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MAGAZINE

U.S. History Making a New Nation

McGraw Hill Education
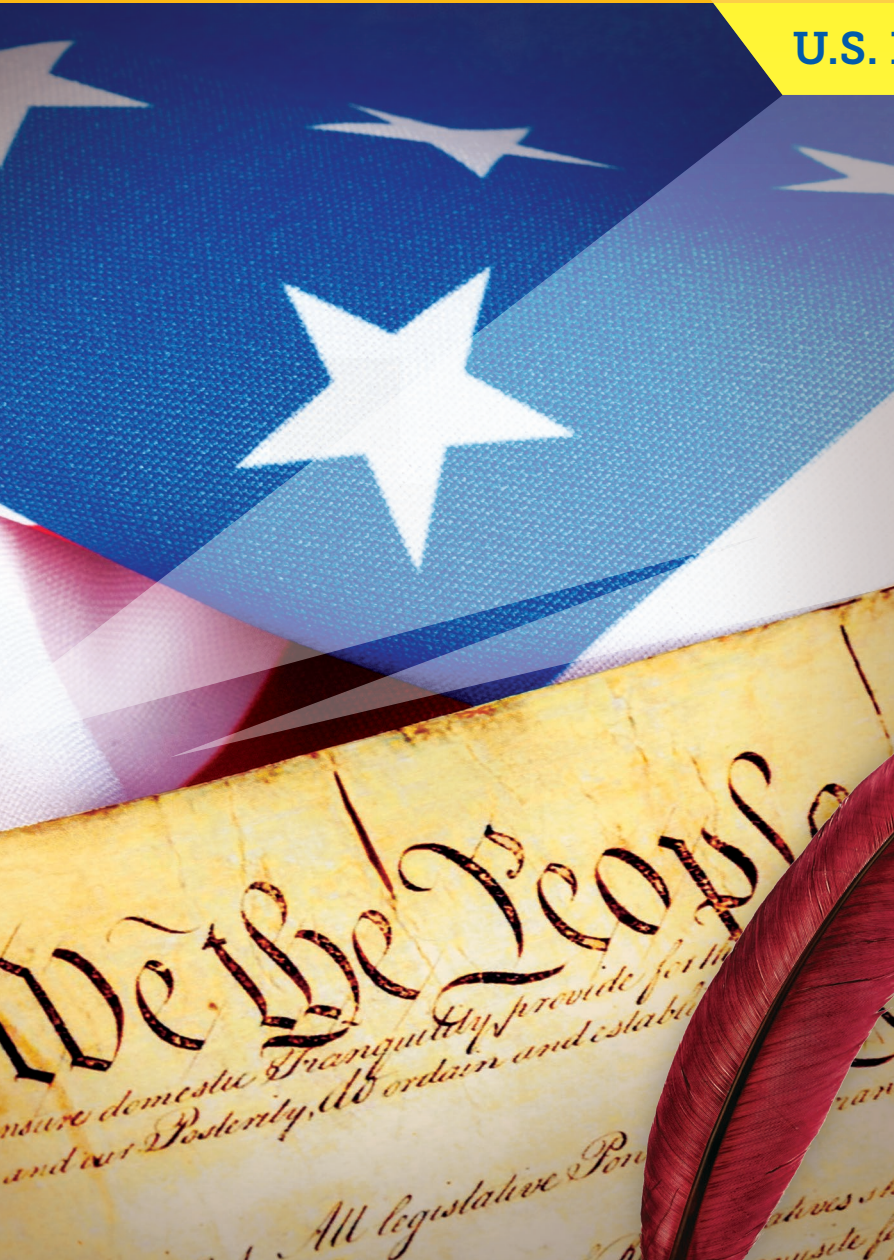
Chapter 5

The American Revolution

ESSENTIAL EQ QUESTION

What does the Revolutionary Era tell us about our nation today?

Table of Contents

Artifacts of the
American Revolution

As this replica shows, a colonial officer's tent was small, but allowed the officer some privacy.

This flintlock pistol dates to the Revolutionary War.

Soldiers used wooden canteens attached to a strap for easy carrying.

These artifacts from the American Revolution provide a small glimpse into life during the war.

- What details do you notice about each artifact?
- How do these artifacts compare with modern versions of these items?
- What can you learn about a soldier's daily life during that time?

Two Midnight Rides

What makes a person legendary? A person is legendary when he or she does something wonderful or brave enough to become famous. Both Sybil Ludington and Paul Revere took legendary rides to help the colonies in their conflict against the British during the American Revolution.

