

Summary: Winning the War

The War in the South and West

After more than three years of war, the British had not defeated the Patriots. They decided on a new strategy. They thought the South had more Loyalists than the North. They hoped these Loyalists could help them. The British invaded the South. At first, the new strategy worked. By the summer of 1780, the British had won Georgia and South Carolina. Many Loyalists helped them, including Benedict Arnold, a famous Patriot hero who secretly changed sides and became a British general. Today he is known as a traitor.

The British won many battles in the South, but the Patriots fought back. One officer used surprise attacks. His soldiers sneaked up on the British, attacked, and quickly retreated. Another Patriot, Nathanael Greene, forced the British to chase his small army. This tired the British and used up their supplies. Patriots in the West fought back too. They captured British forts in the Ohio River Valley. Spain also joined the war and captured British forts.

The War Ends

The Patriots fought the last big battle against the British in Yorktown, Virginia. Washington marched his army from New York to Virginia, where the British leader Cornwallis and his men were. French ships helped the Patriots. Washington's army and the French navy trapped the British army. Cornwallis hoped that British soldiers and ships in New York would help him. But the British could not defeat the French navy. Cornwallis's men fought for a week, but Cornwallis knew they could not win. On October 19, 1781, the British army at Yorktown surrendered. The war continued for two more years, but there was not much fighting. In September 1783, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris. The treaty said America was independent. Now Americans needed a government for their new country.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

strategy *noun*, a plan of action

traitor *noun*, someone who is not loyal

surrender *verb*, to give up

After You Read

Check your understanding.

REVIEW **What was Greene's strategy to defeat the British?** Circle the two sentences that explained Greene's strategy.

REVIEW **What did the Treaty of Paris say?** Draw a box around the sentence that tells what the treaty said.