March 1764 - 1765: Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and Quartering Act were all passed by English Parliament.

July 1765: Sons of Liberty, an underground organization opposed to Stamp Act, was formed in colonial towns.


June 1774: First Continental Congress met with 56 delegates.

January 1776: Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was published in Philadelphia.

August 1776: Washington, outnumbered two to one, suffered severe defeat at the Battle of Long Island.

September 1776: After caught spying on British troops on Long Island, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial. His last words were "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

December 1776: After a series of American defeats, George Washington took 2,400 men across the Delaware River on Christmas Day and conducted a surprise raid on the British at Trenton, New Jersey.
Timeline of the American Revolution

**April 1777:** Benedict Arnold and his American troops defeated British at Ridgefield, Connecticut.

**September 1777:** British occupied Philadelphia forcing Continental Congress to relocate to York, Pennsylvania.

**July 1777:** Marquis de Lafayette, a 19 year old French aristocrat, arrived in Philadelphia to serve without pay. Congress appointed him as a major general in Continental Army. He later became one of Gen. Washington's most trusted aides.

**June 1777:** United States flag consisting of 13 stars and 13 red and white stripes mandated by Congress.

**October 1777:** Gen. Horatio Gates and Gen. Benedict Arnold led America to its first major victory of the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Saratoga.

**February 1778:** America and France signed two treaties. France then recognized the United States as a country and became a major supplier of military supplies to Washington's Army.

**November 1777:** Congress adopted Articles of Confederation as government of the new United States of America.

**September 1780:** Worst American defeat of the Revolutionary War as the British captured Charleston.

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**October 1781:** As Yorktown was about to be taken, British sent a flag of truce. Gen. Washington and Gen. Cornwallis worked out terms of surrender.

**September 1781:** Gen. Washington began siege of Yorktown with combined Allied army of 17,000 men.

**August 1781:** Comte de Grasse's French fleet arrived near Yorktown to link with Lafayette's American troops and cut Cornwallis off from any land retreat.

**August 1780:** Benedict Arnold appointed commander of West Point. Unknown to Americans, he was secretly collaborating with British Gen. Clinton since May 1779 by supplying information on Gen. Washington's tactics.

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