On April 16, 1775, Paul Revere rode his horse to Concord, Massachusetts. He warned the colonial soldiers to protect their supply of weapons from the advancing British troops. On April 18, 1775, Revere rode from Charlestown to Boston to warn soldiers that the British were coming.

Two years later, on the night of April 26, 1777, sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington rode forty miles on her horse to Danbury, Connecticut. She warned soldiers that the British were coming. Today we can see reminders of Sybil's ride. There is a statue of Sybil on horseback that stands in Carmel, New York, and a postage stamp issued in her honor.

Sybil Ludington

CONNECT THROUGH LITERATURE

Another Spectacular Ride

by **Drollene P. Brown**

This work of historical fiction imagines the night that Sybil Ludington, daughter of Colonel Henry Ludington, notices an unnatural red glow in the east. It is the evening of April 26, 1777. After dinner, a courier arrives at the Ludington home with news.

Turning to Sybil, Colonel Ludington said, "That red glow in the sky is from Danbury, Connecticut. There are about two thousand British soldiers there burning the town, and they're heading for Ridgefield. I must stay here to prepare for the battle, but someone must alert our men."

"I'll go! Star and I can do it!" Sybil exclaimed. Sybil's horse, Star, was sure of foot and would do anything Sybil asked.

"There are dangers other than slippery paths," her mother warned. "Outlaws or deserters or even British soldiers may be on the road. You must be wary in a way that Star cannot."

"I can do it," Sybil declared.

Without another word, Abigail turned to fetch a woolen cape to protect her daughter from the wind and rain. Sybil swung up onto her sturdy horse with a stick in her hand. As though reciting an oath, she repeated her father's directions: "Go south by the river, then along Horse Pound Road to Mahopac Pond. From there, turn right to Red Mills, then go north to Stormville." And then she was off.

Sybil rode up to one cottage after another and beat on each door with her stick. "Look at the sky!" she shouted. "Danbury's burning! All men muster at Ludington's!"

The roads were often slippery with mud and wet stones, and the **terrain** was frequently hilly and wooded. Sybil's ears strained for sounds of other riders who might try to steal her horse or stop her mission. Twice she pulled Star off the path while unknown riders passed within a few feet. By the time they reached Stormville, Sybil's voice was almost gone. But the town's call to arms was sounding as horse and rider turned homeward.

Covered with mud and tired beyond belief, Sybil could barely stay on Star's back as they rode into their own yard close to dawn. She had ridden nearly forty miles. She had roused several hundred men, and Ludington's regiment marched out to join the Connecticut militia. They helped rout the British at Ridgefield, driving them back to their ships on Long Island Sound.

Afterward, General George Washington gave his personal thanks to Sybil for her courageous deed. Her ride would go down in history, and she would be forever remembered as a heroine of the American Revolution.

WordBlast

What do you think **terrain** means? How does the text help you figure that out?
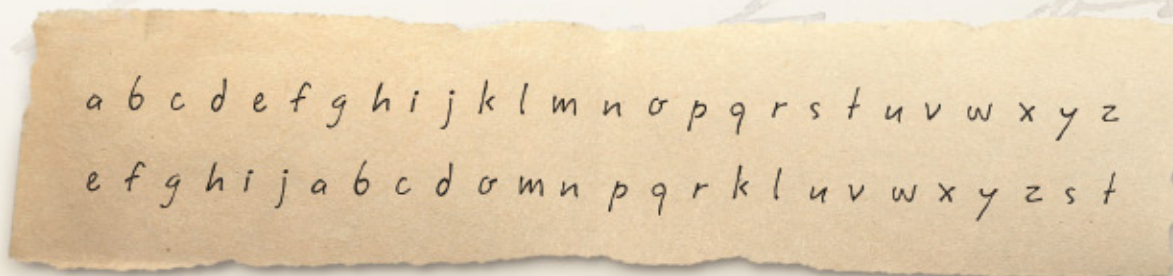
Washington's Spies

George Washington was a great man. He was president and a general in the American Revolution. But one of the little known facts about him is that he was a spymaster. In fact, during the Revolution, he led a whole spy **network**!

The network was known as the Culper Spy Ring. Benjamin Tallmadge, an officer under Washington, created the network under the general's orders. Also in the group were Robert Townsend, James Rivington, Abraham Woodhull, Austin Roe, Anna Smith Strong, Caleb Brewster, and many others.

