Role of New York in the War

Taking Sides
Patriots wanted independence from Britain, while Loyalists wanted to remain under British rule. Patriot communications and supplies flowed through New York. General George Washington’s army fought the British in Brooklyn, but his troops had to retreat.

Patriot Victories
The British had better weapons and supplies than the colonists did. However, the Continental Army knew the land well and believed in their cause. After the Patriots defeated British troops in Saratoga, France helped the colonists. In 1781, the British surrendered to the Patriots.

End of the War
Many New Yorkers played important roles in the war. George Clinton served in the Continental Army and later became New York’s first governor. Many African Americans served in the army. Most women stayed home and did jobs that men had done before the war.

American Revolution Battles in New York

Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.
Patriot noun, a person who wanted independence
Loyalist noun, a person who wanted British rule
retreat verb, to turn back
surrender verb, to give up

Before You Read

Why was New York an important colony during the American Revolution?
Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

What did George Clinton do during and after the American Revolution?
Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

After You Read

Can you use a map to locate events? Highlight the river along which most of the American Revolution battles in New York were fought.