American Revolution Review

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which country governed the 13 colonies that declared independence in 1776?
   - A. Great Britain
   - B. France
   - C. Portugal
   - D. The Netherlands

   Correct answer: A. Great Britain
   The 13 colonies had been part of the British Empire. Their conflict with the British government led to the Revolutionary War.

2. In which colony were Lexington and Concord when fighting began there in April 1775?
   - A. Pennsylvania
   - B. Virginia
   - C. Massachusetts
   - D. South Carolina

   Correct answer: C. Massachusetts
   Lexington and Concord are towns near Boston in Massachusetts, where the war’s first clashes took place.

3. What kind of item was taxed under the Stamp Act of 1765?
   - A. Fresh apples
   - B. Printed newspapers
   - C. Cattle
   - D. Fishing nets

   Correct answer: B. Printed newspapers
   The Stamp Act imposed a tax on many printed materials, including newspapers and legal documents.

4. In which city did the Second Continental Congress meet in May 1775?
   - A. New York City
   - B. Boston
   - C. Charleston
   - D. Philadelphia

   Correct answer: D. Philadelphia
   The Congress convened in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania State House, now called Independence Hall.

5. Which country made a formal alliance with the United States in 1778?

A. Great Britain
B. France
C. Russia
D. Portugal

Correct answer: B. France
France and the United States entered an alliance in 1778. The agreement brought France into the war against Britain.

6. At the Boston Tea Party, colonists objecting to British policy unloaded tea into which body of water?

A. Boston Harbor
B. The Hudson River
C. The Chesapeake Bay
D. The Delaware River

Correct answer: A. Boston Harbor
Protesters dumped tea from ships into Boston Harbor in December 1773.

7. Which British action directly shut Boston’s harbor as punishment after the Boston Tea Party?

A. The Currency Act of 1764
B. The Stamp Act
C. The Quartering Act of 1765
D. The Boston Port Act

Correct answer: D. The Boston Port Act
The Boston Port Act closed the harbor in 1774. It was among the measures the colonists called the Intolerable Acts.

8. Which military force did the Second Continental Congress establish in June 1775?

A. The French Royal Army
B. The British Royal Navy
C. The Continental Army
D. The New York militia

Correct answer: C. The Continental Army
Congress established the Continental Army to coordinate the colonies’ war effort.

9. Which event led directly to Congress preparing to announce independence in early July 1776?

A. Congress passed a resolution for independence
B. France signed its U.S. alliance in Paris
C. The colonies ratified the U.S. Constitution
D. The British surrendered at Yorktown

Correct answer: A. Congress passed a resolution for independence
Congress adopted the independence resolution on July 2, 1776. The Declaration explaining that decision followed on July 4.

10. Which American victory in 1777 preceded the formal alliance with France?

A. The capture of Charleston by the British
B. Lexington and Concord
C. Yorktown
D. Saratoga

Correct answer: D. Saratoga
British forces surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777. France signed its alliance with the United States the following February.

11. In 1780 the British captured a major port and a large American army in which southern city?

A. Wilmington
B. Savannah
C. Charleston
D. Yorktown

Correct answer: C. Charleston
Charleston, South Carolina, fell to the British in May 1780. The surrender was a major setback for the American war effort.

12. Why was the 1781 surrender at Yorktown possible?

A. British forces had already ratified a final peace treaty
B. American and French forces operated together by land and sea
C. Congress had moved to Yorktown to sign the Declaration
D. The Stamp Act cut off supplies inside Yorktown

Correct answer: B. American and French forces operated together by land and sea
The American and French armies surrounded Cornwallis’s forces on land. French naval support helped prevent their escape by sea.

13. What framework of government took effect in 1781, before the Constitution replaced it?

A. The Federalist Papers
B. The Bill of Rights
C. The Mayflower Compact
D. The Articles of Confederation

Correct answer: D. The Articles of Confederation
The Articles created a confederation of states. They took effect after the last state ratified them in 1781.

14. Which river formed much of the western boundary described in the 1783 Treaty of Paris?

A. The Mississippi River
B. The Hudson River
C. The Delaware River
D. The St. Lawrence River

Correct answer: A. The Mississippi River
The treaty used a long stretch of the Mississippi for the western boundary of the newly recognized United States.

15. Which order correctly places four events from the Revolution?

A. Lexington and Concord, Yorktown, Saratoga, final Treaty of Paris
B. Saratoga, Lexington and Concord, Yorktown, final Treaty of Paris
C. Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, Yorktown, final Treaty of Paris
D. Lexington and Concord, final Treaty of Paris, Saratoga, Yorktown

Correct answer: C. Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, Yorktown, final Treaty of Paris
The clashes at Lexington and Concord were in 1775. Saratoga followed in 1777, Yorktown in 1781, and the final peace treaty in 1783.