THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

REVIEW AND TEST QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The chapter introduction tells the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill to make the point that:
   a. Americans won their revolution by pitting dedicated amateur soldiers against the might of Britain’s professional redcoats.
   b. initially the war went badly for the Americans, testing their commitment to liberty and independence.
   c. a key question in that battle and throughout the war was whether Americans would really fight to win their independence.
   d. declaring independence was one thing, but after the Declaration, actually fighting against the authority of one’s own king was quite another.
   (pp. 170-171)

2. The text suggests that a fundamental question at the outset of the Revolution was, “Will they fight?” Different individuals answered this in different ways. Which of the following does NOT accurately state one of the answers?
   a. Northern Anglicans, recent emigrants from England, and losers in earlier intracolonial conflicts tended to remain loyal to the British.
   b. Most middle-class American revolutionaries preferred to join the Continental Army rather than merely become part of their local militias.
   c. The war to protect liberty and property was, ironically, waged by those classes of Americans who were poor and least free.
   d. In the latter part of the war, brutal civil war between loyalist and rebel bands raged across the South.
   (pp. 171-172)

3. During the first year of the Revolution, American war aims shifted from a desire for redress of grievances to a demand for complete independence. All of the following influenced this shift EXCEPT:
   a. the impact of Tom Paine’s Common Sense.
   b. Washington’s refusal to command the Continental Army until independence was declared.
   c. congressional actions that would be appropriate only to an independent government.
   d. British actions to crush American resistance by force.
   (pp. 172-173)

4. Actions taken by the Continental Congress before the Declaration of Independence that seemed to be the actions of an independent government included all EXCEPT:
   a. drafting the Olive Branch petition.
   b. creation of a Continental Army.
   c. dealing with Canada.
   d. opening American trade to other nations.
   (p. 172)

5. The Declaration of Independence based the case for independence on:
   a. the violations of colonials’ “rights as Englishmen.”
   c. George III’s infringements of American liberty.
   d. the argument that monarchical government violated both reason and the Bible.
   (pp. 172-173)
6. The first, briefer section of the Declaration of Independence dealt with _______________, while the second included _______________.
   a. American grievances; reasons for now becoming independent of the English
   b. the general right of revolution based on natural rights; the specific offenses of King George III by which England forfeited its right to rule Americans
   c. the announcement of American independence; the reasons why such a declaration must be made at this time
   d. the assertion that all men are created equal; the rights of life, liberty, and happiness as justifications for severing ties with England
   (pp. 172-173)

7. The ranks of loyalists included:
   a. a disproportionate number of New Englanders.
   b. a majority of southern Anglicans.
   c. a large number of recent emigrants from the British Isles.
   d. middle-class artisans in the port towns of the middle colonies.
   (pp. 175-176)

8. What was the most dominant common characteristic among the diverse group of people who remained loyal to Britain?
   a. They were devout Christians who believed the Bible commanded obedience to authority.
   b. They were old-stock wealthy planters and merchants from the coastal areas whose families had long prospered under British rule.
   c. They owed their livelihood and social status to crown appointments, and thus were unmoved by constitutional arguments.
   d. They were fearful of divisions and instability within American society.
   (pp. 175-176)

9. Spinning bees and dressing down in homespun:
   a. were ways in which poor women were forced to support the Army.
   b. were tactics used by loyalists to demonstrate that independence would lower the American standard of living.
   c. contributed to the solidarity of resistance by displaying fewer differences in appearance between rich and poor.
   d. helped to raise money and provide clothing for the Continental Army.
   (p. 179)

10. George Washington’s desire to create a professional military establishment:
    a. was at first undermined by the republican fear of standing armies.
    b. was eventually fulfilled by the power of the Second Continental Congress to draft soldiers.
    c. diminished quickly because he came to rely almost wholly on the militia.
    d. rose quickly because he concentrated on offensive military strategy rather than on discipline.
    (pp. 176-177)

11. At first, the bulk of the Continental Army was recruited from the _______________, but eventually most Continental soldiers were _______________.
    a. New England states; from the middle states plus Virginia
    b. lower classes; solidly middle class
    c. militias; drawn from the poorest and least free
    d. farmers conscripted by the provincial congresses and state legislatures; volunteers
    (pp. 176-177)

12. After evacuating Boston, the British army took the initiative, launching a successful assault on:
    a. New York City
    b. Philadelphia
    c. the Carolina backcountry
    d. the Jersey shore
    (pp. 177-180)
13. The initial fighting in the war occurred in New England; most engagements in the two years after the Declaration of Independence took place in _________; the conflict in the later war years raged across _________.
   a. the Chesapeake; the Hudson valley
   b. the Chesapeake; the Carolinas and Georgia
   c. the middle states (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania); the Carolinas and Virginia
   d. the port towns in the middle states (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania); the backcountry
   (pp. 180-183)

