

Social Studies Ch. 7 Lesson 3 Study Guide  
"Winning Independence"

**Vocabulary:**

- **civilians** – people not in the military
- **traitor** – someone who acts against his or her own country

**Revolutionary Heroes**

**Nathan Hale** was a teacher who was an American spy against the British. He was captured and hanged. His final words were, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

**John Paul Jones** was an American navy commander. When his ship was losing in a battle against a British ship, Jones said, "I have not yet begun to fight." He kept fighting until they won against the British.

**Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauley**, better known as **Molly Pitcher**, carried fresh water to the American troops. When her husband was wounded in battle, she took his place loading cannons.

**Nathanael Greene** led the Continental Army in the South. He encouraged his troops not to give up. He wrote, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again."

**The War Moves**

Once the British learned that France was sending help to the Americans, they decided to move the fighting to the South. They were hoping to defeat the South before the French could help. They knew that there were a lot of Loyalists in the South to help them. The British wanted to capture the Southern ports so they could receive supplies.

The British quickly took over Savannah, Georgia. Then they took Charles Town, later known as Charleston, South Carolina. The American forces held the British back in the Battle at Cowpens, South Carolina and at Guilford Courthouse.

Benedict Arnold, a former Continental Army officer, betrayed his country and began fighting for the British. He was a traitor.

**The War Ends**

British General Charles Cornwallis set up headquarters at Yorktown, Virginia. There the Americans and the French were able to defeat the British. The Americans and French had completely surrounded the British and trapped Cornwallis and his troops. Then the French navy took control of the Chesapeake Bay. This battle of Yorktown was the last major battle of the Revolutionary War.

The Treaty of Paris was signed in September 1783, officially ending the war. The treaty named the United States as an independent country. It also set the borders of our new nation. The British had to remove all of the British soldiers from American lands.