

Time & Setting: 1-155 pm (55 minutes)

Standard: 5.3.12-I can describe the major events of the Revolutionary War, including key battles, key alliances, and the roles played by key figures.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify the key alliance of the Revolutionary War
2. Students will be able to explain the importance of the alliances
3. Students will be able summarize the American Revolutionary War and the outcome.

Learning Targets:

1. I can identify the key alliance of the Revolutionary War.
2. I can explain why the alliance was important to the outcome of the Revolutionary War.
3. I can summarize the American Revolutionary War.
4. I can identify the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

Procedures:

10 min.	Students will work in their pods to find out what the French did to impact the American Revolution using the reading passage titled, "French Involvement". I will pull my ELL and academically low students to the back. Here I will do a close reading with the students, pausing periodically to ensure their understanding and clarify as needed.
	Students will "buns to knees" read the passage titled, "French Involvement"
10 min.	Upon completion they will rejoin their pods to have a discussion to questions about how the French were involved in the American Revolution. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. List the two things the French demanded before making an alliance with the American Colonists.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Were those demands met by the American Colonists?b. How did they meet those demands?c. What were the results of the American Colonists meeting the demands?2. Who was now involved in the American Revolution? hint : 2 vs. 13. Who won the American Revolution?4. Could the Americans have won the war if the French wasn't involved?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Why? Why not?
2 min.	I will show this short clip to differentiate the learning for my students. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uu_Q0cBQ0Qs America and France- Revolutionary War
10 min.	Students will independently answer the questions as a formative check of their understanding.
10 min.	For the remaining time students will be given the opportunity to work on their historical figures project. I will be doing a walk-around and conference with the students who are struggling with the assignment.

Directions: Independently answer the following questions.

What were the two requirements the French demanded before they would consider an alliance with the American Colonists?	1.	
	2.	
Did the American Colonists meet those demands?	Yes	No
How did the American Colonists meet those demands?	1.	
	2.	
What were the results of the American Colonists meeting those demands?	1.	
	2.	
Who was involved in the American Revolution now?	1. 2.	1.
What was the final outcome of the American Revolution, with the help of the French?		
How did the French help the Americans win the war?	1.	
	2.	

Reading Passage: French Involvement

How Did France Help Aid the American Colonies?

The American Revolution was a civil conflict fought in the late 1700s between Great Britain and its American Colonies over the Colonies' right to independence. The Colonists enjoyed the advantage of fighting in familiar territory and were motivated by their desire for independence. The French were aiding the Colonists almost from the conflict's beginning, but took a deeper interest when England seemed poised to offer the Colonies a compromise.

Secret Aid

The French harbored a significant bitterness toward England following its loss to the British in the Seven Year's War. Although France felt no great loyalty to the American Colonists, it did relish the thought of exacting revenge on England. France secretly began supplying the Colonial army with money, munitions, tents and uniforms early in the Revolution. Benjamin Franklin, representing the Colonies, spent a great deal of time in France persuading King Louis XIV to commit itself fully to the American cause.

Terms and Conditions

At first King Louis XIV declined saying that it was too soon to completely commit. He felt that a resolution between the British and the American Colonist would come quickly and that by aligning his country with the Americans, the British would wage war against them. However, French officials decided that if the following two conditions were met, then they would openly support the Americans fight for independence. First, they deemed it necessary for the Americans to declare their independence, and two, they had to show that they were capable of defending themselves against the British army. Until these conditions were met, France decided to remain neutral.

Victory at Saratoga

By the end of the year, news reached Paris of the stunning American victory in October at Saratoga, New York, over British General Burgoyne. With both of his conditions now met, French officials began negotiating a treaty of alliance with the American commissioners. On February 6, 1778, France and the United States signed a "Treaty of Alliance" as well as another treaty of "Amity and Commerce." The French declaration of war against Great Britain changed everything. The British were now involved in a worldwide war, not just an attempt to put down a rebellion. The King's ministers now had to adopt a more defensive military strategy, and they were also forced to spread their military resources and navy over a much wider theater of operations.

Treaties with France

France's commitment to the Colonies took the form of two treaties. The Treaty of Alliance established a military partnership between France and the United States in which both parties agreed to refuse individual peace agreements with England and established that any future peace agreement would be conditioned on the Colonies' independence. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce established strong trade agreements between France and the United States.

Decisive Battle at Yorktown

During the winter of 1777, George Washington's troops, stationed at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, received training from military experts Baron Friedrich von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette, both of whom were sent by France. The years 1778 to 1781 saw stalemates and setbacks for the Colonies, but also raised the question of the war's necessity among British citizens concerned about the growing expense of the prolonged battle. In the fall of 1781, Washington's army, supported by a significant number of French troops as well as the French fleet, had the British under siege at Yorktown, Virginia. The British surrender at Yorktown all but sealed the triumph of the Colonies over their British rulers.

Team Talk Questions:

- List the two things the French demanded before making an alliance with the American Colonists.
 - Were those demands met by the American Colonists?
 - How did they meet those demands?
 - What were the results of the American Colonists meeting the demands?
- Who was now involved in the American Revolution? hint : 2 vs. 1
- Who won the American Revolution?
- Could the Americans have won the war if the French wasn't involved?
 - Why? Why not?