

# Lesson 10: The french Intervention

BONJOUR



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

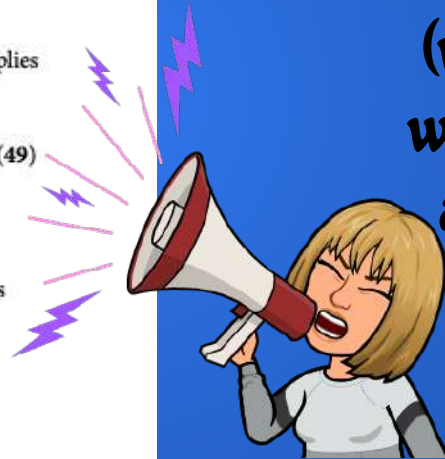
10.2

ACTIVITY PAGE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary for “From Valley Forge to Yorktown”

1. **impress**, *v.* to amaze; to cause others to feel admiration or interest (**impressed**) (48)
2. **bayonet**, *n.* a sharp piece of metal attached to the muzzle of a musket (**bayonets**) (49)
3. **model company**, *n.* a group of soldiers deserving to be copied or imitated by others (49)
4. **foraging**, *adj.* for the purpose of searching for something, usually food or supplies (49)
5. **recruit**, *v.* to search for people to join a group or organization (e.g., the army) (49)
6. **decisive**, *adj.* important; without any doubt (49)
7. **reinforce**, *v.* to make a group more effective by adding more people or supplies (**reinforced**) (51)
8. **convoy**, *n.* a group of ships traveling together for safety (51)
9. **fleet**, *n.* a group of military ships that sail under the same commander (51)



Before we begin reading  
Chapter 6: from Valley  
forge to Yorktown, let's go  
over some vocabulary.  
Turn to Activity page 10.2  
(workbook page 97) We  
will echo read the words  
and then discuss their  
meanings.



## Chapter 6

# From Valley Forge to Yorktown

**THE BIG QUESTION**  
What European country joined the Continental Army to fight the British, and how did their help influence the outcome of the war?

There is a saying, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." The winter of 1777 to 1778 was a difficult time for Washington and his men. Those who survived that winter in Valley Forge came to think they were strong enough to survive just about anything!

In February 1778, the French military entered the war to fight alongside the Continental Army. France was a longtime enemy of Great Britain, so they welcomed the opportunity to assist the colonists in their fight against the British. This was good news for the colonists. France had a strong, organized military. French involvement meant help was on the way!

Then, in late February, a man with a heavy German accent arrived in Valley Forge. His name was Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben. The purpose for his arrival began during the previous summer when von Steuben traveled to Paris to volunteer his services to the Count de St. Germain, the French Minister of War. St. Germain had been so **impressed** with von Steuben's military experience that he sent him across the Atlantic Ocean to meet George Washington. George Washington was equally impressed and asked von Steuben to train his soldiers. There was just one problem: von Steuben knew only a few words of English. So, he shouted his commands in German, then someone would translate the words into English.

## THE BIG QUESTION

What European country joined the Continental Army to fight the British, and how did their help influence the outcome of the war?

**Read pages 48 and 49 with your Speed Dial 2 partner.**

**What country joined the fight against the British?**

**How do you think the colonists felt about that? Why?**

**Even though winter at Valley Forge was awful, why was that time important for the Continental Army?**





## The Beginning of the End

In August 1781, Cornwallis and his men camped at Yorktown, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, in Virginia. They were waiting for reinforcements and supplies.

While Cornwallis was setting up camp at Yorktown, Washington was meeting with several French generals outside New York City. The French had sent thousands of troops to assist Washington. Now Washington and the French generals had to decide how to best utilize these new troops. Should they attack the British in New York City, or should they head south and attack Cornwallis in Virginia?

Eventually they decided to march the main Continental Army and most of the French troops south to Virginia and try to trap Cornwallis. But Washington was crafty. He sent out fake messages to make the British think he was actually going to attack New York. The British were fooled by the messages.