14. The Continental Army gained a key victory over the British at ____________, which demonstrated its ability as a fighting force and won support for its cause in the region.
   a. Trenton
   b. New York
   c. Brandywine Creek
   d. Germantown
   (pp. 180-181)

15. In carrying out the war in America, British leadership made key mistakes, including all of these EXCEPT:
   a. alienating the civilian population.
   b. overestimating the extent of loyalist support.
   c. underestimating the effectiveness of local rebel militia.
   d. forming large regiments of escaped slaves.
   (pp. 177-179)

16. All of the following describe the American relationship with the French EXCEPT:
   a. the French provided secret aid as a way to gain revenge against the British.
   b. the French offered an overt alliance in hopes they could regain their lost North American possessions.
   c. the Americans sought French aid despite unsettling memories of recently fighting against them.
   d. the Americans negotiated a treaty with the British, then persuaded their French allies to go along.
   (pp. 183-184)

17. “Saratoga changed everything,” says your text. This refers to the fact that:
   a. Britain’s success meant they retained control of the seas after all.
   b. Britain’s defeat led to a treaty of alliance with France, opening a new phase of the war.
   c. Britain’s defeat meant they abandoned all hope of subduing the rebellion and opened negotiations for peace and American independence.
   d. the military standoff forced General Howe to turn toward Philadelphia instead of linking up with General Burgoyne.
   (pp. 182-183)

18. Which of the following best explains why the French fought against Britain in the American Revolution?
   a. They expected to be able to regain territory in North America.
   b. They sympathized with the republican principles by which the Americans fought.
   c. The successful British occupation of Philadelphia convinced them that the Americans were losing and needed help.
   d. They feared that the Americans would reconcile with Britain, their historic enemy.
   (pp. 183-184)

19. Despite great triumphs on the battlefield and at the diplomatic bargaining table, the Continental Army suffered at Valley Forge because:
   a. Congress and the civilians responsible for providing for the Army were disorganized and corrupt.
   b. the military leadership, in order to instill true discipline, drilled the soldiers beyond their endurance.
   c. the winter was unusually harsh and the Army was compelled to camp outdoors.
   d. the soldiers were never told of the victories elsewhere.
   (pp. 184-185)
20. Which statement about the regulars of the Continental Army is true?
   a. Most of the soldiers were older propertied farmers with families whose substantial farms, left to the care of wives and children in their long absence, fell into disrepair.
   b. Despite the hardships, Continental soldiers—who had enlisted for the sake of liberty—refused the temptations of desertion and mutiny that plagued the hired armies of Europe.
   c. While local partisans in the South often ran at the first encounter with the enemy, the Continental Army proved its mettle in a series of victories in the Carolinas and Georgia.
   d. In social composition and military tactics, the American army came to resemble European armies.  
      (p. 185)

21. In the war for independence, most Native Americans:
   a. sided with the rebels.
   b. generally maintained neutrality, although a few tribes sided with the rebels.
   c. generally maintained neutrality, although a few tribes sided with the British.
   d. sided with the British until Clark took Vincennes.  
      (p. 185)

22. The British shifted to a southern strategy after 1778 because:
   a. they felt they could exploit slave unrest.
   b. they felt they could exploit loyalist support.
   c. they had been driven out of their beachheads in northern cities.
   d. the Continental Army was tied down defending the North.  
      (pp. 186-187)

23. For the southern backcountry, the Revolutionary War meant:
   a. relative calm due to isolation from the fighting.
   b. bitter, bloody partisan civil war.
   c. suffering from slave uprisings as well as guerrilla war.
   d. a series of significant victories by the Continental Army.  
      (pp. 187-188)

24. The slave revolts so dreaded by southern whites never materialized during the fight in the South. The possible reasons why this was so included all the following EXCEPT:
   a. the partisan war made collective resistance and escape too great a risk.
   b. greater white precautions discouraged potential black rebels.
   c. the boldest slaves were drawn off into the armies.
   d. the British encouraged escape and enlistment in the British army instead of an uprising against their masters.  
      (pp. 189-191)

