Chapter 4
Section 4
The War for Independence
I. Introduction

A. George Washington and Continental Army forced Britain out of Boston
B. Some thought war wouldn’t last long
C. Longest war in U.S. history until Vietnam
II. The Opposing Sides

A. The British forces

1. Tough, well-trained, well-armed
2. British navy ruled the seas
3. Had more help from Natives
4. Had to hire *mercenaries* to fight
   a. 30,000 German Hessians
II. The Opposing Sides

B. The Patriot forces

1. Fighting for freedom
2. Fighting on own land
3. Size of colonies was advantage
4. Excellent leadership
5. Defensive war
1775 – Invasion of Canada
III. Fighting the War

A. A month after signing of D.O.I., war turned against Americans
   1. British captured New York
   2. Americans started to desert

B. Washington needed victory to boost morale
   1. December 23, 1776-Washington gathered his troops to listen to Thomas Paine’s *The Crisis*
      a. The words inspired the soldiers
III. Fighting the War

B. Washington needed a victory to boost morale

2. Christmas night 1776, crossed Delaware River into New Jersey

3. Attacked Hessians at Trenton, caught them by surprise

4. Only 5 American casualties

5. Captured Princeton ten days later

6. Gave Americans encouragement to continue fighting
Encountering a British brigade led by Col. Mawhood outside of Princeton, the patriot vanguard was forced back by a charge lead by the 17th Regiment of Foot. At the height of the fighting Washington with his staff galloped onto the field and rallied the retreating troops.
Battle of Trenton 1776
IV. Turning Point of the War

A. Britain came up with a new plan for victory
   1. 3 armies meet at Albany
   2. Separate New England from southern colonies
   3. Armies got bogged down, never met up
   4. British general John Burgoyne’s army marched south from Canada
      a. Americans win battle at Saratoga
      b. Forced to surrender to Americans
Saratoga
IV. Turning Point of the War

A. Britain came up with a new plan for victory

5. Battle of Saratoga a turning point
   a. Proved to French that Americans would win
   b. Ensured French help
   c. King Louis XVI signed treaty with America
V. Victory for the Americans

A. Next few months difficult for Washington

B. British held Philadelphia, spent winter of 1777-1778

C. Washington’s troops at Valley Forge
   1. Poorly clothed and fed
   2. Hundred died from starvation and disease
   3. Over 2,000 deserted
V. Victory for the Americans

At Valley Forge, the American Forces were trained by a German General named Von Steuben.

They learned a great deal about orderly movements and drilled for months.
V. Victory for the Americans

D. War in the South

1. 1778-British shifted war to the south
2. Believed they had more loyalist support there
3. Captured Savannah and Charlestown
4. Burned houses and barns, killed livestock, destroyed crops
5. British controlled cities, but Patriots strong in rural areas
   a. Hit and run attacks
   b. Supply lines
V. Victory for the Americans

D. War in the South

6. British General Cornwallis suffered series of defeats

7. Decided to rest his army at Yorktown, Virginia
   a. Confident British navy could help at any time
   b. French ships blocked British navy from helping
   c. British army trapped
V. Victory for the Americans

E. Final victory-Yorktown

1. American and French forces pounded British positions

2. Captured 2 British posts-Oct. 14, 1781
   a. Could now fire directly on British camp

3. Oct. 19, 1781-British surrender

4. Last real battle of the war
V. Victory for the Americans

F. Treaty of Paris
   1. Signed Sep. 3, 1783
   2. Britain agreed to recognize U.S. as independent nation
   3. U.S. gained all land to Mississippi River and south to Florida
VI. Contributions to Victory

A. Women in the Revolution
   1. Daughters of Liberty
   2. Took men’s place in farms and in businesses
   3. Made arms and ammunition
   4. 20,000 marched with troops
   5. Doctors, nurses, cooks, spies
VI. Contributions to Victory

B. The Role of Native Americans
   1. Most Natives tried to stay neutral
   2. Much fighting took place on or near Native lands

C. Hispanics in the Revolution
   1. Spain made financial contributions to Revolution
   2. Fought in Michigan and St. Louis
   3. Bernardo de Galvez
      a. Spanish governor of Louisiana
      b. Drove British from Mississippi Valley
      c. Galveston, TX
VI. Contributions to Victory

D. African Americans and the war

1. At first, army did not let blacks fight
2. British offered freedom to any black who ran away and fought with them
3. Washington then accepted free blacks
4. 5,000 served in army, 2,000 in navy
5. Became hard for many to accept slavery in nation founded on freedom