Battles of the American Revolution

 (from Focus on US History Series) Read the student Background Sheet called “Fighting the War” to fill in the blanks.

What does this picture say about the conditions of the American army?

*How does this picture of the winter at Valley Forge illustrate the problems of the American military?*

Advantages of the American military:

Disadvantages of the American military:

Washington crosses the Delaware:

**Americans vs British**

At first glance, the colonists’ chances of winning the war looked hopeless. They were an informal collection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and other civilians. Their weapons were mostly whatever they kept at home for hunting. Their country was mostly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it did not manufacture the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for war.

Against this band of rebels arrayed a mighty empire. England rules the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was industrial, so it could make plenty of war materials. It had a large population to draw on for its army. Its soldiers were highly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**War in the North**

1. In 1775 the bloody British retreat from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the American valor at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ showed that colonial soldiers could and would fight well.

(At the Battle of Bunker Hill –actually Breed’s Hill – militiamen stayed on top of the hill and waited until the British stormed the hill. The colonists fired upon them when they could see the “whites of their eyes. The British took the hill only on the third try when the colonists ran out of gunpowder.)

2. General Howe easily defeated Washington at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in August 1776. Washington was a fast learner, though. He won victories at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the following December and January.

3. The British developed a grand plan to control the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River, but they didn’t carry it out right (the British military leader was slow-moving and the American militia got there first). The Americans won a great victory at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the fall of 1777.

*Saratoga is considered a turning*

*point battle. This is because…*

**Swamp Fox Song – by Disney**

**What does each verse tell us about southern soldiers?**

**1) We got lead and we got powder  
We don't fight with an empty gun  
Only makes us shout the louder  
We are men of Marion. (chorus)**

**CHORUS:**

**Swamp Fox! Swamp Fox! Tail on his hat, Nobody knows where The Swamp Fox's at. Swamp Fox! Swamp Fox! Hiding in the glen, He runs away to fight again.**

**2) Got no blankets, got no beds  
got no roof above our heads  
Got no shelter when it rains  
All we got is Yankee Brains. (chorus).**

Why did America win?

**France Steps In**

4. The victory at Saratoga did change things though. France had been helping the colonies with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, since Britain was also an enemy of France. News of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ convinced France to sign a formal treaty of alliance with the colonies early in 1778. French troops and officers (including the famous Marquis de Lafayette) landed in America, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the French Navy challenged \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ control of offshore waters.

**War in the South**

5. The war moved south in 1778. British troops took over most of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1778 and 1779. They occupied Charleston and other parts of South Carolina in 1780. They thought pro-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentiment would keep them in control.

6. But the South had plenty of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ too. Colonial forces led by Francis Marion (“the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”) and Nathaniel Greene kept raiding and harassing troops, who finally withdrew to North Carolina.

**Victory and Peace**

7. In 1781 the British general Cornwallis established a base at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in Virginia. Washington’s colonial army and Rochambeau’s French troops trapped Cornwallis there.

8. The French admiral de Grasse and his fleet fought off the British \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and blockaded the rivers leading to Yorktown. Cornwallis couldn’t escape by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He surrendered and the war was over.

9. After the surrender at Yorktown, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sent a group of very able men to Paris to discuss peace terms. The group included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, John Jay, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They negotiated a fine deal: England gave up all of North America south of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and west to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River, except for Spanish Florida.

(Called the Treaty of Paris)