**American Revolution Timeline**

**Day 1**

**Lexington and Concord**

**Fort Ticonderoga (Do before 2nd Continental Congress)**

May 10, 1775

Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold led Green Mountain Men. Capture cannons later used in Siege of Boston. No casualties or wounded, just a scared guard and immediate surrender. “Caught with their pants down.”

**2nd Continental Congress**

May 1775

All 13 colonies. Olive Branch Petition asks for peace by repealing Intolerable Acts. King George refused petition. All colonies asked for volunteer soldiers to go to Massachusetts. George Washington made leader of Continental Army. Requested money donations to support army.

Siege of Boston Starts

April 1775.

Bunker (Breed’s ) Hill

June 15-16, 1775

Good military strategic point near Boston. Militia from Massachusetts (MA) and Connecticut (CT) silently built forts during the night. British attack Breed’s Hill 3 times. Colonists lost on third attempt due to limited ammunition, and British took both Breed’s and Bunker Hill. Huge British casualties. The British hadn’t expected such a fight form the colonists and used a frontal attack instead of surrounding peninsula.

Washington arrives in Cambridge

July 2, 1775

Arrives in Cambridge, MA to take control of Continental Army.

Proclamation of Rebellion

August 1775

King George believes that the rebellion in the colonies has escalated to an organized uprising and should be treated as a foreign war.

Battle of Quebec

December 31, 1775

Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold lead attack of British Canada. They wanted to gain support from French Canadians living there after the French and Indian War. Many soldiers got lost on the way to Canada. Over 300 others deserted. They attacked during a snow storm. Their force was small and they were captured. Montgomery was killed and Arnold’s left leg was shattered (for the first time).

Common Sense

January 1776

Thomas Paine released pamphlet entitled “Common Sense.” This pamphlet contained Paine’s arguments in favor of American independence.

Siege of Boston Ends

April 1775-March 1776

British hurting after Bunker/Breed’s Hill. Washington constantly sieged or surrounded the British. Cannons from Fort Ticonderoga were used during the siege. The British needed more supplies and left. Washington leads his men to New York assuming Major General Howe would take his army there.

(Different Views on Independence – Patriot/Rebel, Loyalist/Tory, Neutral, Non-British subjects like France, Germany, Native Americans, etc.)

The Declaration of Independence

June 28, 1776: original draft of the declaration is read to the 2nd Continental Congress. July 2, 1776: the idea of declaring independence is unanimously approved and the declarations is revised. July 4, 1776: the Declaration of Independence is signed.

Liberty Bell

July 8, 1776

The Liberty Bell was rung to mark the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Hessians

August 15, 1776

The Hessians, hired German soldiers, landed on Staten Island

New York 1- Battle of Long Island

August 27, 1776

General Howe, the Hessians, and troops form South Carolina join forces. They surround Washington’s army. Washington evacuated the area on the night of August 29-30 and the British won the battle.

New York 2- Battle of Harlem Heights

September 16, 1776

Washington tried to trick the British and surround them. The battle ended in a draw.

New York 3- Battle of White Plains

October 28, 1776

The British tried to go up river, and Washington tried to stop them. This battle also ended in a draw. Washington is forced to New Jersey.

New York 4- Battle of Fort Washington

November 16, 1776

Americans forced into their fort from all sides and surrender.

Congress moved to Baltimore

December 12, 1776; moved from Philadelphia to Baltimore

Ben Franklin to France

December 1776

Ben Franklin sent to France to seek help

Crossing the Delaware/Battle of Trenton

Christmas; December 25-26, 1776

Washington has a double agent (spy). Hessians in Trenton, not ready for an attack. Washington and troops cross Delaware River during the night. The Hessian leader, Colonel Rall, receives a note about Washington’s approach while playing cards but he doesn’t read it. The Colonial Army surprises the Hessians and wins the battle.

Move supplies from Trenton

December 26-31, 1776

Enlistments End

Colonial Army enlistment is up. Many stay with the army. Washington hears Cornwallis’ army is in Princeton and will be coming soon.

Battle of Princeton

January 2-3, 1777

Cornwallis attacks Trenton and forces Colonial Army across a creek. They camp for the night. Washington leaves fires burning, but secretly his army takes an old back road around Cornwallis’ army and up to Princeton. A battle occurs, but Washington wins by outnumbering the few British left to guard Princeton. Washington then grabs supplies and heads to Morristown. The British go to New Brunswick, their only remaining hold in New Jersey.

Congress returns

February 27,l 1777: The 2nd Continental Congress moves back to Philadelphia

Morristown

January-May, 1777

Washington winters in Morristown, NJ

Danbury Raid/Battle of Ridgefield (Sybil Ludington)

April 26-27, 1777

British form Long Island move across the sound and land at Cedar Pin/Compo Point in Connecticut. They march up to Danbury where they found, due to their spies, the Continental Army had supplies. Some local militia heard they were coming. Those in Danbury unsuccessfully tried to move supplies. Colonel Ludington and his daughter Sybil rallied local militia. Benedict Arnold was visiting family in New Haven. He and General Wooster were told and rallied some militia. The British arrived in Danbury and destroyed most of the supplies as well as burned patriot houses. It is said loyalists had painted on their chimneys so they weren’t burned. The militia got to Bethel at night in the rain and camped. The British heard them and took off for the shore on a different route. The militia spit up; Benedict Arnold took half and went to Ridgefield where they made barricades out of cats and other things. Wooster led the other half and chased the British from behind. Wooster was mortally wounded and died on May 2. His famous last words were, “I am dying, but with a strong hope and persuasion that my country will gain her independence.” British reach Ridgefield and eventually break through barricade. Benedict Arnold was in between his army and the British and was fired upon. His horse was hit 9 times and fell on his leg. A British soldier told him to surrender, but he hilled the soldier and ordered his men to retreat. His left leg was hurt. The British camped for the night and the militia regrouped under Colonel Huntington and Colonel Ludington. As the British marched back to the beach, the militia ran alongside and shot them form behind trees and walls. Benedict Arnold gathered some militia on Compo Hill. They attempted to stop the British form getting to their boat, but were unsuccessful I the attempt. Arnold had a 2nd horse shot out from under him in the battle. The British sailed back to New York.

