

Study Guide



Chapter 6, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 162–168

THE EARLY YEARS

KEY TERMS

- neutral** Taking neither side (page 163)
- mercenary** Hired soldiers (page 164)
- recruit** To enlist (page 165)

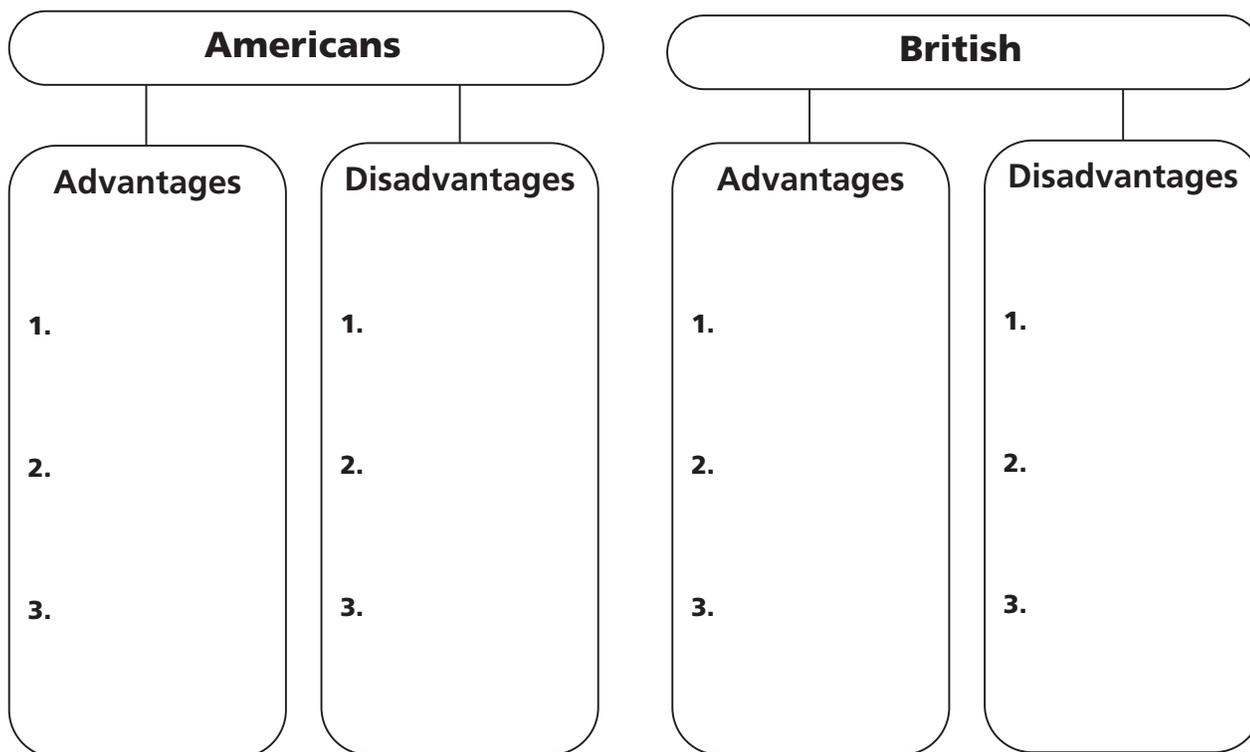
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever worked hard for a cause you believed in? What was the cause you worked for? What did you do to support your cause? Did your work make a difference?

This section focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of the British and the Americans in the American Revolution.

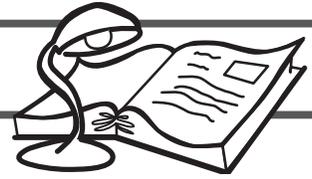
ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how Patriot victories slowed the progress of the British.



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Chapter 6, Section 1 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **The Opposing Sides** (pages 162–165)

Both the British and the Americans believed the war would be short. John Adams believed it would be a long war with many lives lost. Britain had many advantages including a strong, well-trained navy and army, money, and a large population. The Patriots were at a disadvantage, relying on a volunteer army lacking experience and supplies. The Patriots also lacked support from groups of citizens. The Loyalists, or Tories, remained loyal to Britain, the Quakers were against war, and some people remained *neutral*, preferring not to choose sides. The Carolinas and Georgia had the strongest Loyalist population, and New England had the weakest.

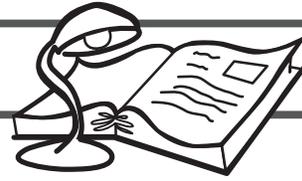
Many Loyalists believed that the Patriots' reasons for rebelling against England were not strong enough to justify a war. Additionally, many belonged to the Anglican Church, depended on the British for their jobs, or were afraid of what would happen. Many enslaved African Americans became Loyalists when Britain offered them their freedom in exchange for fighting against the Patriots. Loyalties to one side or the other often divided families and friends.

The Patriots' advantages included their strong desire to protect their freedom and fighting on their own soil. The British had to ship troops and supplies across the ocean and were unfamiliar with the territory once they arrived. They used paid soldiers called *mercenaries* to fight the colonists. The mercenaries, also known as Hessians, fought for money. The Patriots had more to lose than the Hessians, which made them more determined to win. The leadership of George Washington was a major advantage for the Patriots.

The states were very different from one another. They were reluctant to turn power over to the Congress after breaking off from British rule. Congress established the Continental Army but had trouble both enlisting, or *recruiting*, soldiers and raising money to fight the war. Washington wanted soldiers to sign on for three-year terms of service or for the length of the war. Many signed on for only one year. Women also fought for the Patriots.

1. Did all Americans support the war for independence? Explain.

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Chapter 6, Section 1 *(continued)*

- **Fighting in New York** (*pages 166–167*)

Few troops took part in the early battles, but during the summer of 1776, Britain displayed a show of force, sending 32,000 soldiers to New York. General Washington, with fewer than 20,000 American soldiers, fought General William Howe’s British troops in the Battle of Long Island and lost badly. Supplies were limited. Many members of the Continental Army had no shoes, socks, or jackets. They retreated across Manhattan, New Jersey, and into Pennsylvania by November. Some soldiers completed their service and left, while others ran away. The outlook was grim.

2. Why did American troops lose the Battle of Long Island?

- **Patriot Gains** (*page 167*)

Washington told the Continental Congress how badly more troops were needed and asked them to recruit free African Americans. The Southern states, fearful of a revolt, had persuaded Congress not to enlist African Americans. Desperate for troops, every state except South Carolina enlisted African Americans in the army.

Armies did not expect to fight during the winter. Washington saw a chance to surprise the British by attacking their troops in December in Trenton, New Jersey. American forces captured more than 900 Hessians. They then went to Princeton, New Jersey, and drove the British troops and their support away. These victories lifted American troops’ spirits.

3. Who won the Battles at Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey?

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Chapter 6, Section 1 (continued)

- **A British Plan for Victory** (pages 167–168)

The British plan for 1777 was to capture Albany in New York, control the Hudson River, separate the Middle states from New England, and destroy the Patriot troops. The British captured Philadelphia where they then spent the winter. The Patriots blocked their paths as the British tried to move to Albany. When the redcoats tried to capture Bennington, Vermont, they were defeated. Short of supplies and troops, the British retreated to Saratoga, New York.

At Saratoga, still waiting for back up, the British found themselves surrounded by American troops three times their size. General Burgoyne and over 5,700 soldiers surrendered on October 7, 1777.

4. How was the victory at Saratoga a turning point in the war?
