Virginia and the American Revolution VS 5

WHEN DID ENGLAND BECOME GREAT BRITAIN?

The early 1700s

Great Britain is the name of the island that consists of three regions: England, Wales, and Scotland.

WHAT WAS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CALLED?

Parliament

WAS VIRGINIA STILL THE ONLY ENGLISH COLONY?

No, by this time there were many colonies. There were 13 British Colonies.

Over time the Colonist and Parliament began to disagree more and more over how the colonies should be governed. These disagreements eventually lead to the American Revolution also known as the Revolutionary War.

HOW DID THE IDEAS ABOUT GOVERNMENT DIFFER BETWEEN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND THE COLONIES?

GOVERNMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Britain’s (Parliament) point of view on government</th>
<th>(Great Britain should rule!)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parliament believed it had the legal authority in the colonies. They wanted Great Britain rule over the colonies.</td>
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Colonies point of view on government
(Colonies should rule themselves!)

The colonist believed that their local assemblies had the legal authority over the colonies. They wanted to govern themselves.

They also **strongly disagreed** on taxes.

**TAXES:**

Great Britain’s (Parliament) point of view on taxes
(We have the right to tax our colonies!)

Parliament believed they had the right to tax the colonies.

Colonies point of view on taxes
(You shouldn’t tax us because we don’t get any representation in Parliament!)

The colonies believed that they should not be taxed because they had to representation in Parliament. **TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION**
WHY IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT?

In 1776, The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, stated that authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings and that all people are created equal and have the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

| People in the colonies should govern themselves, rather than the king (NO MORE KING!) | All people are created equal |

According to the Declaration of Independence, all people should have the right to:

| life | liberty | pursuit of happiness |

The Declaration of Independence told Great Britain that colonies wanted freedom from British rule.

WAR BREAKS OUT BETWEEN COLONIES AND GREAT BRITAIN

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE COLONY’S ARMY? The Continental Army
**WHAT SIDE DID VIRGINIANS TAKE DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?**

**Patriots** (fought against the British)

Virginia Patriots joined the Continental Army and fought for independence that eventually led to the British surrender at Yorktown. (These Virginians wanted freedom from British rule)

**Neutral**

Some Virginians were neutral and did not take sides.

**Loyalist** (Loyal to Great Britain)

Other Virginians remained loyal to Great Britain and fought against the Continental Army. They wanted Great Britain to continue to rule the colonies.

**African Americans**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enslaved African Americans</th>
<th>Free African Americans</th>
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<tr>
<td>Some enslaved African Americans fought for a better chance at freedom</td>
<td>Some free African Americans fought for independence for Great Britain</td>
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</table>
James Lafayette, an enslaved African American from Virginia, served as a spy for the Continental Army. After the war, he successfully requested his freedom.

### American Indians

| Many American Indians fought alongside Virginians against the British. | Many American Indians fought alongside the British against the Colonists |

### HOW DID WOMEN'S ROLE CHANGE DURING THE WAR?

During the War women took on more responsibilities to support the war effort.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FAMOUS VIRGINIANS DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA?

George Washington - provided military leadership by serving as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.
**Thomas Jefferson** - provided the political leadership by writing the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration stated the reasons the colonies wanted independence from Great Britain.

**Patrick Henry** - inspired patriots from the other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation by saying..."**give liberty or give me death**" in a famous speech.

**Battle of Great Bridge**

The Battle of Great Bridge was the first land battle fought in Virginia during the American Revolution. The American victory forced the British colonial governor to flee the City of Norfolk.
Jack Jouett

Jack Jouett prevented the British capture of Governor Thomas Jefferson and key members of the Virginia General Assembly. Here is what he did:

Jack Jouett rode 40 miles on horseback through the backwoods of Virginia to Charlottesville to warn Thomas Jefferson that the British were coming to arrest him and the General Assembly. Because of his warning, they British were not able to capture the members of the Virginia General Assembly or Governor Thomas Jefferson.

WAR ENDS!

British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia in October of 1781.

WHAT WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN VICTORY AT YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA?

The victory at Yorktown, Virginia resulted in the British surrendering, bringing an end to the Revolutionary War. The colonies won freedom from Great Britain and now could become their own country, free to rule themselves.