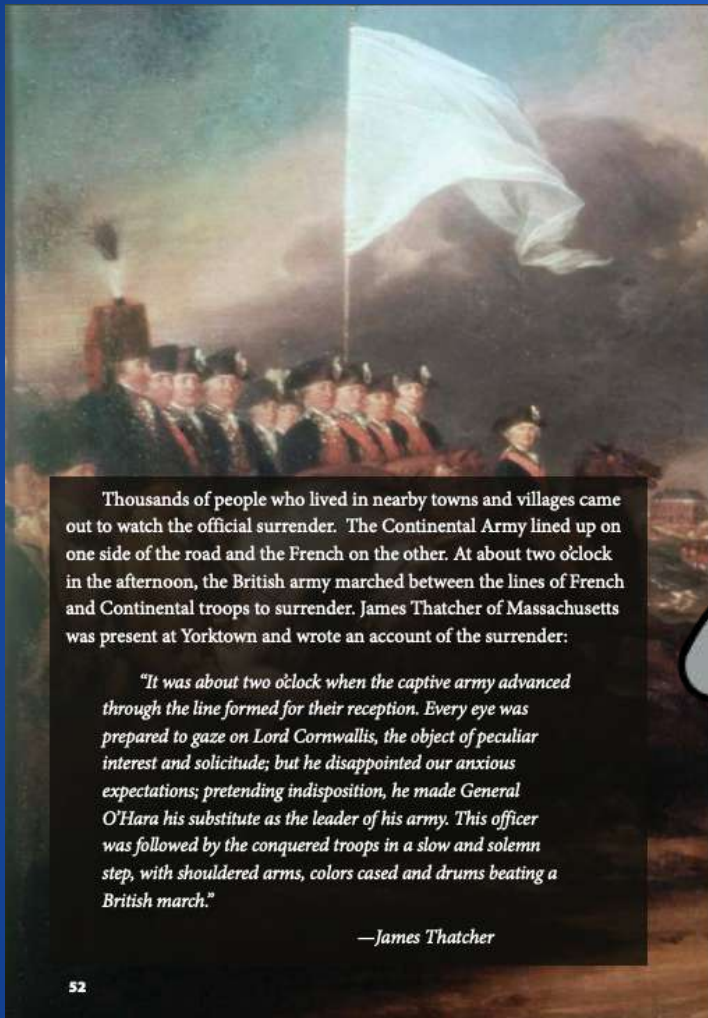
## The Beginning of the End

**What does this heading suggest? What can we infer about what will happen next?**

**Read pages 50 and 51 with your Speed Dial 1 partner. Then, discuss these questions:**

- 1. Why was it important for Washington to trick the British into thinking they were going to attack New York?**
- 2. Why was the French fleet so important to Washington's plan?**





Thousands of people who lived in nearby towns and villages came out to watch the official surrender. The Continental Army lined up on one side of the road and the French on the other. At about two o'clock in the afternoon, the British army marched between the lines of French and Continental troops to surrender. James Thatcher of Massachusetts was present at Yorktown and wrote an account of the surrender:

*"It was about two o'clock when the captive army advanced through the line formed for their reception. Every eye was prepared to gaze on Lord Cornwallis, the object of peculiar interest and solicitude; but he disappointed our anxious expectations; pretending indisposition, he made General O'Hara his substitute as the leader of his army. This officer was followed by the conquered troops in a slow and solemn step, with shouldered arms, colors cased and drums beating a British march."*

—James Thatcher



**follow along as I read page  
52 aloud.**

**What surprise does James  
Thatcher tell about in his  
description of the  
surrender at Yorktown?**



After General O'Hara surrendered, the British troops were directed to ground their arms. More than 7,000 British soldiers laid down their guns. Of course, as James Thatcher recorded, many of them were not happy about it:

*"Some of the platoon officers appeared to be exceedingly chagrined when giving the word 'ground arms,' . . . many of the soldiers manifested a sullen temper, throwing their arms on the pile with violence, as if determined to render them useless."*

Conner

Mrs. Kelly

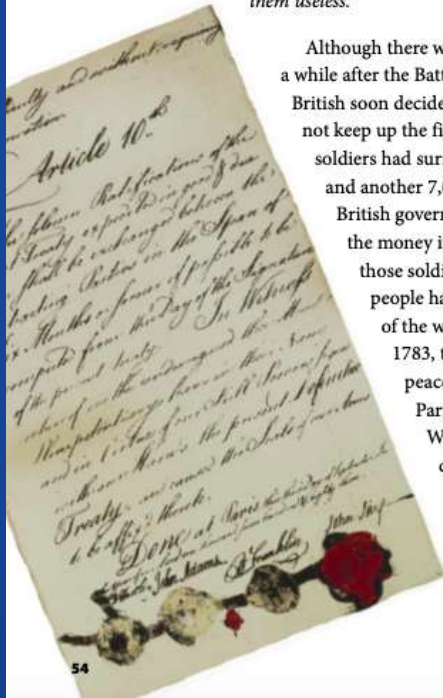
Although there was some fighting for a while after the Battle of Yorktown, the British soon decided that they could not keep up the fight. Six thousand soldiers had surrendered at Saratoga, and another 7,000 at Yorktown. The British government did not have the money it would cost to replace those soldiers. Many British people had also grown weary of the war. In September 1783, the British signed a peace treaty, the Treaty of Paris. The Revolutionary War was over. The colonists had won their independence, and a new nation was born!

