The Turning Point of the War
The British wanted to isolate New England from the other colonies. If the British controlled New York, this could be done. General Howe planned a three-pronged attack in October 1777. A three pronged attack is an attack in three separate places against an enemy. General John Burgoyne would march from Canada. Colonel Barry St. Leger would attack from the East. General Howe would reinforce from the South. The British intended to destroy the American army. This plan proved to be a total failure. Colonel St. Leger was met with great resistance and could not make much progress. General Howe did not send reinforcements as planned. Instead, he sent his army to attack Philadelphia. At Saratoga, the Americans met General Burgoyne & defeated his army. He surrendered to Horatio Gates, the American general.

The Impact of the Battle of Saratoga
- News of the Saratoga defeat shocked the British as they wondered what they could do to make peace with the colonials
- The king's earlier proposal to pardon and forgive the New York colonists had not been accepted
- The Americans were demanding ___________________________ and a peaceful compromise was no longer possible
- The British defeat at Saratoga caused a debate in France as Ben Franklin had asked the French for military help and money
- The French were not willing to provide aid as they thought the American army was weak & would lose to the British
- After the American victory at Saratoga, however, the French decided ___________________________

What Happened at Valley Forge
Washington tried to keep Howe's army from taking Philadelphia. However, Washington was badly defeated at Brandywine. When Howe's men moved into Philadelphia, Washington struck again. This time the Americans were stopped at Germantown.
- Washington retreated with his surviving men, setting up winter quarters at ___________________________
- It was a bitter winter as troops suffered hardships such as poor shelter, no warm clothes, little food, & irregular pay.
- Despite the situation, Washington was able to ______________________________________________________

General Howe was called to Great Britain in the spring of 1778 to explain why he had not won the war. Meanwhile, Howe's replacement, Henry Clinton, was on his way to Philadelphia. Upon arriving, he immediately evacuated the troops. France was sending a fleet of ships to aid the Americans.

What Victories Did the Americans Win?
Wanting to concentrate British strength in one area, Clinton moved his troops on to New York. Washington & his men left Valley Forge to follow the British army. In a battle at Monmouth, the Americans almost succeeded in defeating the British. Clinton's army managed to escape to New York. There, Washington and his men contained the British for most of the rest of the war. Meanwhile, the British had persuaded the American Indians to attack American settlements on the western frontier. In response, Virginia Governor Patrick Henry sent George Rogers Clark into the Ohio Valley to stop these raids. Clark was an experienced frontiersman who knew the region well. He marched his soldiers through the wilderness. Clark captured three British forts. His outstanding leadership and courage helped the Americans control the west. Before the French fleet came to America's aid, the colonists had only a few warships. They had a few small merchant vessels that had been fitted with guns. The French ships brought military supplies from Europe. They attacked British ships on their way to the colonies. By the end of the war, they had captured or destroyed over 700 British vessels. American Captain John Paul Jones became a naval hero. He successfully raided many towns along the coast of Great Britain. He also scored a naval victory in a battle with the British warship Serapis in September of 1779. Jones's ship was sinking, and the British ordered him to surrender. His reply was, "I have not yet begun to fight!" He captured the Serapis and sailed it to safety. This victory still stands as an example for the present-day U.S. Navy.

What Did Benedict Arnold Do?
Benedict Arnold had fought in the battles of Quebec and Saratoga. He had shown strong military ability and courage. General Washington appointed him to command West Point, the strongest and most important fort in America. However, Arnold felt that he was not getting enough credit. He plotted to turn West Point over to Great Britain. In return, he was promised a high British army rank. Plans for the takeover were to be delivered to Arnold by John Andre a major in the British army. On the way, Major Andre was stopped by 3 men and searched. They found the plans he had hidden in his boot heel. Major Andre was tried, convicted as a spy, and hanged. Benedict Arnold escaped to Great Britain, where he spent his remaining years in shame as an American traitor who had turned against his country.
How Were the British Defeated?

The British captured the ports of Savannah and Charleston. In 1780, an American army fell to these determined British at Camden, South Carolina. However, a force of militiamen skilled at frontier sharpshooting beat the British back at Kings Mountain, North Carolina. General Nathaniel Greene lured the British Army, led by Lord Cornwallis, inland in North Carolina. Greene's army weakened the British army. Greene then recaptured most of the inland positions previously occupied by the British. Lord Cornwallis invaded Virginia in an effort to redeem himself. However, the Americans pushed him back. Cornwallis moved his men north to Yorktown, Virginia. There he hoped the British navy would provide him with supplies and protect his position. Washington decided to move to the South for a surprise attack. Count Francois Joseph Paul de Grasse intended to move his French fleet up into the Chesapeake Bay. With Count de Grasse controlling the bay and Washington attacking from the North, Cornwallis had no way to escape. Cornwallis tried to retreat to the West. There he was cut off by a young French officer, the Marquis de Lafayette. The British fought hard, but they had too few men. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered. When Great Britain's Lord North heard of the defeat of Cornwallis he reportedly said, "It is all over." Lord North was removed from his office. The new government was prepared to make peace and give in to the Americans' demands for independence. The war had come to an end.

What was the Treaty of Paris?

1. Great Britain recognized ________________________________ with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on Sept. 3, 1783
2. Treaty established the new nation's boundaries (______ on the North, __________ River on the West, & ______ on the South)
3. Great Britain was forced to return Florida to Spain as France gained nothing