

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

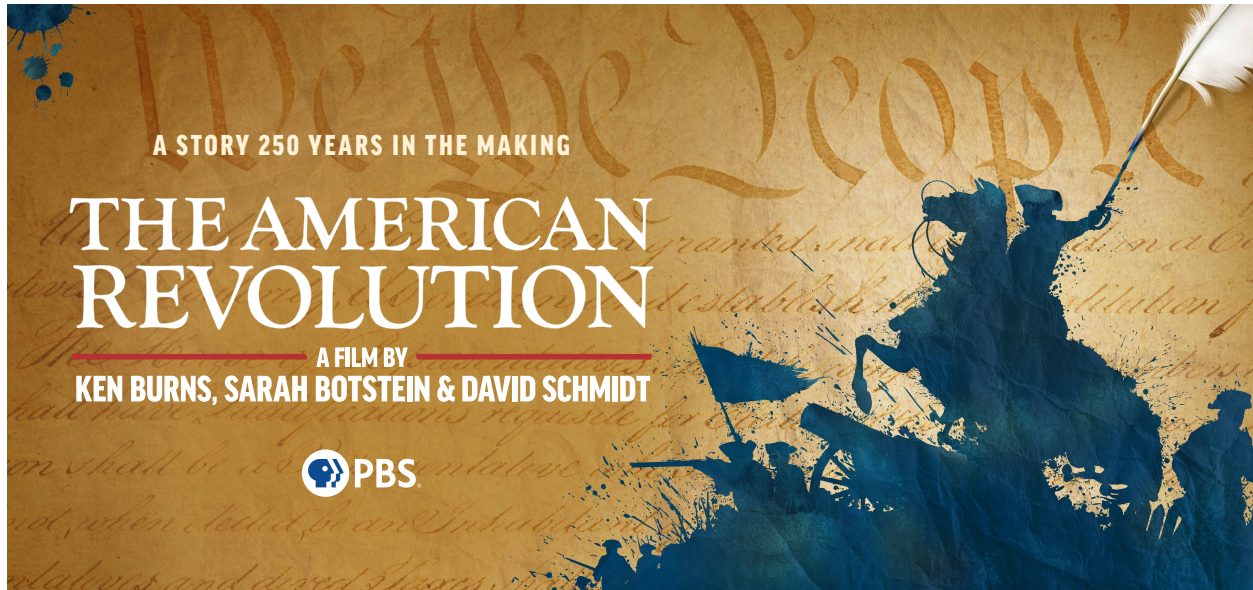
A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT



ENGAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTER
pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources



GENERAL OVERVIEW



American Revolution Trivia Questions

Get ready to test your knowledge and raise a glass (or a coffee mug) to history! Join us for a lively evening of American Revolution trivia.

From famous battles and bold leaders to the untold stories of women, Indigenous people, and everyday citizens who shaped the fight for independence, this isn't your average history quiz. Expect a mix of surprising facts and spirited team competition as we discover together how the Revolution still connects to our lives today.

Bring your friends, sharpen your wits, and prepare for questions that range from "Who said what?" to "Guess that Revolutionary artifact." Whether you're a history buff or just here for the fun, you'll leave with new stories to share and a deeper connection to the spirit of 1776.

Perfect for libraries, community centers, bars, and coffeehouses looking to bring people together for a night of learning, camaraderie, and Revolutionary fun.

Need to study up? Watch **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt: pbs.org/americanrevolution. Want more activities and resources? Visit **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Engagement Resource Center** for accompanying trivia beverage coasters and more at pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources!

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Set-Up

- Recommendation for set-up: 3–4 rounds of questions with 8–10 questions per round.
- Distribute the playing answer sheets to teams (see attached).
- Review the rules of the game before playing (below).
- Consider offering a reward to the winning and second-place teams.

Rules

- This game is intended for fun and friendly competition.
- Please don't shout out the answers!
- Teams may consist of 2–6 players (if you come solo, we'll help you find a team!).
- The use of web-enabled electronic equipment, cell phones, and books is *not allowed*.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Scoring: Each correct answer earns 1 point.
- Tiebreakers: If there's a tie at the end, we'll settle it with a special, sudden-death question closest to the correct answer.
- Have fun, stay civil! Remember, good sportsmanship is REVOLUTIONARY!



The Declaration of Independence by John Trumbull CREDIT: YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Round 1: Revolution Sparks & Founding Ideas

1. What battle—named after two Massachusetts towns and famously described by Ralph Waldo Emerson as the site of the “shot heard round the world”—marked the beginning of open fighting in the American Revolution?

ANSWER: Lexington and Concord

2. Who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence?

ANSWER: Thomas Jefferson

BONUS POINT: Name the entire “Committee of Five” that was responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence. **ANSWER:** Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston.

3. What year did the Declaration of Independence get signed?

ANSWER: 1776

4. Who was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, writing his name in famously large script?

ANSWER: John Hancock

5. Name one of the taxes that angered the colonists and fueled the Revolution.

ANSWER: The Sugar Act (1764), The Stamp Act (1765), or the Townshend Acts (1767)

6. What group of women organized boycotts of British goods and made homespun clothing to support the Patriot cause?

ANSWER: The Daughters of Liberty

7. What famous pamphlet by Thomas Paine helped inspire colonists to support independence?

ANSWER: *Common Sense*

8. In what city did the Continental Congress first meet in 1774?

ANSWER: Philadelphia

9. Who did the Continental Congress appoint as commander-in-chief of the newly established army?

ANSWER: George Washington

10. Who famously wrote “Remember the ladies” in a letter to her husband, urging the Continental Congress to consider the rights and interests of women while they were drafting the new nation’s laws and constitution?