Many people gave intelligence and information to the people in the spy ring. From there, the spies sent it to George Washington. But there was a catch to the written messages they sent. Each one was in code, and they used different codes. If any message was intercepted by an enemy who figured out the code, the Culper Spy Ring couldn't apply that code to other written messages.

Sending Secret Messages

Benjamin Tallmadge gave the Culper Spy Ring agents a cipher, shown below. The letters in the bottom row were used in place of the letters in the top row.

WordBlast

What do you think the word **network** means? What are some modern-day ways that networks are formed?

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
e f g h i j a b c d o m n p q r k l u v w x y z s t

Tallmadge also created a word-number code. The code assigned numbers from 1 to 763 to specific words and names. For example, the number for New York was 727. The number for the word "I" was 280, and the number for "love" was 348. To say "I love New York" in Tallmadge's code, you would use 280-348-727.

The Culper Spy Ring had other codes, and they also used invisible ink. You needed lemon juice to read some messages. Others needed to be heated up. If you needed fire to read a letter, Washington told his agents to put an F in the corner of the letter. If it needed acid, such as lemon juice, Washington told his agents to put an A in the corner of the letter.

Washington's network included people who lived in another country for months, even years, in order to report to him. They knew they risked their lives there, because if they were found out, they would be jailed, sent away, or even killed! We owe a lot to the spies of the American Revolution.

George Washington organized a secret spy ring to gather information on British troop movements. His men used invisible ink to hide their messages.

Benjamin Tallmadge created a word-number code like this one.

A

word	number
a	1
an	2
all	3
at	4
and	5
art	6
arms	7
about	8
absent	10
absurd	11
adorn	12
adopt	13
adore	14
advise	15
adjust	16
adjourn	17
afford	18
affront	19
affair	20
again	21
April	22
agent	23
alter	24

Boy Soldier

Going to war is dangerous—

too dangerous for youngsters. You must be at least eighteen to join the Army. But during the American Revolution, a few underage soldiers slipped in.

Daniel Granger was only thirteen years old when he first served in the Army. Daniel arrived at the camp of the Continental Army near Boston in November 1775. He intended to pick up his sick older brother and bring him home. Instead, Daniel took his brother's place.

"The Weather was extremely cold," wrote Daniel, when he recorded his memories as an old man. He continued, "And Winter Hill was a high bleak & cold place."

Daniel was issued a musket, and he was given the duty of standing guard overnight. Later he recalled one scary night at camp:

> About eleven or twelve oclock, the Sentinal that was placed above me, heard the ice trickle down from the Rocks as the Tide fell off, which frightened him, I heard him hale, at the Top of his voice, "Who comes there" twice I beleave, and then fired off his Gun and ran off.

I could hear the Drum beating at the guardhouse to turn out the Guard. I cocked my Gun, looked and lissaned, but could see nor hear anything but the trickling of the Ice on the Shore.

Joining the Army Again

Daniel returned home in the spring to work on the family farm. A year later, young Daniel—now fifteen—again enlisted in the Army. The Army traveled everywhere on foot and was marching across the countryside. They cooked their own food, washed their own clothes, and often slept under the open sky.

Daniel's march of almost 200 miles brought him to Saratoga, New York. The colonial troops "were arranged on both sides of the Road, Drums & Fifes playing Yankee doodle, Cannon roaring in all quarters," Daniel wrote. "The whol World seemed to be in motion."

The Battle of Saratoga was a great American victory. After the excitement, Daniel walked home to Massachusetts. On his way home, he awoke one morning to find himself covered with five or six inches of snow.

