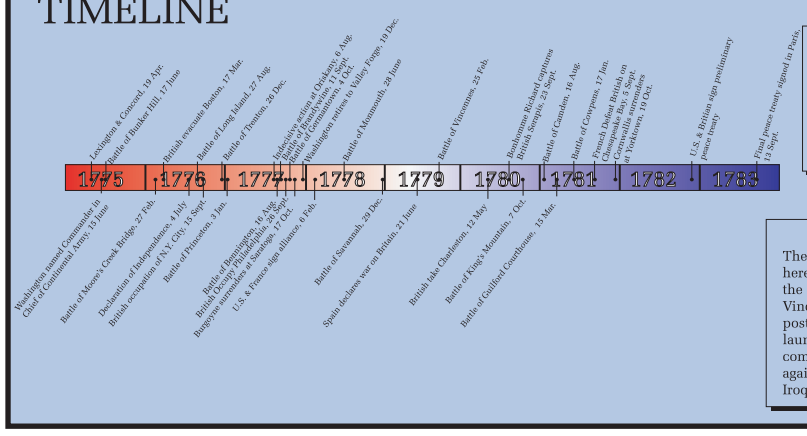
TIMELINE



CANADA

In an attempt to add Canada to the rebellion as a 14th state, the Continental Congress authorized a two pronged invasion of the British province. Under command of Montgomery, American forces seized Montreal in 1775 but were forced to fall back in retreat after an unsuccessful attack on Quebec in 1776.

NEW YORK

Believing that the rebellion was strongest in New England, the British attempted a three pronged assault on the Hudson River Valley with the intent of separating and isolating New England from her sister colonies in the south. American victories at Saratoga and Oriskany blunted these drives and defeated this strategy. The American victory at Saratoga had the added effect of bringing the French into the war on the American side.

PENNSYLVANIA/ NEW JERSEY

Driven from Long Island early in the war, Washington moved the area of conflict south of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Key victories at Trenton and Princeton kept American hopes alive in late 1776 and early 1777. Washington's major accomplishment in this theater was his ability to consistently pressure the British while avoiding a pitched battle that could have threatened the existence of his army.

THE WILDERNESS

The Americans launched two significant offensives here. A ragged and freezing group of soldiers under the command of Clark seized the British outpost at Vincennes in 1779 and helped to support American postwar claims to the Ohio River Valley. Washington launched a second military expedition under the command of Sullivan in the summer of 1779 against Britain's chief allies in New York, the Iroquois Indians.

THE CAROLINAS

Stalemated in the North, the British shifted their attention to the South where they anticipated significant Loyalist support for their cause. After defeating American forces at Charlestown and Camden in 1780. British forces were repulsed at Kings Mountain and Cowpens in 1780 and 1781. Following a drawn battle at Guilford Courthouse in 1781, Cornwallis shifted his operations to Virginia while his opponent, Greene, began the process of reducing those British outposts still remaining to the South.

VIRGINIA

Cornwallis' decision to move his forces into Yorktown in order to link-up with the British fleet ultimately proved his undoing. After a successful feint towards New York, Washington shifted his army to the south and laid siege to the British at Yorktown. With the French fleet closing the lone remaining escape route, a joint American/French force under Washington forced the surrender of Cornwallis and his army in the fall of 1781.