

BATTLE OF SARATOGA Reading Comprehension

In 1777, British war generals devised a plan to bring a quick end to the war: They would effectively sever New England from the rest of the colonies by taking control of New York City, Albany, and the Hudson River. First, British General John Burgoyne would lead 8,000 troops from Canada. Barry St. Leger would direct his troops east from Lake Ontario, and General Howe would move his troops north from New York City, where all three would meet at Albany to destroy the Rebel armies.

General Howe, however, had different plans. Howe brought his army south from New York and invaded the Patriot capital of Philadelphia. Although he succeeded in capturing the city and forcing Congress to flee to York, Pennsylvania, he decided to camp his army in the capital for the winter rather than proceeding with the plan and marching to Albany. Furthermore, stubborn Patriot resistance under the infamous General Benedict Arnold kept St. Leger from making it to Albany, and Burgoyne's progress was slowed by excess baggage and entire groves of trees felled by the Patriots to make his travels even more difficult. Low on supplies, Burgoyne sent a detachment to capture an American supply base at Bennington, Vermont. The detachment was defeated by John Stark and the Green Mountain Boys, causing Burgoyne to withdraw to Saratoga, N.Y.

Burgoyne's army soon became trapped in Saratoga, blocked in the south by Patriot General Horatio Gates' army. Howe's army remained in Philadelphia, and St. Leger's army was defeated at Fort Stanwix. On October 7, 1777, Burgoyne made a desperate attempt to attack the larger Patriot force at Saratoga which now comprised the armies of both Gates and Arnold. Despite initial success at Freeman's Farm, Burgoyne's army would be routed by Arnold's at Bemis Heights. Beset by a lack of supplies and horrendous casualties, Burgoyne had no choice but to surrender.

The Patriot victory at Saratoga is often seen as the turning point in the war. Not only did it renew the morale of the American public, but it convinced potential foreign partners, such as France, that America could win the war and that it might be in their best interests to send aid. In February of 1778, with the help of Benjamin Franklin and his charisma while minister to France, the United States and France signed a treaty of alliance. As a result, France sent generals, troops, ships, supplies, and money to America to help in the war effort. France declared war on England. Spain would declare war on England in 1779.

- 1.) **How did British generals try to devise a “quick” end to the war?**
 - a.) By taking Philadelphia
 - b.) By advancing on Boston
 - c.) By cutting New England off from the rest of the colonies
 - d.) By winning the Battle of Saratoga
- 2.) **John Burgoyne would be the answer to which of the following questions?**
 - a.) What British general invaded Philadelphia?
 - b.) What British general was supposed to lead his 8,000 troops from Canada?
 - c.) What general would direct his troops from Lake Ontario?
 - d.) What general led the Patriot army at Saratoga?
- 3.) **Which of the following most closely resembles the British plan?**
 - a.) The armies of Howe, St. Leger, and Burgoyne would meet at New York City.
 - b.) The armies of Howe, St. Leger, and Burgoyne would meet at Philadelphia.
 - c.) The armies of Howe, St. Leger, and Burgoyne would meet at Albany.
 - d.) None of the Above
- 4.) **Which of the following generals failed to follow the plan?**
 - a.) Arnold
 - b.) Howe
 - c.) Burgoyne
 - d.) St. Leger
- 5.) **Howe’s decision to advance on Philadelphia...**
 - a.) resulted in the city’s capture.
 - b.) contributed to the British defeat.
 - c.) resulted in the flight of Congress.
 - d.) all of the above
- 6.) **Which of the following WAS NOT a reason that General Burgoyne’s army was ultimately defeated?**
 - a.) His army failed to ever reach Albany.
 - b.) The other two armies failed to join forces with him.
 - c.) His progress was slowed by excess baggage.
 - d.) His detachment was unable to garner supplies in Vermont.
- 7.) **Which of the following is an example of cause and effect?**
 - a.) Cause: Burgoyne’s detachment was defeated.
Effect: His army withdraws to Saratoga.
 - b.) Cause: Congress flees to York.
Effect: Burgoyne is defeated.
 - c.) Cause: Congress flees to York.
Effect: Howe invades Philadelphia.
 - d.) Cause: Burgoyne surrenders.
Effect: No reinforcements come to Burgoyne’s aid.
- 8.) **Why is Saratoga often seen as the turning point in the war?**
 - a.) Philadelphia was in the hands of the British.
 - b.) It convinced France to sign a treaty of alliance with America.
 - c.) The war would soon be over.
 - d.) It convinced Ben Franklin to go to France.
- 9.) **What is an “alliance?”**
 - a.) A party
 - b.) A gift
 - c.) A punishment
 - d.) A friendship
- 10.) **After the Battle of Saratoga, which of the following was NOT at war with England?**
 - a.) France
 - b.) Canada
 - c.) Spain
 - d.) America