About a year later, Daniel again joined the Army—this time as a musician. After the war, Daniel returned to the family farm. Later, he became a teacher, but he never forgot his experience as a boy soldier.
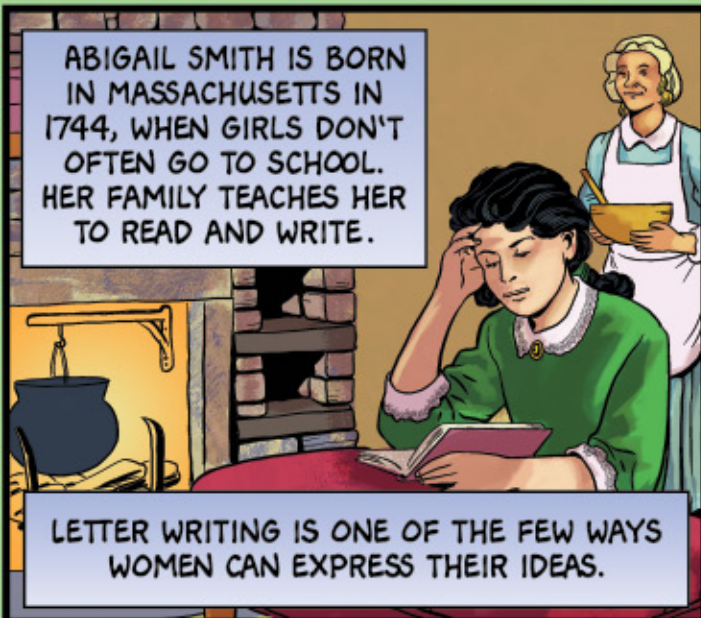
ABIGAIL ADAMS:
Letter-Writing Revolutionary

THE LETTERS OF **ABIGAIL ADAMS** PROVIDE A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. WHO IS THIS LETTER-WRITING REVOLUTIONARY?
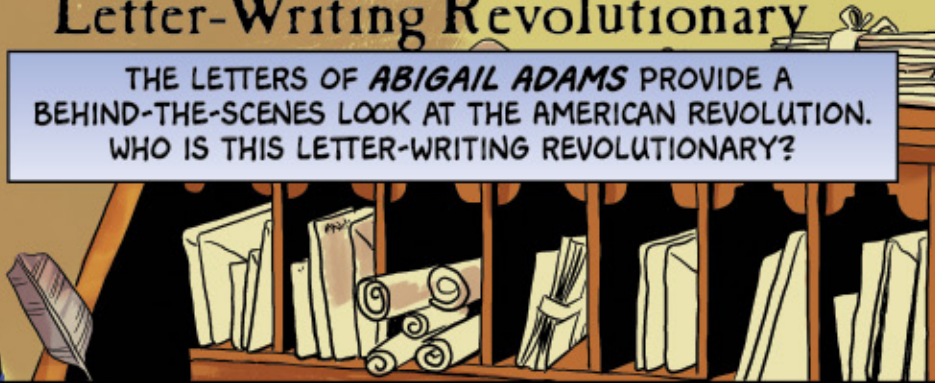
ABIGAIL SMITH IS BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1744, WHEN GIRLS DON'T OFTEN GO TO SCHOOL. HER FAMILY TEACHES HER TO READ AND WRITE.
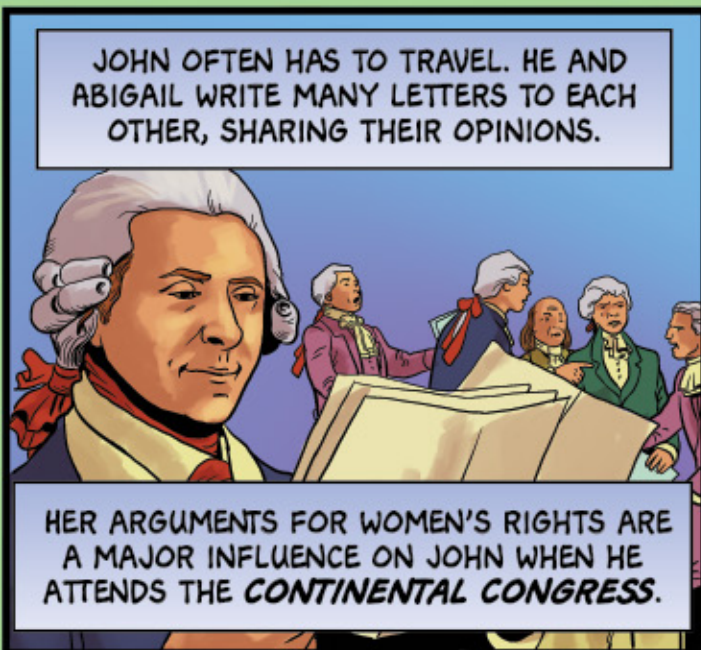
LETTER WRITING IS ONE OF THE FEW WAYS WOMEN CAN EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS.

ABIGAIL LOVES TO DISCUSS LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS.

SO DOES JOHN ADAMS, A COUNTRY LAWYER. THEY MARRY IN 1764.

