



Name _____

Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown**Homeroom:**

7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #62

Aims: SWBAT compare and contrast the strengths and challenges of the British and American forces during the American Revolution

DO NOW

1. Which country won the French and Indian War?

2. Why were the American colonists angered by the British?

3. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

4. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

5. What is the contradiction between slavery and the Declaration of Independence?



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I. Overview/Review

Directions: With your shoulder partner use your notes and knowledge of US History to complete the timeline of the American Revolution. You will _____ minutes to complete this task.

Sequence of Events:

Taxes were passed



Colonists reacted by claiming, " _____ "



Boston Tea Party



_____ Acts



Militias are formed



Battles of _____ and _____



The writing and signing of the _____ officially begins the

_____ War



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II. Strengths and Weaknesses**Directions:** Read the articles and complete the chart below:

American Strengths (besides Patriotism)	British Strengths
1. 2.	1. 2. 3.
American Weaknesses	British Weaknesses
1. 2. 3.	1. 2.

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American Strengths and Weaknesses



At the beginning of the war, American soldiers were poorly trained and poorly equipped. They lacked gunpowder, rifles, food, and clothing. Some men had only spears and axes for weapons.

The Patriots were in a weak position when the **American Revolution**¹ began. They had a hastily organized, untrained army and a small navy. Their weaknesses were far more obvious than their strengths.

The American Weaknesses The **Continental army**² was always short of men. General George Washington never had more than 20,000 troops at one time and place. Many soldiers enlisted for six months or a year. Just when they were learning how to fight they would pick up their muskets and go home to take care of the farms and families.

Few Americans were trained for battle. Some were hunters and could shoot well enough from behind a tree. But when facing a mass of well-disciplined redcoats, they were likely to turn and run.

The army was plagued with shortages. Guns and gunpowder were so scarce that Benjamin Franklin suggested arming troops with bows and arrows. Food shortages forced soldiers to beg for handouts. Uniforms were scarce as well. In winter, one could track shoeless soldiers by their bloody footprints in the snow.

Such shortages outraged Washington. But when he complained to the Second Continental Congress, nothing changed. Congress, the new nation's only government, lacked the power to raise money for supplies by taxing the colonies – now the new nation's states.

In desperation, Congress printed money to pay for the war. But the value of this money dropped so low that merchants demanded to be paid in gold instead. Like everything else, gold was scarce.

American Strengths Still, the Americans did have strengths. One was the patriotism of people like Joseph Martin, who willingly gave their lives to defend the ideal of a country based on liberty and **democracy**³. Without them, the war would have been quickly lost.

The Americans also received help from overseas. Motivated by their old hatred of the English, the French secretly aided the Americans. During the first two years of the war, 90% of the Americans' gunpowder came from Europe, mostly from France. In addition, a Polish Jew named

Haym Salomon, who immigrated to New York in 1775, helped to finance the war effort.

The Americans' other great strength was their commander. General Washington was more than an experienced military leader. He was also a man who inspired courage and confidence. In the dark days to come, it was Washington who would keep the ragtag Continental army together.

¹ American Revolution: the struggle of the colonies in North America to gain independence from Great Britain

² Continental Army: the American army during the American Revolution

³ Democracy: a system of government in which the power to govern belongs to the people

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British Strengths and Weaknesses



British soldiers were trained professionals. They were well equipped with plenty of ammunition, good muskets, adequate food, and uniforms.

In contrast to the American colonies, Great Britain entered the war from a position of strength. Yet, despite both their real and their perceived advantages, the British encountered many problems/

British Strengths With a professional army of about 42,000 troops at the beginning of the war, British forces greatly outnumbered the Continental army. In addition, George III hired 30,000 mercenaries from Germany. These hired soldiers were known as Hessians (HEH-shenz) because they came from a part of Germany called Hesse-Cassel. The British were also able to recruit many Loyalists, African Americans, and American Indians to fight on their side.

British and Hessian troops were well trained in European military tactics. They excelled in large battles fought by a mass of troops on open ground. They also had far more experience firing artillery than Americans had.

The British forces were well supplied, as well. Unlike the pitifully equipped Continental army, they seldom lacked for food, uniforms, weapons or ammunition.

British Weaknesses Even so, the war presented Great Britain with huge problems. One was the distance between Great Britain and America. Sending troops and supplies across the Atlantic was slow and costly. News of battles arrived in England long after they had occurred, making it difficult for British leaders to plan a course of action.

