

# Unit 5: Revolutionary War Study Guide

(SOL: VS.5 a, b, c)

The Colonists (Patriots) against the English (Loyalists, also known as the British).

- The **Virginia patriots** created an army called the **Continental Army** under the command of **George Washington**.
- The English army was also known as the **Red Coats**. (Some colonists remained loyal to England.)
- Some Virginians were **neutral** and did not take sides.

## The Problem

The colonists and the British Parliament **disagreed** over how the colonies should be **governed** (ruled).

<b>Colonists believed...</b>	<b>Parliament believed...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• they shouldn't be taxed. They had no representation in Parliament.</li><li>• their local assemblies had legal authority.</li></ul> <p>They wanted to make their own laws and pay taxes to their own government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• they had the right to tax the colonies.</li><li>• they had legal authority in the colonies.</li></ul>

**“NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION” LED TO THE WRITING OF THE DOCUMENT**  
**THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.**

## How To Solve The Problem

The **Virginia colonists** decided they wanted to be **free** and **independent** from **England**.

**Thomas Jefferson** wrote the **Declaration of Independence**, a document that states that authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings and that all people are created equal and have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## Contributions of Virginians during the Revolutionary War

### George Washington



- Served as commander – in – chief of the Continental Army
- Elected as first President of the United States of America
- Known as “Father of our Country”

### Thomas Jefferson



Expressed reasons for colonial independence from Great Britain in the document “The Declaration of Independence”.

### Patrick Henry



Inspirational speaker that spoke out against taxation without representation by saying “...give me liberty or give me death!”

### James Lafayette



Enslaved African American from Virginia that served in the continental army and successfully requested his freedom after the war.

## Varied roles of women, enslaved African Americans, free African Americans and American Indians in the Revolutionary War

- Women took on more responsibilities to support the war effort.
- Some enslaved African Americans fought for a better chance at freedom.
- Some free African Americans fought for independence from Great Britain.
- Many American Indians fought alongside the Virginia patriots, while others fought with the British.

## Role of Virginia in the American Revolution

- **Last major battle of the American Revolution** - The American victory at **Yorktown** resulted in the surrender of the British army, which led to the end of the war.

The American colonists won the war which meant that they were free/independent from England. We celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, each year.

### **Reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond**

- Population was moving westward
- Richmond was a more central location
- Moving to Richmond increased the distance from attack by the British
- England became Great Britain in the early 1700's-side note