JOHN OFTEN HAS TO TRAVEL. HE AND ABIGAIL WRITE MANY LETTERS TO EACH OTHER, SHARING THEIR OPINIONS.
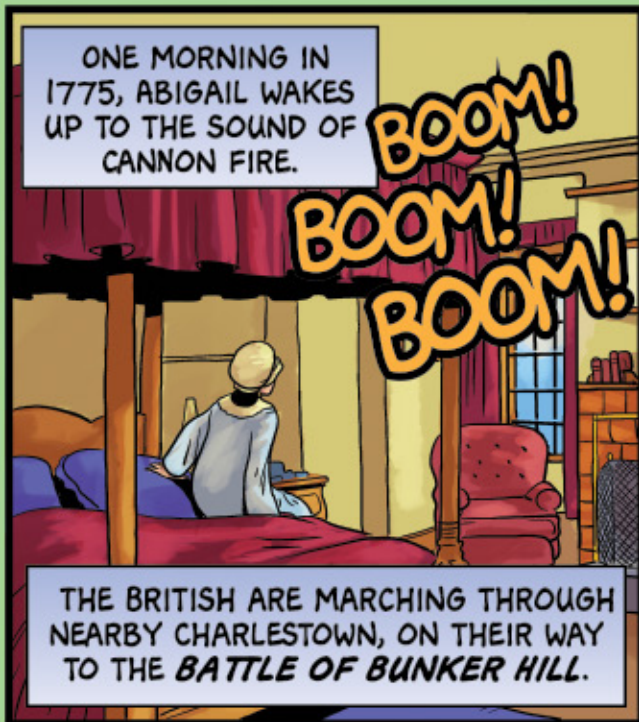
HER ARGUMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON JOHN WHEN HE ATTENDS THE **CONTINENTAL CONGRESS**.

WHILE JOHN IS AWAY, ABIGAIL MANAGES THE FARM, TEACHES THEIR CHILDREN, AND WRITES MORE LETTERS.

ONE MORNING IN 1775, ABIGAIL WAKES UP TO THE SOUND OF CANNON FIRE.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

THE BRITISH ARE MARCHING THROUGH NEARBY CHARLESTOWN, ON THEIR WAY TO THE *BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL*.

ABIGAIL CAN'T EAT OR SLEEP AS THE CANNONS ROAR. SHE WRITES AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE TO HER HUSBAND. SHE SAYS PEOPLE ARE STILL IN GOOD SPIRITS EVEN THOUGH CHARLESTOWN HAS BEEN BURNED TO THE GROUND.

AS WAR RAGES, ABIGAIL GIVES SHELTER TO SOLDIERS, SEWS UNIFORMS, AND MELTS DOWN HER TABLEWARE FOR AMMUNITION.

WHEN PEACE COMES, JOHN IS NAMED AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE COURTS OF EUROPE. ABIGAIL JOINS HIM IN PARIS.

ABIGAIL CONTINUES TO BE JOHN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR WHEN HE IS ELECTED THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE NEW UNITED STATES.

STORY AND ART: EUREKA COMICS

TODAY WE REMEMBER HER AS A BRAVE WOMAN WHO USED HER PEN TO CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS.

A Man of *Many Talents*

| Year	Event
1706	Born in Boston on January 17
1733	Started publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack*
1742	Invented the Franklin stove, a fireplace lined in metal that stands in the middle of a room
1752	Proposed his famous kite experiment with lightning
1776	Served on the committee to write the Declaration of Independence
1776	Appointed U.S. Minister to France
1783	As a diplomat, helped to write the Treaty of Paris, which brought an end to the American Revolution
1784	Invented bifocals
1787	Served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention
1790	Died in Philadelphia on April 17
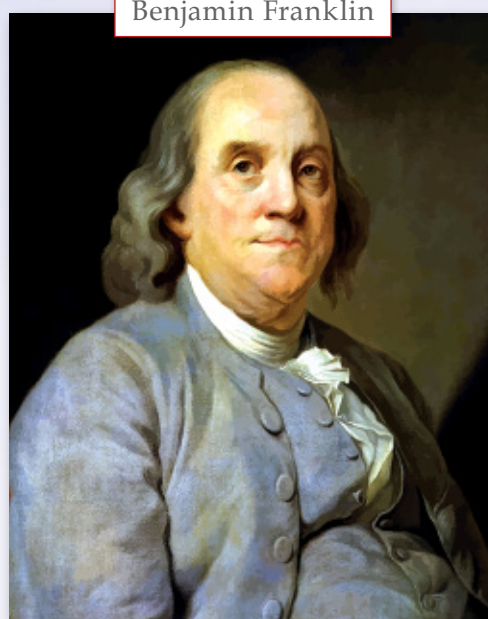
Benjamin Franklin

⊛ EXPLORE the Time Line

- What does the time line tell about Benjamin Franklin's interests?
- How does the time line explain the importance of Benjamin Franklin?
- How old was Benjamin Franklin at key moments of his service to the nation?

