

AMERICAN REVOLUTION TIMELINE

Major Events & Turning Points

1765

The Stamp Act

First direct British tax on American colonists leads to widespread protests and "no taxation without representation."

1770

Boston Massacre

British soldiers fire into a crowd of colonists, killing five. Becomes a key propaganda tool for Patriots.

1773

Boston Tea Party

Sons of Liberty dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor to protest the Tea Act.

1775

Lexington & Concord

The "Shot Heard 'Round the World." The first military engagements of the Revolutionary War.

1776

Declaration of Independence

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

1777

Battle of Saratoga

The turning point of the war; this American victory convinces France to enter the war as an ally.

1781

Siege of Yorktown

General Cornwallis surrenders to Washington, marking the end of major fighting in North America.

1783

Treaty of Paris

Great Britain formally recognizes American independence and cedes territory east of the Mississippi.