

AMERICAN REVOLUTION TIMELINE

Significant Milestones of the War for Independence

APRIL 19, 1775

Battles of Lexington and Concord

The "shot heard 'round the world" marks the start of open armed conflict between Great Britain and the thirteen colonies.

JUNE 17, 1775

Battle of Bunker Hill

Early major battle showing colonial forces could stand against professional British troops despite a tactical defeat.

JULY 4, 1776

Declaration of Independence

The Continental Congress formally adopts the document severing political ties with Great Britain.

OCT 17, 1777

Battle of Saratoga

The decisive American victory that prompted France to enter the war as an official ally to the United States.

WINTER 1777-78

Valley Forge Encampment

A grueling winter that transformed the Continental Army into a unified, professional fighting force under Baron von Steuben.

OCT 19, 1781

Surrender at Yorktown

General Cornwallis surrenders to Washington and French forces, effectively ending major land operations in North America.

SEPT 3, 1783

Treaty of Paris

Formal peace treaty signed by Great Britain and the United States, recognizing American independence.