

# WHO SHAPED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S  
MOUNT ★ VERNON

THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

The British were in charge of 13 American **Colonies**. Some people didn't like this – they wanted the freedom to rule themselves. They formed the **Continental Army** to fight against the British.

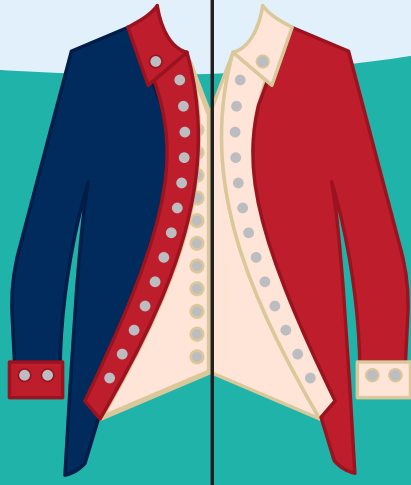


## Vocabulary

- **Colonies:** When one country travels to a different region to control of the land and it's people, make new settlements, and gain new resources.
- **Continental [Army]:** the army that was made up of and represented the North American colonists who wanted independence.
- **Militia:** a group of people who helped protect their communities against threatening armies.
- **Resign:** to quit a job or position.
- **Alliance:** an agreement between two or more groups to help each other in times of need.

Continental Army Uniform

British Army Uniform



People reacted differently to the news of war. Many **militias** and their families joined the **Continental Army** if they were able, and a few joined the British. Those who did not fight supported the war efforts at home. Others stayed neutral, refusing to choose between sides. And still, others used the war as an opportunity, seeking freedom or **alliances** to have a better life.



## Washington

led the **Continental Army** during the ENTIRE WAR!

He used to fight for the British in the French and Indian War – he chose to fight against them in the American Revolution.



## Howe

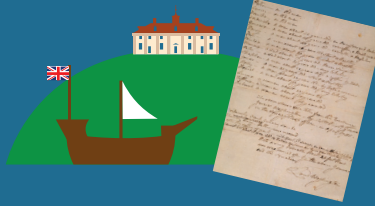
led British Army until 1778, after the Battle of Saratoga

The British began to lose their battles and blame Howe. So, he **resigned** from his position.

# PEOPLE OF THE REVOLUTION



Katherine “Kitty” Livingston asked Washington to send her a lock of hair because she looked up to him. He was touched by the question – and agreed!



Harry Washington was enslaved in Virginia at George Washington's plantation home, Mount Vernon. He and 16 other people fled to a British ship, and later on in the war, helped the British in South Carolina.



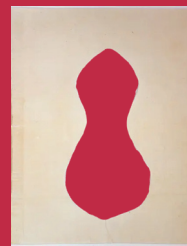
Peggy Shippen was friends with British officers. She most likely introduced them to her husband, Benedict Arnold, who was fighting with George Washington. After Benedict met them, he decided to fight for the British!

## SPIES learned and spread intelligence to help win the war

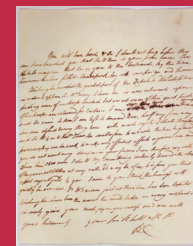


James Armistead Lafayette was an enslaved individual who spied for the Continental Army. After the war, the Marquis de Lafayette helped James become free.

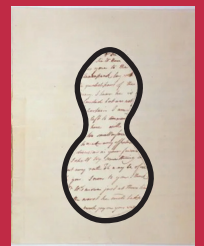
The Culper Spy Ring and other spy groups used invisible ink, code, and ciphers like these.



Step 1: Create two copies of a cipher stencil. Keep one, and send the other to the person receiving the letter.



Step 2: Write your letter, making sure that your secret message is written within the area of the cipher stencil outlines.



Step 3: The person receiving the letter uses their cipher stencil to reveal the secret message.

Image credit: University of Michigan, Clements Library

## ALLIES

George Washington met the Marquis de Lafayette during the war, and they became close friends. Lafayette got France to send ships and soldiers to help the Continental Army. Spain also helped!



### Vocabulary (Continued)

- **Enslaved:** when a person's life, actions, and decisions are forcibly controlled by someone else.
- **Intelligence:** secret information for a specific group or organization.
- **Ciphers:** a secret way of writing; a code.
- **Resign:** to quit a job or position.
- **Spying:** a person who secretly finds and reports information.
- **Plantation:** a large farm that grew crops. Many plantations forced enslaved people to care for the crops.

Native Americans such as the Oneida allied with the Continental Army. Others, like the Mohawk sided with the British. It was a hard choice - each group did what they thought was best for their communities.

Joseph Brandt, Mohawk Leader



Image Credit: The National Gallery of Canada