ANSWER: Abigail Adams

Round 2: People of the Revolution

11. The colonists living in the British North American colonies who rebelled against the authority of the crown were known as what?

Acceptable answers: Patriots, also known as revolutionaries, Continentals, colonials, rebels, Yankees, or Whigs.

12. Who was the king of Great Britain during the American Revolution?

ANSWER: King George III

13. Writing under a pen name, which Massachusetts Patriot wrote plays and pamphlets that criticized the British and rallied for independence, leading her to be remembered as the “Conscience of the American Revolution”?

ANSWER: Mercy Otis Warren

14. Which famous founder, an immigrant from the Caribbean, became George Washington’s aide-de-camp and later the first Secretary of the Treasury?

ANSWER: Alexander Hamilton

15. What world-famous American did the Continental Congress send to France in 1776 to help secure crucial French military and financial support?

ANSWER: Benjamin Franklin

16. What Continental Army unit was comprised largely of Black and Native American soldiers?

ANSWER: The First Rhode Island Regiment

17. What was the name of the first African American woman to publish a book of poetry? Notably, she corresponded with George Washington, expressing her support for the American Revolution.

ANSWER: Phillis Wheatley

18. Who was the young French aristocrat who became one of Washington’s most trusted generals?

ANSWER: Marquis de Lafayette (or Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette)

19. On whose side did the Mohawk leader, military strategist, and diplomat Joseph Brant—also known as Thayendanegea (tie-en-dee-nay-gah)—fight during the American Revolution?

ANSWER: British

20. Because of the common color of their uniforms, British soldiers were often called by this nickname

ACCEPTABLE ANSWERS: Redcoats, lobster backs

Round 3: Battles & Military Life

21. How many soldiers served in the Continental Army at some point during the American Revolutionary War? Was it: 110,000, 230,000, or 480,000?

ANSWER: Approximately 230,000. The army's size did fluctuate, with no more than 48,000 serving at any one time.

22. What was the name of the volunteer colonial militia members who claimed they could be ready to fight at a minute's notice?

ANSWER: Minutemen

23. In which current state did the Battle of Bunker Hill (1775) take place?

ANSWER: Massachusetts (near Boston)

24. Which battle is considered the largest of the Revolutionary War, with 40,000 soldiers fighting?

ANSWER: The Battle of Long Island (also called the Battle of Brooklyn or the Battle of Brooklyn Heights)

25. In which town did George Washington lead a successful surprise attack after crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776?

ANSWER: Trenton or Battle of Trenton

26. Which battle is remembered as a major turning point because it convinced France to ally with the Americans?

ANSWER: The Battle of Saratoga (1777)

27. What was the name of the winter encampment where Washington's army endured terrible conditions in 1777-78, but emerged stronger?

ANSWER: Valley Forge

28. Which American traitor attempted to surrender West Point to the British?

ANSWER: Benedict Arnold

29. What was the final major battle of the American Revolutionary War, leading to the surrender of British General Cornwallis and effectively ending the war?

ANSWER: Battle of Yorktown (1781)

30. Who led American forces to victory at the Battle of Yorktown, with help from French General Rochambeau and Admiral de Grasse?

ANSWER: General George Washington

Round 4: Allies, Culture & Aftermath

31. The first official U.S. flag was adopted by Congress in 1777. It had far fewer stars than the modern flag but the same number of stripes. How many stripes and what did those stripes represent?

ANSWER: 13 and the thirteen colonies

32. About how many African Americans fought for the Continental Army?

Acceptable range: Between 5,000 - 8,000

33. What was the daily whiskey ration for a Continental (Patriot) soldier? Was it: 1 shot, 2.5 shots, or there was no whiskey ration?

ANSWER: 2.5 shots or 1 gill (about 4 ounces)

34. What was the nickname for German soldiers hired by Britain to fight in the war, derived from the area in Germany where many of them came from?

ANSWER: Hessians

35. What treaty ended the American Revolution in 1783?

ANSWER: The Treaty of Paris, signed on September 3, 1783

36. Besides France, which European countries later joined the war against Britain?

ANSWER: Spain and the Netherlands

37. How many years after the Treaty of Paris (1783) did it take to create and ratify the Constitution?

ANSWER: Five years. The Constitution was ratified in 1788 and fully adopted in 1790 by all 13 states

38. What was the last state to ratify the Constitution?

ANSWER: Rhode Island

39. What was the first U.S. city to host the new national government established under the Constitution? It would serve as its capital until 1790.

ANSWER: New York City

40. What two famous founders died on July 4, 1826, 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence?

ANSWER: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died within hours of each other on this historic date. John Adams' last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still survives" (although, in reality, Jefferson had died five hours earlier).

BONUS/TIEBREAKER QUESTIONS

41. Who are the filmmakers behind THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION film?

ANSWER: Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt

42. How many years of research went into making this film?

ANSWER: 10 years

43. How many films has Ken Burns created for PBS?

ANSWER: More than 40 films

AMERICAN REVOLUTION TRIVIA ANSWER SHEET

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Team Name: _____

Team Members: _____

ROUND 1

ANSWER

QUESTION REMINDER

1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

ROUND 2

ANSWER

QUESTION REMINDER

11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	

ROUND 3

ANSWER

QUESTION REMINDER

21.	
22.	
23.	
24.	
25.	
26.	

- 27. _____
- 28. _____
- 29. _____
- 30. _____

ROUND 4

ANSWER

QUESTION REMINDER

- 31. _____
- 32. _____
- 33. _____
- 34. _____
- 35. _____
- 36. _____
- 37. _____
- 38. _____
- 39. _____
- 40. _____

TIE-BREAKER / BONUS QUESTIONS

- 41. _____
- 42. _____
- 43. _____