A second problem was that King George and his ministers were never able to convince the British people that defeating the rebels was vital

to the future of Great Britain. The longer the war dragged on, the less happy the British taxpayers became about paying its heavy costs.

A third problem was poor leadership. Lord Geogre Germain, the man chosen to direct the British troops, had no real sense of how to defeat the rebels. How could he? He had never set foot in North America.

Nor did it occur to him to go see for himself what his army was up

against. If he had, Germain might have realized that this was not a war that could be won by conquering a city or two.

To end the revolution, Germain's forces would have to crush the Patriots' will to fight, state by state. Instead, Germain kept changing plans and generals, hoping that some combination of the two would bring him an easy victory.



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III. Capture the Flag: A Historical Analogy

Complete the sentences for the map of Round 1 of Capture the Flag



1. The Blue team is smaller. It has not warmed up. It hasn't played capture the flag as much as the Red team, just like _____.
2. The Red team is larger. It has warmed up. It has played the game more than the Blue team, just like _____.
3. The Blue captain has experience playing Capture the Flag, just like _____.
4. The White team cheers for the Blue team just like _____.
5. Half of the Red team starts the game far from the field, just like _____.



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Exit Ticket

_____/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

1. One of the strengths of the American side was that
 - a. they knew the land
 - b. they had strong allies at the beginning of the war
 - c. their supplies were of the highest quality
 - d. their soldiers were better trained

2. One of the weaknesses of the British side was
 - a. their soldiers were poorly trained
 - b. the distance between America and England posed a problem
 - c. the English were fighting a war with Spain
 - d. George III hired mercenaries

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Large, well-trained army II. Powerful navy III. Enough money to wage war |
|---|

Which group is described by the above characteristics?

- a. Americans
- b. French
- c. English
- d. Native Americans

4. Why was patriotism a strength of the Americans during the American Revolution?



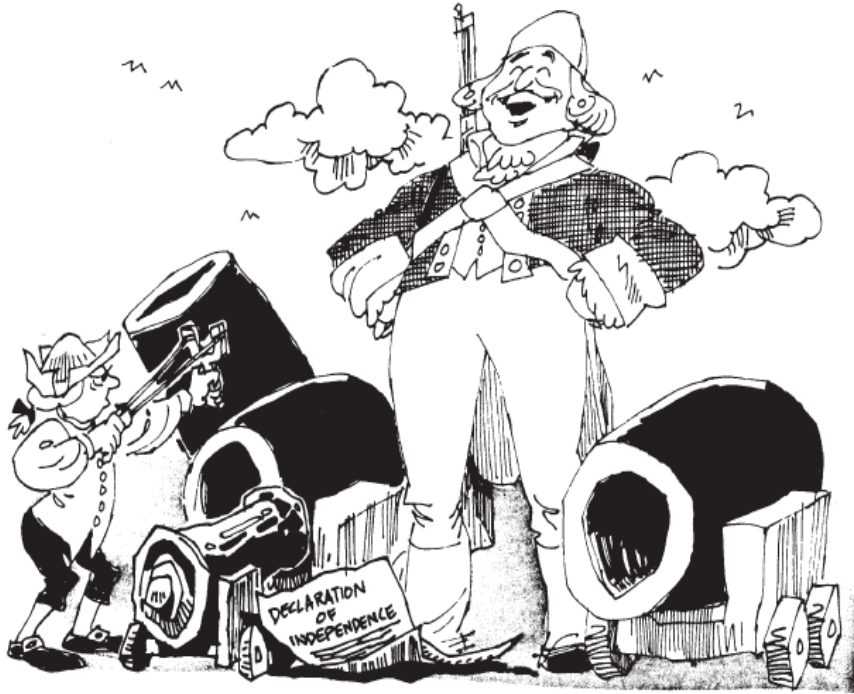
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Homework

_____/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

Directions: Use **O.P.T.I.C.** to analyze the political cartoon!

Source: Melvin Schwartz and John R. O'Connor, *Exploring American History*, 2nd edition, Globe Book Company, Inc. (adapted)

1. Which group does the large man represent?

2. Which group does the small man represent?

3. What inference can you make about either side, based on the image?





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4. What message was the author trying to convey with the contrasting sizes?

5. According to the artist, what strengths does the larger figure have over the smaller one?

6. CHALLENGE: This image reminds me of a biblical narrative. What story is the artist referring to and how does this inform the viewer of the artists beliefs about who will be victorious in the war?