25. What was the role of African Americans in the revolution?
   a. As the war dragged on, blacks—especially northern free blacks—were increasingly welcome to enlist.
   b. Americans generally avoided arming blacks, but the British eagerly recruited runaway slaves.
   c. Though still enslaved, they rallied around the revolutionary rhetoric of freedom, uniformly supporting the American cause.
   d. Very few slaves escaped to freedom; those who did found themselves welcomed in the north, the West Indies, or Canada.  
      (pp. 189-191)

26. George Washington’s victory at Yorktown came as a joint achievement of the Continental Army and:
   a. the French Army.
   b. the French Navy.
   c. militia from the area.
   d. all of the above.  
      (p. 191)
27. Which is the best statement of why the British signed the Peace Treaty granting American independence?
   a. The Americans had driven their Army out of North America.
   b. The French had driven their Navy from the high seas.
   c. The timing of the occasional American victories led to a global situation where the British needed to salvage the rest of their empire by cutting their American losses.
   d. They had sent a commission offering peace on pre-war terms, which the Congress accepted in all particulars except refusing to remain in the empire.
   (pp. 191-193)

28. In the end, what is the best answer to the question posed by the British: Would Americans fight for freedom?
   a. Yes, but only according to Indian-style guerrilla warfare.
   b. Yes, but only on their own terms.
   c. No, not unless they were fighting to defend their own personal property.
   d. No, they would not.
   (pp. 191-193)

29. During the Revolutionary War, a particular type of fashion worn by Americans became:
   a. a mark of social rank.
   b. associated with the alliance with France.
   c. a badge of opposition to British colonial policy.
   d. stylish because it was imported from France.
   (pp. 178-179)

30. The common attire of the frontier, the “hunting shirt”:
   a. was made of woven cloth imported from England.
   b. united the gentry with ordinary men of the backcountry.
   c. separated the ordinary men from the gentry.
   d. showed sympathy with the mother country, England.
   (pp. 178-179)

IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS
Students should be able to describe the following key terms, concepts, individuals, and places, and explain their significance:

**Terms and Concepts**
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Second Continental Congress
- Declaration of Independence
- standing army
- Militia
- Battle of Princeton
- Battle of Saratoga
- siege of Charleston
- Battle of Camden
- Battle of Yorktown
- Loyalists
- Quebec Act
- Homespun
- Continental Army
- Hessians
- Battle of Germantown
- Carlisle Commission
- partisan war in the South
- Battle of King’s Mountain
- Treaty of Paris, 1783

**Individuals and Places**
- William Howe
- Charles, Lord Cornwallis
- George Washington
- Benedict Arnold
- Valley Forge
- Thayendanegea
- Francis Marion
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Burgoyne
- Horatio Gates
- Henry Clinton
- Baron von Steuben
- Nathanael Greene
- Comte de Rochambeau
CONCEPT QUESTIONS:

7. Describe British and American military strategies as they evolved over the course of the War for Independence. Additionally, define the major turning points in the American Revolution and justify why these were turning points.

8. Among what sorts of people and in which areas was Loyalism strongest?

9. In what different ways did the Declaration of Independence justify the colonies’ break with Great Britain?

10. Discuss the role of the white civilian population—both men and women—in the War for Independence.

11. From Washington’s point of view, what were the chief obstacles to be overcome in fighting the war? How did he address those problems?

12. Henry Laurens, a South Carolina merchant, reported that after the war’s outbreak, local slaves took up the cry of Liberty—he put it—“in thoughtless imitation.” Do you agree? What options were available to African Americans during the Revolution? How did different people exercise those options? Be as specific as possible.

AP QUESTIONS:

1). Analyze the impact of the American Revolution on both slavery and the status of women in the period from 1775-1800.

PRIMARY SOURCE: Abigail Adams- “Remember The Ladies”

In March 1776, Abigail Adams wrote this celebrated letter to husband John, who was serving as the Massachusetts representative to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Only weeks before, on March 17, the British had evacuated from Boston, a preliminary sign of the Revolutionary War's eventual success. This letter shows Abigail to be a woman of unusual boldness and insight, as she urges her husband to "remember the ladies" in an age when women were seen as strictly domestic.

Braintree March 31, 1776

I wish you would ever write me a Letter half as long as I write you; and tell me if you may where your Fleet are gone? What sort of Defence Virginia can make against our common Enemy? Whether it is so situated as to make an able Defence? Are not the Gentery Lords and the common people vassals, are they not like the uncivilized Natives Brittain represents us to be? I hope their Riffel Men who have shewen themselves very savage and even Blood thirsty; are not a specimen of the Generality of the people.

I am willing to allow the Colony great merrit for having produced a Washington but they have been shamefully duped by a Dunmore.

