

American Revolution Vocabulary Builder Section 1 Answers

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The American Revolution was a pivotal moment in history transforming a group of British colonies into a new nation To fully understand the complexities of this period its essential to have a firm grasp of the key vocabulary used by the revolutionaries the British Crown and those caught in between This article serves as a comprehensive vocabulary builder for Section 1 of your American Revolution studies providing definitions explanations and examples for crucial terms

Part 1 The Seeds of Rebellion

1 Mercantilism Definition An economic theory that emphasizes the accumulation of wealth through a favorable balance of trade Colonies were expected to provide raw materials and serve as markets for manufactured goods from the mother country Example The British Navigation Acts which restricted colonial trade with other countries were a manifestation of mercantilist policies

2 Salutary Neglect Definition A British policy of relaxed enforcement of colonial regulations allowing for a degree of selfgovernance in the American colonies Example The British government largely ignored the Navigation Acts during the early 18th century allowing colonists to engage in illicit trade and develop a sense of autonomy

3 Enlightenment Definition An intellectual and cultural movement emphasizing reason individual liberty and natural rights influencing revolutionary thought in America Example John Lockes ideas on natural rights including life liberty and property resonated with American colonists and became central to their revolutionary ideology

4 Republicanism Definition A political ideology emphasizing civic virtue public service and the common good 2 with government based on the consent of the governed Example The Declaration of Independence which declared the right to revolution when the government becomes destructive of the peoples rights reflected Republican principles

5 Colonial Assemblies Definition Elected representative bodies in the American colonies responsible for enacting laws and levying taxes Example The Virginia House of Burgesses established in 1619 was one of the earliest examples of a colonial assembly

6 Stamp Act Definition A British law that levied a tax on all printed materials in the American colonies sparking widespread protest and resistance Example The Stamp Act was seen as an infringement on colonial rights and led to the cry of no taxation without representation ultimately contributing to the outbreak of the Revolution

7 Boston Massacre Definition A confrontation between British soldiers and colonists in Boston resulting in the deaths of five colonists further fueling tensions and highlighting the growing animosity between colonists and the British Example The Boston Massacre often depicted in propaganda prints became a symbol of British tyranny and fueled colonial resistance

8 Committees of Correspondence Definition Networks of communication established by colonists to

exchange news and coordinate resistance efforts against British policies Example The Committees of Correspondence initially formed in response to the Stamp Act played a vital role in spreading information and mobilizing public opinion against British rule 9 Boston Tea Party Definition A pivotal event in the American Revolution where colonists disguised as Native Americans dumped British tea into Boston Harbor in protest against the Tea Act Example The Boston Tea Party a symbol of colonial defiance further escalated tensions with Britain and led to the enactment of the Intolerable Acts 10 Coercive Acts 3 Definition A set of punitive laws enacted by the British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party including the closure of Boston Harbor and the quartering of British troops in colonial homes Example The Coercive Acts also known as the Intolerable Acts were viewed as a violation of colonial rights and ignited widespread opposition to British rule Part 2 The Revolution Ignites 11 Continental Congress Definition A gathering of colonial delegates initially convened to address grievances against British policies later playing a crucial role in organizing the American Revolution Example The First Continental Congress issued a Declaration of Rights and Grievances while the Second Continental Congress declared independence and established the Continental Army 12 Declaration of Independence Definition A document written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the thirteen American colonies independent from British rule and outlining the principles of natural rights and popular sovereignty Example The Declaration of Independence adopted on July 4 1776 is considered a cornerstone document of American democracy 13 Loyalists Definition American colonists who remained loyal to the British Crown during the Revolution opposing independence and supporting British rule Example Many Loyalists often called Tories were driven by a sense of loyalty to the British government fears of social upheaval or economic ties to Britain 14 Patriots Definition American colonists who supported independence from Britain advocating for self government and fighting for the establishment of a new nation Example George Washington Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were among the leading Patriots who played crucial roles in the American Revolution 15 Continental Army Definition The military force established by the Continental Congress to fight against British forces during the American Revolution Example Led by George Washington the Continental Army fought a series of battles against 4 the British ultimately securing victory and American independence 16 Battle of Saratoga Definition A decisive victory for the Continental Army against British forces in 1777 considered a turning point in the Revolution Example The Battle of Saratoga a crucial victory persuaded France to officially recognize American independence and provide crucial military and financial support 17 Treaty of Paris 1783 Definition A treaty signed by Britain France Spain and the United States formally recognizing American independence and setting the boundaries of the newly formed nation Example The Treaty of Paris marked the end of the American Revolution establishing the United States as a sovereign nation and setting the stage for its future development Conclusion Understanding the vocabulary of the American Revolution is vital for appreciating its historical significance and the complex interplay of events ideologies and individuals that shaped this pivotal period From the seeds of rebellion rooted in mercantilism and the Enlightenment to the

defining battles and the eventual achievement of independence each term within this vocabulary contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the American Revolution This section serves as a starting point for your exploration of this fascinating historical era As you delve deeper into the American Revolution youll encounter a vast array of additional terms and concepts By building your vocabulary and actively engaging with the sources youll gain a richer understanding of the events motivations and outcomes of this pivotal chapter in American history

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