Treaty of Dewitt’s Corner

May 20, 1777

Native American in the South, such as the Cherokee, fight with the British. British try to attack Sullivan’s Island in SC, but had to withdraw to NY. This left the natives on their own and the militias defeated them quickly and cruelly. The natives wanted peace and signed the Treaty of Dewitt’s Corner; this said the colonists owned most of the land east of the Appalachian Mountains.

First Flag Act (Design a flag-show actual)

June 14, 1777

“Resolved, that the Flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

Second Battle of Fort Ticonderoga

July 5-6, 1777

Major General St. Clair put in charge of fort which was in bad disrepair. Two other hills near the fort; Mt. Rattlesnake/Independence was fortified, but Sugar Hill/Mt. Defiance was not. The British drug cannons up Sugar Hill and had the perfect position to attack the fort. St. Clair chose to abandon the fort. They rowed over to Mt. Independence, but a French officer lit his own house on fire so the British could see them. The British pursued, but the Americans escaped. Most people labeled St. Clair a coward.

Lafayette

July 27, 1777

Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia, though France had forbidden the French from helping in the war.

Battle at Brandywine Creek

September 11, 1777

British wanted to take the American capital in Philadelphia.   
Washington set his army across Brandywine Creek to meet the British. Moswt British actually went up stream and attacked on the right, but a few made a frontal attack. The Americans were forced to retreat in confusion. Lafayette was injured. Congress fled to Lancaster, PA>

Benedict Arnold’s resignation

July 1777 (Writing prompt)

Congress took away Arnold’s seniority because of legal issues with his using military supplies for personal use. Arnold resigned, but Washington convinced him to take a post in New York.

Freeman’s Farm (First Battle of Saratoga)

September 1777

British now control Fort Ticonderoga and the waterway. British Maj. Gen. Burgoyne was able to travel from Lake Champlain, down the Hudson, and straight to New York. The British ware trying to split the New England colonies from the others. The Americans had a fort (Bemis Heights Fort) in New York along the Hudson. Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates was in charge with Benedict Arnold under his command. British begin to circle the fort trying to get higher ground next to it. Gates let Arnold take troops to fight (used Indian forest tactics). They fought and pushed back the British. Both armies were tired and needed supplies. Gates refused to send help, but he British sent a lot of help to their side and won the battle. Gates did not like Arnold in the first place because he did not trust him and Arnold was friends with Schuler. Gates wrote to Congress about the battle and refused to tell how well Arnold fought.

General Howe occupies Philadelphia

September 26, 1777

British General Howe occupies Philadelphia, PA. Congress continues to flee to New York.

Second Battle of Saratoga

October 1777

British decide to attack fort. Gates gets the American army ready, but he puts himself in charge of Arnold’s men and leaves Arnold out of the battle. After pacing around in his tent, Arnold couldn’t stand it any longer. He leapt on his horse and, with no orders to go into battle, headed right to the front of the fight. The American men were glad to see him and followed him as he led to big attacks against the British, breaking through their lines on the second try. The Americans won the battle, but Arnold’s horse was once again shot and fell on the same leg injured at Quebec and Ridgefield. The British had a hard time getting enough supplies form Ticonderoga to New York. Benedict Arnold is later appointed commander of West Point when his leg does not fully heal-August3, 1780.

[http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/popup anoldsleg.html](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/popup%20anoldsleg.html) - Monument to Arnold’s leg

Articles of Confederation

Adopted November 15, 1777

Ratified 1781 at which time “United States of America” becomes official

French Alliance and Recognition

December e1777: France recognizes America as a new country

The French hear about the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga and decide to help. They sign the “French Alliance” on February 6, 1778.

Valley Forge

Winter 1777-1778

Bad winter. Friedrich von Steuben helps train soldiers. Gates and Conway try to get Lafayette to turn on Washington.

1778-1779

March 6, 1778: Congress rejects British Parliament’s offer to grant all American demands except independence.

May 8, 1778 British General Howe is replaced by General Clinton as Commander of British forces.

July 10, 1778: the French officially join the Americans in the battle by declaring war on England

June 16, 1779: “Spain does not make an alliance with American, but does not declare war on Britain and helps the fight. They had been afraid the colonies would try to take Spanish claims.

Naval Battle

September 23, 1779

John Paul Jones engages in a naval battle and is victorious. His famous words “I have not yet begun to fight” are uttered. (Liberty’s Kids

Negotiator

September 27, 1779

John Adams sent by Congress to England as a negotiator.

Battle of Charleston

May 12, 1780

America suffers a crushing defeat.

Treason

September 23, 1780

Benedict Arnold’s treason is discovered when a British officer is captured and found to have two things. 1. Plans for West Point. 2. A safe passage note signed by Arnold. Arnold escapes and joins the British as a Brigadier General and receives 20,000 pounds.

Cornwallis at Virginia. (Kings Mountain)

March-August, 1781

General Cornwallis tries to take Virginia.

Yorktown (Cowpens)

September 28- October 19, 1781

Washington gathers forces to attack Yorktown. The French Navy is caught in a hurricane but still makes it. After a long siege the Americans are victorious. The British surrender on October 19, 1781.

Treaty of Paris

September 3, 1783

The Treaty of Paris sis signed, officially ending the American Revolutionary War. America wins!!!