



Washington's War Room

Mission: The Continental Army is smaller, poorer, and less trained than the British army, the most powerful in the world. As General Washington, make five key decisions. How could the Americans possibly win?

Big question: How did the Americans win the Revolutionary War against a more powerful enemy?

★ Warm-up: Underdog strategy

How can a smaller team beat a bigger one?

Surprise ✓ **Do what the other team doesn't expect.**

Get help ✓ **Find allies.**

Key vocabulary

Turning point	An event that changes the direction of what happens.
Ally	A nation that joins to help.
Surrender	Give up.
Morale	Soldiers' spirit and confidence.

1 Box 1

Lead the army

In the simulator: Make all 5 decisions and read the ending.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Allies

Which decision raised the 🌐 allies meter the most, and why?

- ☐ Seeking a French alliance after Saratoga, because it proved Americans could win ☐ Crossing the Delaware
☐ Retreating from New York

✓ **Seeking a French alliance after Saratoga, because it proved Americans could win**

3 Box 3

Turning point

Why is Saratoga called the TURNING POINT of the war?

- ☐ It brought France into the war as an ally ☐ It ended the war ☐ It was the first battle

✓ **It brought France into the war as an ally**

Order the war

Put these events in order.

Put in order: Retreat from New York · Surrender at Yorktown · Training at Valley Forge · Treaty of Paris · Victory at Saratoga · Victory at Trenton

1. **Retreat from New York**
2. **Victory at Trenton**
3. **Victory at Saratoga**
4. **Training at Valley Forge**
5. **Surrender at Yorktown**
6. **Treaty of Paris**

4 Box 4

How did they win?

Explain the TWO most important reasons the Americans won.

Reason 1

Look for: Names a specific event; at least 12 words

Reason 2

Look for: Names a specific event; at least 12 words

Conclusion

Look for: at least 10 words

5 Box 5

Legend: other heroes Legend only

About 5,000 Black soldiers fought for the Continental Army, and women like Mary Ludwig Hays helped on battlefields. Why is it important to include these people in the story of the war?

Look for: at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did the Americans win the Revolutionary War against a more powerful enemy?

Look for: The Americans won by keeping their army alive (retreats), surprising the enemy (Trenton), gaining allies after Saratoga (France), training at Valley Forge, and trapping the British at Yorktown with the French navy. The Treaty of Paris (1783) made independence official.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	18W-E
 Investigator	18Y-I
 Legend	LWZ-L

! Watch for these misconceptions

- "The war started with the Declaration of Independence." Fighting began at Lexington and Concord more than a year earlier.
- "All colonists wanted independence." Many were Loyalists or neutral.
- "The colonists won alone." French money, troops, and navy were essential.