I have sometimes been ready to think that the passion for Liberty cannot be Eaquelly Strong in the Breasts of those who have been accustomed to deprive their fellow Creatures of theirs. Of this I am certain that it is not founded upon that generous and christian principal of doing to others as we would that others should do unto us.

Do not you want to see Boston; I am fearfull of the small pox, or I should have been in before this time. I got Mr. Crane to go to our House and see what state it was in. I find it has been occupied by one of the Doctors of a Regiment, very dirty, but no other damage has been done to it. The few things which were left in it are all gone. Cranch [Crane?] has the key which he never deliverrd up. I have wrote to him for it and am determined to get it.
cleand as soon as possible and shut it up. I look upon it a new acquisition of property, a property which one month ago I did not value at a single Shilling, and could with pleasure have seen it in flames.

The Town in General is left in a better state than we expected, more owing to a percipitate flight than any Regard to the inhabitants, tho some individuals discovred a sense of honour and justice and have left the rent of the Houses in which they were, for the owners and the furniture unhurt, or if damaged sufficient to make it good.

Others have committed abominable Ravages. The Mansion House of your President [John Hancock] is safe and the furniture unhurt whilst both the House and Furniture of the Solisiter General [Samuel Quincy] have fallen a prey to their own merciless party. Surely the very Fiends feel a Reverential awe for Virtue and patriotism, whilst they Detest the paricide and traitor.

I feel very differently at the approach of spring to what I did a month ago. We knew not then whether we could plant or sow with safety, whether when we had toild we could reap the fruits of our own industry, whether we could rest in our own Cottages, or whether we should not be driven from the sea coasts to seek shelter in the wilderness, but now we feel as if we might sit under our own vine and eat the good of the land.

I feel a gaieti de Coar to which before I was a stranger. I think the Sun looks brighter, the Birds sing more melodiously, and Nature puts on a more chearfull countanance. We feel a temporary peace, and the poor fugitives are returning to their deserted habitations.

Tho we felicitate ourselves, we sympathize with those who are trembling least the Lot of Boston should be theirs. But they cannot be in similar circumstances unless pusilanimity and cowardise should take possession of them. They have time and warning given them to see the Evil and shun it.-I long to hear that you have declared an independancy-and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticuliar care and attention is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment a Rebelion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

That your Sex are Naturally Tyrannical is a Truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute, but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend. Why then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the Lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity. Men of Sense in all Ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your Sex. Regard us then as Beings placed by providence under your protection and in immitation of the Supreem Being make use of that power only for our happiness.

April 5

Not having an opportunity of sending this I shall add a few lines more; tho not with a heart so gay. I have been attending the sick chamber of our Neighbour Trot whose affliction I most sensibly feel but cannot discribe, striped of two lovely children in one week. Gorge the Eldest died on wednesday and Billy the youngest on fryday, with the Canker fever, a terrible disorder so much like the thr[o]at distemper, that it differs but little from it. Betsy Cranch has been very bad, but upon the recovery. Becky Peck they do not expect will live out the day. Many grown person[s] are now sick with it, in this [street?] 5. It rages much in other Towns. The Mumps too are very frequent. Isaac is now confined with it. Our own little flock are yet well. My Heart trembles with anxiety for them. God preserve them.

I want to hear much oftener from you than I do. March 8 was the last date of any that I have yet had. - You inquire of whether I am making Salt peter. I have not yet attempted it, but after Soap making believe I shall make the experiment. I find as much as I can do to manufacture cloathing for my family which would else be Naked. I know of but one person in this part of the Town who has made any, that is Mr. Tertias Bass as he is calld who has got very near an hundred weight which has been found to be very good. I have heard of some others in the other parishes. Mr. Reed of Weymouth has been applied to, to go to Andover to the mills which are now at work, and has gone. I have lately seen a small Manuscrip de[s]cribing the proportions for the various sorts of powder, fit for cannon, small arms
and pistols. If it would be of any Service your way I will get it transcribed and send it to you. - Every one of your Friend[s] send their Regards, and all the little ones. Your Brothers youngest child lies bad with convulsion fitts. Adieu. I need not say how much I am Your ever faithfull Friend.


1). Compare this letter to the information contained in your text. In what ways is Abigail a patriotic woman supporting the cause?

2). What colony is Abigail concerned with in the opening of her letter? Why? What did she mean by “duped by a Dunmore”?

3). What would have happened if John Adams had “remember(ed) the ladies?” (no particular right answer if your answer IS based off historical knowledge). Also, be sure to address what that quote means.

4). What arguments does an intelligent Abigail use to try to persuade her husband to “remember the ladies”?