

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### Discussion Guide

The following questions are designed to spark discussion and engagement with the map. The questions can be modified or adapted in any way to suit your class.

### Questions

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1. Where did fighting in the American Revolution begin? How did it progress geographically? Can you find this information in more than one place on the poster?
2. What other countries aided the Patriots in the Revolution? Based on information on the map and other information you know, what are some of the reasons that those countries joined the fight against the British?
3. In 1763, Great Britain banned the settlement of Indian land west of the Proclamation Line. In 1776, the original 13 colonies declared independence, roughly staying within the boundaries of the Proclamation Line.
  - a. Are there any physical features that may explain why the British drew the line where they did?
  - b. On the Native Americans in the War inset map, what actions take place to the west of the Proclamation Line? What do these actions suggest?
4. The Revolution was a war fought at sea as well as on land. Why do you think this was so?
5. Who won the major land battles of the Revolution pictured on the main map? Do you see any geographic pattern to which side won? Look at the dates of the battles. Do you see any pattern there as to who won? If there is a pattern, what do you think that tells us about the war? If there is no pattern, what do you think that tells us?
6. On the time line, the period between 1778 and 1781 is labeled "Southern Phase and World War." Why do you think it's called that?

## Answers

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1. Fighting began in the Northeast (Lexington, Concord, Québec) and progressed from north to south. This information can be found on the map itself and on the time line at the bottom of the poster.
2. France, Spain, and the Netherlands aided the Patriots in the Revolution. Answers may vary, but should include that Spain joined the fight to regain territory in Florida and Gibraltar while the French and Dutch fought to seize British lands in the West Indies.
- 3a. The British drew the Proclamation Line approximately at the Appalachian Mountains.
- 3b. To the west of the Proclamation Line, Patriots destroyed Native American towns and crops and captured a British post. Students may understand these actions as indicating that the Patriots did not intend to stay within the borders of the Proclamation Line and had greater aspirations for land expansion.
4. Britain was an ocean away from America, so they had to approach the colonies from the sea; preventing ships from docking prevented troops from coming ashore and/or prevented supplies from reaching British troops. When ships with troops and supplies made it to North America, battles were fought on land.
5. The Patriots won more battles overall, though the main map does not indicate an obvious geographic pattern to the battle victors. The lack of a pattern may explain why the war lasted as long as it did and was fought up and down the coast and inland. The Patriots won more battles as time went on. There is no obvious pattern to the victors until the very end, which may also explain the length of the war. The final pattern of victory may tell us that the Patriots learned to fight more strategically. Other patterns, like the assistance of European allies in the later battles, may explain the final victory as well.
6. Answers may vary, but should touch on the U.S.-French alliance, Spain declaring war on Britain, the Dutch and French fighting the British in the West Indies, the battles and Siege of Gibraltar—that is, the fighting involved several countries not previously engaged and took place on or near multiple continents. All of these factors explain why the period may be characterized as a “World War.” In addition, most of the American Revolution battles between 1778 and 1781 took place in the South, hence the “Southern Phase” descriptor.