead...then choose his own battlefield.

* It was believed that there was a large Loyalist population in the South...but they did not count on the number of Patriots who lived out in the country.
* The British also expected enslaved African-Americans in the South to escape and join them, but that did not happen.

*Describe how Cornwallis was trapped.*

• Guilford Court House... (it was technically a British victory...but they lost many, many, men).
• Cornwallis retreats to Virginia.

The French fleet prevented British ships from reaching Cornwallis while Washington and his French allies trapped Cornwallis at Yorktown.

*Explain how the Americans were able to defeat the British.*

The Americans used their advantages to defeat the larger and better trained army. Also, the Americans had the support of the population, who assisted the cause.
List some of the costs of the war.

Costs
- American’s 25,700 dead; 1,400 missing; 8,200 wounded
- Many soldiers left the army w/no money
- Gov’t debt of $27 million
- British 10,000 deaths
- Thousands of Loyalists lost their property (60,000 – 100,000 left during and after the war (most went to Canada)

*Identify what America gained from the Treaty of Paris.
America was recognized as an independent nation. The treaty also established America’s borders.

Treaty of Paris
- Signed Sept. 3, 1783....It officially ended the war
- Redrew national boundaries w/no respect for Native American interests

Describe the ideals that emerged from the Revolution.
- Republicanism became the foundation of America’s political system.
- Many people began to see a conflict between slavery and the American ideal of liberty.
- Freedom of religion and the “separation of church and state” became associated with freedom of thought and the rights of the individual.