

Name _____

Date _____



The Fight for Freedom

Freedom—it's a gift we often take for granted, but not so for the early Americans who fought fiercely to gain independence from the British during the Revolutionary War.

Read the following passage about the American Revolution. Each blank stands for a missing number or date. From the list below the story, choose an answer that makes sense in each blank. Check off each one as you use it.

The American Revolution was fought between Britain and its _____ colonies in North America. Prior to the war, during the _____, life in the American colonies was very much like the most advanced European nations. The main occupation of colonists was farming. Nearly _____ percent of the people made a living farming. Only _____ percent of colonists lived in towns or cities. Philadelphia was the largest American city at that time with about _____ people.

The war began on April 19, _____, when American patriots and British soldiers clashed at Lexington, Massachusetts, and at nearby Concord. American losses for the day came to about _____ men. Britain, which almost tripled the American count, had about _____ lost or wounded men. After this initial conflict, the war would last another _____ years.

The Battle of Bunker Hill, which took place in June 1775, was the bloodiest battle of the entire war. The British went into the fight thinking the patriots would be easily defeated. Although the patriots retreated when they ran out of ammunition, the British suffered _____ casualties, while only _____ Americans were lost or wounded.

On July 4, _____, the _____ Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, declaring the colonies' freedom from British rule. The colonies had originally lacked a central government, an army, and a navy. The Continental Congress served as a national government and directed the war effort.

In _____, the American colonies won an important victory at Saratoga, New York. This victory convinced France, a longtime enemy of Britain, to help the Americans.

In October _____, a large British force surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. This surrender led to peace talks, and _____ years later the war was finally over. The United Kingdom signed the Treaty of Paris on September 3, _____. The independence of the United States of America was finally a reality!

400	1760	1775	1780s	1776	250
90	two	eight	1781	40,000	90
13	1,000	90	First	1777	