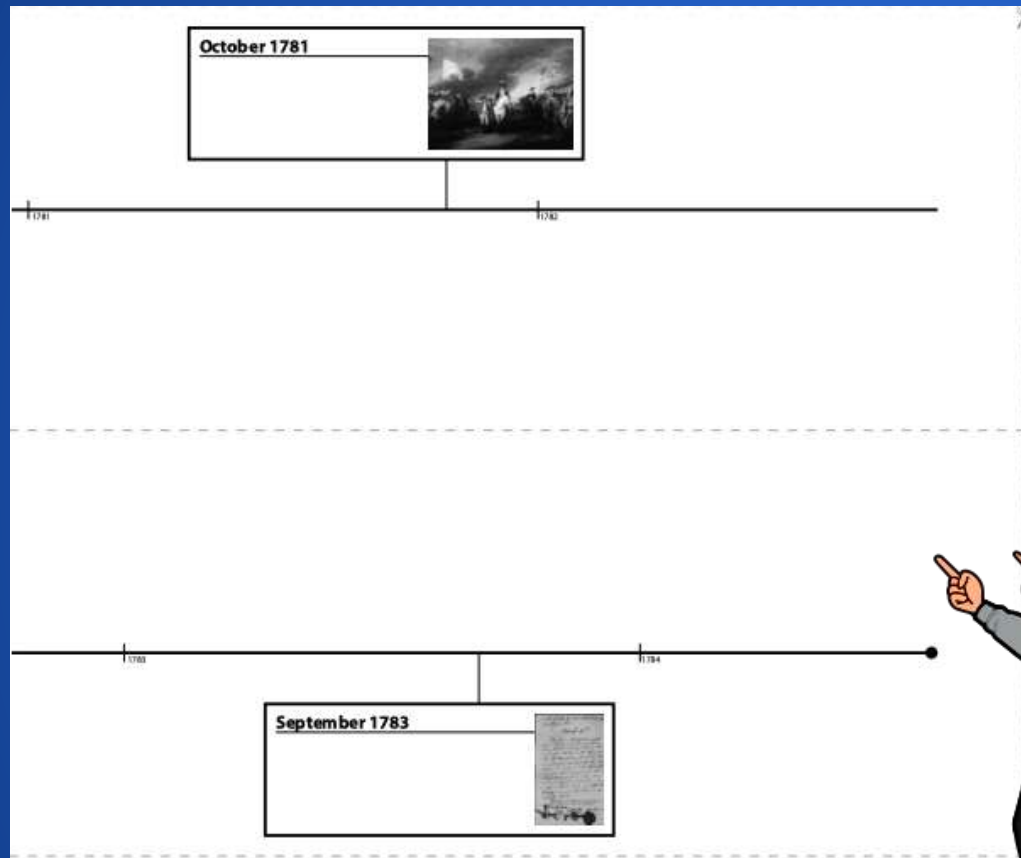
Part of the Treaty of Paris

The text says that the British troops were directed to "ground their arms". What does that mean? What text evidence helps you figure that out?

Did the surrender at Yorktown end the war?  
What text evidence supports your answer?

Read page 55 about The Marquis de Lafayette.  
How do we know that he was a wealthy man?





**Turn to Activity page 6.2  
(workbook page 64 and 65).  
Let's fill out the last 3 boxes  
on our timeline.**





NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

10.3

TAKE-HOME

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**From Valley Forge to Yorktown***Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.*

Von Steuben taught the Continental soldiers how to march and stand in formation. He taught them how to advance on the battlefield. He also taught them how to use the bayonets attached to their muskets. Von Steuben trained a model company. Then, the members of this model company trained other companies.

*The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.*

1. **Part A:** In this paragraph, what is the meaning of *model company*?

- A. a military company deserving to be copied by others
- B. a fashion company that employs people to model clothes
- C. a toy company that makes plastic parts to form model airplanes
- D. an art company that employs models to pose for portrait painters

**Part B:** Which sentence from the text best helps the reader determine the meaning of the term *model company*?

- A. Von Steuben taught the Continental soldiers how to march and stand in formation.
- B. He taught them how to advance on the battlefield.
- C. He also taught them how to use the bayonets attached to their muskets.
- D. Then, the members of this model company trained other companies.

2. Explain in your own words how one man, Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, was able to train so many men for battle in such a short amount of time.

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**Tear out Activity page 10.3  
(workbook pages 99 – 102)  
This is your homework!**







**Let's work on the cause and effect essay that we started a couple weeks ago.**

**You will need your introduction and the planning paper that you were using to take notes about the 3 causes you chose to write about.**



**Don't forget to do Activity  
page 10.3 for homework!**

