

British Advance on Albany Despite these setbacks, Burgoyne’s army continued south. But an American force led by General **Horatio Gates** blocked their way on a ridge called Bemis Heights, near Saratoga, New York. There the Polish engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko (TAH•deh•oosh KAWSH•choosh•kaw) had helped the Americans create fortifications, or built-up earthen walls.

Starting on September 19, Burgoyne attacked the fortifications. While Gates commanded the Americans on the ridge, Benedict Arnold led an attack on nearby Freeman’s Farm. His men repeatedly charged the British, with Arnold galloping through the battlefield “like a madman.” Despite heavy casualties, the British held their position, but on October 7, Burgoyne was forced to retreat.

Burgoyne Surrenders Burgoyne’s army moved slowly through heavy rain to a former army camp at Saratoga. By the time they arrived, the men were exhausted. The Continental Army then surrounded Burgoyne’s army and fired on it day and night until Burgoyne surrendered. The series of conflicts that led to this surrender is known as the **Battles of Saratoga**.

The victory at Saratoga was a turning point. It prevented the British from dividing the States and isolating New England. It also showed Europeans that the Americans might win their war for independence. Because of this, some European nations hostile to Great Britain decided to help.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS Explain why Saratoga has been called “a turning point.”

Connect to the World

In London, after hearing the news of Burgoyne’s surrender, William Pitt (Lord Chatham) warns Parliament: “You cannot conquer America.”

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Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

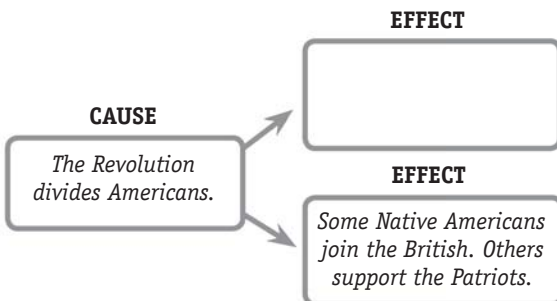
For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
 - George Washington
 - Benedict Arnold
 - John Burgoyne
 - Horatio Gates
 - Joseph Brant
 - Battles of Saratoga

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Analyze Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section. Then create a diagram for each of the other main events in this section.

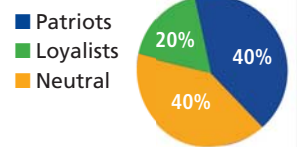


KEY IDEAS

3. Why did the British want to control the Hudson River valley?
4. Why were the Battles of Saratoga important?

CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Analyze Graphs** The graph shows how colonists were divided in 1776. Why is it surprising that the Patriots won?



Source: *Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*

6. **Connect to Today** Use of mercenaries was banned by a United Nations agreement in 1989. Why do you think this was?
7. **Writing Letter** Write a one-page letter from Burgoyne to General Howe. Respond to Howe’s letter in which he says he will head to Pennsylvania. Describe how this news affects your strategy.