

Study Guide

Chapter 6, Section 4



For use with textbook pages 183–187

THE WAR IS WON

KEY TERMS

ratify	To approve (page 185)
ambush	A surprise attack (page 187)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have any of your relatives served in a war? In which war did they serve? What role did they play in the war? Were they honored for their service?

In the last section, you read about how Revolutionary War fighting spread to the South and West. This section focuses on how American colonies overcame many disadvantages to win their independence.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how a combined Patriot force ensured an independent United States.

The Battle of Yorktown

1.	
2.	
3.	
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6.	
7.	

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Chapter 6, Section 4 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **Victory at Yorktown** (*pages 183–185*)

French warships carrying the French general, the Comte de Rochambeau and more than 5,000 soldiers arrived in Newport, Rhode Island, in July 1780. The excitement over the long-awaited help was short-lived, however, because British ships arrived soon after and trapped the French ships in Newport. The Americans had to wait another year for a second fleet of French ships to arrive from the West Indies. Washington positioned troops north of New York City to monitor the activities of the British under the command of General Clinton.

Washington knew that Marquis de Lafayette and his Patriot troops had British troops, under the command of Cornwallis, contained on the Yorktown peninsula. In August 1781, he learned that the second fleet of French ships under Admiral Franoise de Grasse was headed toward the Chesapeake Bay rather than New York. Washington secretly changed his plans and headed for Yorktown, Virginia. Three other groups of Patriots would join him: Patriot soldiers under Lafayette, Rochambeau's French-American army from Rhode Island, and Admiral de Grasse and the French navy. They kept their destination a secret so that Clinton would think the Americans were still planning to attack New York City instead of rushing to help Cornwallis. Not even the soldiers knew where they were going.

Cornwallis's 7,500 British and Hessian troops were surrounded on land and by sea by 14,000 American and French troops who opened fire on them. Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, scoring an important victory for the Patriots.

1. Why were the Americans able to defeat the British at Yorktown?

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Chapter 6, Section 4 (continued)

- **Independence** (pages 185–187)

There were other battles, but after Yorktown the British decided that the war was too costly to continue. Delegates from both sides worked out a treaty in Paris, which was **ratified**, or approved, by Congress in April. The final Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783. Britain agreed to withdraw all troops from America and made peace with France, Spain, and the Netherlands. Americans were permitted to fish off the coast of Canada. The United States agreed that British merchants had the right to collect debts owed them by Americans and that property belonging to Loyalists would be returned. George Washington resigned from the army and returned to his family at Mount Vernon.

Many factors contributed to American victory and independence:

- A.** Americans fought on their own soil; the British had to bring troops and supplies across the Atlantic Ocean.
- B.** The British relied on their powerful navy for support; they had no support from the navy at Yorktown because their ships were blocked.
- C.** The British were successful at overtaking cities, but they had trouble out in the country.
- D.** The Patriots were familiar with the territory and knew where to set up an **ambush**, or a surprise attack.
- E.** The Americans received help from other nations.
- F.** The Patriots shared great determination and spirit.

2. What were the details of the Treaty of Paris?
