

## Animated GEOGRAPHY

### War in the North 1777

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### Connect Geography & History

- 1. Movement** From which two cities did British forces begin their advance?
- 2. Make Inferences** Why was Albany strategically important?



**Powder Horn**  
Revolutionary-era soldiers used horns like this to carry gunpowder.  
**Why was horn a good material in which to store gunpowder?**

for the British. Burgoyne realized that the countryside was rising up against him. It was a lesson that other British generals would soon learn: they were not simply fighting an enemy army, they were fighting an entire people.

**Britain's Strategy Unravels** Burgoyne still looked forward to the **rendezvous**, or meeting, with St. Leger and Howe in Albany. But on August 4, Burgoyne received a message that Howe would not be coming north; instead, he had decided to try to capture Philadelphia—where the Continental Congress met. "Success be ever with you," wrote Howe. Yet Burgoyne needed Howe's soldiers, not his good wishes.

When Washington heard that Howe was heading south, he rushed to protect Philadelphia. However, in September 1777, Howe defeated Washington at Brandywine. (See map on page 198.) Howe then occupied Philadelphia. In October, Washington attacked Howe at Germantown. Again,

Washington lost the battle and retreated to winter camp.

As Burgoyne received Howe's message, St. Leger faced his own obstacle in reaching Albany. In the summer of 1777, he was trying to defeat a small American force at Fort Stanwix, near Oriskany in the Mohawk River valley of New York. St. Leger's forces included Iroquois led by Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant**, also called Thayendanegea (thi•ehn•DAH•nah•gee•ah). Brant had been promised that the British would protect Iroquois land.

During August 1777, American general **Benedict Arnold** led an army up the Mohawk River. He wanted to chase the British away from Fort Stanwix. Arnold sent a captured Loyalist and some Iroquois to spread the rumor that he had a large army. The trick worked, and the British retreated to Fort Oswego. Now no one was left to rendezvous with Burgoyne.

▲ **MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS** Explain Britain's northern strategy—and why it failed.

## Saratoga: A Turning Point

▼ **KEY QUESTION** Why has Saratoga been called a "turning point"?

Burgoyne's army was running out of supplies. A raiding party was sent into Vermont where it was defeated by New England militia at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.