

# American Revolution Trivia

From the Boston Tea Party to the Treaty of Paris, twenty questions about the war that created a n...

Name / Team: .....

Score: .....

**1** Who was the commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution?

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. George Washington
- D. John Adams

**2** What event in 1773 involved colonists dumping tea into Boston Harbor to protest British taxes?

- A. The Boston Massacre
- B. The Boston Tea Party
- C. The Stamp Act Protest
- D. The Intolerable Acts

**3** Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. John Adams
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. James Madison

**4** Where were the first shots of the American Revolution fired in April 1775?

- A. Philadelphia and New York
- B. Lexington and Concord
- C. Boston and Charleston
- D. Yorktown and Trenton

**5** Which famous pamphlet by Thomas Paine argued for American independence from Britain?

- A. The Federalist Papers
- B. Common Sense
- C. Poor Richard's Almanack
- D. The Rights of Man

**6** Which country was the most important military ally of the American colonies during the Revolution?

- A. Spain
- B. The Netherlands
- C. France
- D. Prussia

**7** What was the last major battle of the American Revolution?

- A. Battle of Bunker Hill
- B. Battle of Saratoga
- C. Battle of Yorktown
- D. Battle of Trenton

**8** On which date was the Declaration of Independence adopted by Congress?

- A. July 2, 1776
- B. July 4, 1776
- C. August 2, 1776
- D. June 28, 1776

**9** Which patriot warned that the British were coming on the night of April 18, 1775?

- A. Samuel Adams
- B. Patrick Henry
- C. Paul Revere
- D. John Hancock

**10** What British tax on printed materials helped spark colonial resistance in 1765?

- A. The Tea Act
- B. The Stamp Act
- C. The Sugar Act
- D. The Townshend Acts

**11** What treaty officially ended the American Revolution in 1783?

- A. The Treaty of Versailles
- B. The Treaty of Ghent
- C. The Treaty of Paris
- D. The Jay Treaty

**12** Which turning-point battle in 1777 convinced France to ally with the American colonies?

- A. Battle of Trenton
- B. Battle of Bunker Hill
- C. Battle of Saratoga
- D. Battle of Brandywine

## American Revolution Trivia

(continued)

- 13** Where did Washington's army spend the brutal winter of 1777–1778?
- A. Boston
  - B. Mount Vernon
  - C. Valley Forge
  - D. Fort Ticonderoga
- 14** Which French military officer volunteered to serve in the Continental Army and became one of Washington's most trusted aides?
- A. Rochambeau
  - B. De Grasse
  - C. Lafayette
  - D. Montcalm
- 15** What famous phrase did Patrick Henry reportedly say in his 1775 speech to the Virginia Convention?
- A. Don't tread on me
  - B. These are the times that try men's souls
  - C. Give me liberty, or give me death
  - D. We must all hang together, or most assuredly we ...
- 16** Which Prussian military officer trained Washington's troops at Valley Forge?
- A. Lafayette
  - B. Kosciuszko
  - C. Baron von Steuben
  - D. Herkimer
- 17** How many of the original thirteen colonies had to ratify the Constitution for it to take effect?
- A. Seven
  - B. Nine
  - C. Ten
  - D. All thirteen
- 18** Who served as the first Secretary of the Treasury and was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr?
- A. John Jay
  - B. James Madison
  - C. Alexander Hamilton
  - D. Thomas Jefferson
- 19** What colonial protest group, formed in Boston in 1765, organized resistance against British taxation?
- A. The Minutemen
  - B. The Continental Congress
  - C. The Sons of Liberty
  - D. The Committees of Correspondence
- 20** Which American general defected to the British side in 1780, making his name synonymous with treason?
- A. Charles Lee
  - B. Horatio Gates
  - C. Benedict Arnold
  - D. Thomas Gage
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# American Revolution Trivia — Answer Key

## 1. C George Washington

George Washington was appointed commander of the Continental Army in June 1775 and led the army throughout the war.

## 2. B The Boston Tea Party

On December 16, 1773, colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians dumped 342 chests of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor.

## 3. C Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the primary author, drafting the document in June 1776. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams made revisions before it was presented to Congress.

## 4. B Lexington and Concord

British troops marched to Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, to seize colonial weapons on April 19, 1775. These battles are often called 'the shot heard round the world.'

## 5. B Common Sense

Published in January 1776, Common Sense sold hundreds of thousands of copies and made a powerful case for independence in plain language ordinary people could

## 6. C France

France provided troops, naval support, and critical funding. The French alliance, formalized in 1778, was decisive in the American victory.

## 7. C Battle of Yorktown

The Siege of Yorktown in October 1781 ended when British General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington. Peace negotiations followed.

## 8. B July 4, 1776

Congress voted for independence on July 2, but the official Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776, the date celebrated as Independence Day.

## 9. C Paul Revere

Paul Revere rode from Boston to Lexington to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock. William Dawes and Samuel Prescott also carried the warning.

## 10. B The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed all printed materials in the colonies, including newspapers, legal documents, and playing cards. The slogan 'no taxation without representation' arose in response.

## 11. C The Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783. Britain recognized American independence and ceded territory east of the Mississippi River.

## 12. C Battle of Saratoga

The American victory at Saratoga in October 1777 convinced France that the colonies could win the war, leading to the formal French alliance in 1778.

## 13. C Valley Forge

The Continental Army endured a devastating winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Despite starvation and disease, the army emerged in spring as a more disciplined fighting force.

## 14. C Lafayette

The Marquis de Lafayette arrived in America in 1777 at age 19, served without pay, and became a major general. He and Washington formed a lifelong friendship.

## 15. C Give me liberty, or give me death

Patrick Henry's speech on March 23, 1775, urged Virginia to arm its militia. His final line became one of the most famous phrases of the Revolution.

## 16. C Baron von Steuben

Baron Friedrich von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge in February 1778 and transformed the Continental Army through rigorous drilling and military discipline.

## 17. B Nine

Article VII of the Constitution required ratification by nine of the thirteen states. New Hampshire was the ninth state to ratify, on June 21, 1788.

## 18. C Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton established the national banking system and was killed in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804.

## 19. C The Sons of Liberty

The Sons of Liberty, led by figures like Samuel Adams, organized protests against the Stamp Act and later coordinated the Boston Tea Party.

## 20. C Benedict Arnold

Benedict Arnold was a talented American general who switched sides and plotted to surrender the fort at West Point to the British. His name became a byword for betrayal.