A Colonial Victory!
What factors contributed to the victory of the American rebels?
LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

- War began when the “Minutemen” in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops looking for munitions (1775).
- This is sometimes called the “Shot heard ‘round the world”
SARATOGA:

• This is considered the turning point of the war, as after this victory the French King was convinced to assist the colonists.
• The French wanted revenge from their defeat in the French and Indian War!!!

After this battle, Ben Franklin was able to convince the King of France to assist in our cause!
YORKTOWN:

- Americans benefited from the presence of the French army and navy at the Battle of Yorktown.
- This surrender ended the war with an American victory!

Depicted above is the surrender of British General Cornwallis at Yorktown. He was trapped between the French fleet and George Washington!
KEY LEADERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR:
PATRICK HENRY:

- The outspoken Patriot, he was an early advocate of independence.
- He is known for his famous speech, "GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!!!"
- He helped persuade Virginia to call for independence.
GEORGE WASHINGTON:

• General of the American army—he avoided any situation that threatened the destruction of his army, and his leadership kept the army together when defeat seemed inevitable.

• His goal was to outlast the British, and he often used hit and run tactics!
BEN FRANKLIN:

- Benjamin Franklin negotiated a *Treaty of Alliance* with France after the battle of Saratoga.
- He became a popular man in France, and helped negotiate the treaty which ended the war!
Our revolution inspired a New World based on Democracy.

- The American Revolution was inspired by ideas concerning natural rights and political authority, and its successful completion affected people and governments throughout the world for many generations.
- The American rebels won their independence because the British government grew tired of the struggle soon after the French agreed to help the Americans.
- The war did not have popular support in Great Britain.