Tireless Thinker

Printer. Author. Statesman. Diplomat. Scientist. Inventor. The list of Benjamin Franklin's jobs and accomplishments goes on and on. How did he have time to accomplish so much? He started when he was young.

Born in Boston to Puritan parents in 1706, Franklin attended school only until he was ten years old, but he didn't stop reading and writing. Soon after, he apprenticed at a printing business. Franklin later opened his own printer's shop in Philadelphia where he produced a newspaper and *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

An almanac is a reference book that includes information on topics such as weather forecasts, holidays, and astronomy. Many almanacs, including *Poor Richard's Almanack*, also featured popular sayings, jokes, and proverbs. Ben Franklin wrote many popular sayings that reflected his sense of humor.

He devoted time to his community in Philadelphia and would eventually start a library, a hospital, and the colonial postal system. Franklin also helped start what would become the University of Pennsylvania and the first fire department. He would go on to invent the Franklin stove, bifocals, and an instrument called the glass armonica (pictured above).
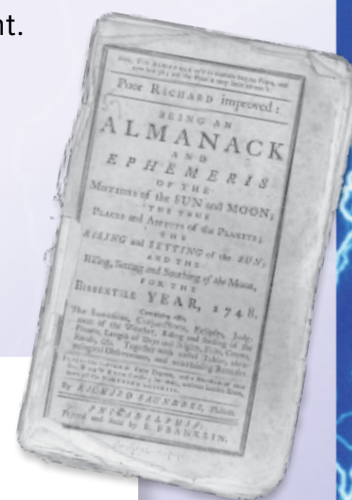
PRIMARY SOURCE

In Their Words...

Benjamin Franklin used *Poor Richard's Almanack* as a place to record his aphorisms, or sayings. Below are some of his sayings. What do they mean?

"Well done, is twice done."

"He that is of opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money."

"One today is worth two tomorrows."

"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure."

"Fish and visitors stink in three days."

Remembering
The First Rhode Island Regiment

A Revolutionary War re-enactor poses as a First Rhode Island Regiment soldier in 2003.

During the American Revolution, one regiment was made up mostly of African Americans. The First Rhode Island Regiment, also known as "The Black Regiment," helped ensure the success of the Americans in the American Revolution.

In 1778, Rhode Island had trouble recruiting the troops required by the Continental Congress to fight the British. The Rhode Island legislature decided to have enslaved African Americans fight in the war for the state. These men would be given their freedom at the end of the war. Slave owners received money for any enslaved men who became soldiers.

The new First Rhode Island Regiment, which also included free African Americans, whites, and Narragansett Indians, soon grew to 225 men. The regiment first faced combat at the Battle of Rhode Island in August of 1778, fighting back three attacks by the British.

After the battle, the regiment was praised for its role by the American commander, General John Sullivan.

In 1781, this regiment united with the Second Rhode Island Regiment to fight at the Battle of Yorktown, the final battle that led to the end of the American Revolution. On December 25, 1783, the regiment was dissolved at Saratoga, New York. Today, the names of those soldiers are **engraved** on a granite monument in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

WordBlast

What is the meaning of **engraved?** What might be engraved on the outside of your school?

(bkgd)Imagemore/Glow Images, (inset)Mario Tama/Getty Images News/Getty Images

Take Action!

More to Explore

What else do you want to learn about the American Revolution? Here are some questions to guide your research and discussion.

Paul Revere was one of several riders who warned the Patriots of the British patrols. Two others were William Dawes and Samuel Prescott. Find out more about them.

Write a message to George Washington using the Culper cipher found on page 60.

Find out more about Benjamin Franklin. What do you think were his most interesting contributions to modern American life?

WordBlast

- Find a monument in your town. What words are **engraved** on it?
- What are the advantages of using a **network** to accomplish a complex task?
- How did the **terrain** add to the difficulty of Sybil Ludington's ride?

ESSENTIAL EQ QUESTION

Reflect

What does the Revolutionary Era tell us about our nation today?