|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| natural rights | supplies | well-funded | grievances | mercenaries |
| independent | Philadelphia | spies | inoculate | ally |
| Sunshine Patriots | Revolutionary War | guerrilla tactics | George Washington | Thomas Jefferson |
| Continental Army | Treaty of Paris | Battle of Yorktown | smallpox | Valley Forge |
| the Declaration of Independence | Battles of Lexington and Concord | the United States of America | Second Continental Congress | Battle of Saratoga |

The 1 began in 1775 with the famous "shot heard ‘round the world" at the 2 . One month later, the 3 met in the city of 4 to discuss the idea of separating from Great Britain. On July 4, 1776, the delegates officially decided to do just that. The reasons for this separation were written in a document called 5 . Written by 6 , this document outlined the 7 of man, listed the colonists’ 8 (complaints), and formally announced the creation of a new country, 9 .

While the Congress debated, the war continued, and it didn’t look good for the Americans. The British had the most powerful army and navy in the world (and even paid 10 to fight alongside them), while the American’s 11 was largely made up of everyday folks with little military experience. The British were also 12 , while the Continental Congress struggled to provide 13 for their army. In the early part of the war, the Americans suffered many losses, and some “ 14 ” gave up and went home.

It didn’t take long for the Americans’ advantages to begin to even things out. Patriotism, homefield advantage and the leadership of 15 were huge factors that prevented the Americans from being crushed. After the major losses in the New England region early in the war, Washington retreated to Pennsylvania, and changed his overall strategy. Instead of trying to defeat the British, he would simply outlast them. Washington used sneak attacks and a network of 16 , forcing the British to move the war to the middle colonies. Then, the Americans won a key battle, the 17 , which convinced France to join the war as the Continental Army’s 18 . This would prove to be the turning point for the Americans.

In the winter of 1777-78, the American made camp at 19 , Pennsylvania. The winter there was incredibly harsh. Washington’s men were still lacking supplies and 20 quickly spread through the camp. Washington made the risky decision to 21 his men, and it ended up saving many of his men’s lives, and got them through the rough winter.

After failing to conquer any state in the north, the war moved south. On the battlefield, the British were successful, but the Continental Army continued to stay alive with hit-and-run 22 . Then, in October of 1781, Washington saw an opportunity end the war with one final, decisive victory. In the 23 , the Americans surrounded British troops on land, and the newly-arrived French navy prevented their escape by sea. After three days of being bombarded by French and American forces, British General Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington, ending the war in the colonies. Two years later, 24 was signed, ending the war and officially recognizing the United States of America as an 25 country.