Standard 8.25 Lesson
American Rev. (King’s Mt. to Yorktown)

Say Thanks to the Authors
Click http://www.ck12.org/saythanks
(No sign in required)
Chapter 1

Standard 8.25 Lesson
American Rev. (King’s Mt. to Yorktown)

8.25 Identify and explain the significance of the major battles, leaders, and events of the American Revolution, including: (C, E, H, P, TN)

• Battle of King’s Mountain
• Battle of Yorktown

Battle of King’s Mountain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l447PGjEeDo
The Battle of King’s Mountain was fought on the border of North and South Carolina as part of the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. General Cornwallis’ plan was to reclaim control of the South by invading North Carolina. He believed there were a lot of loyalists living in the South who would support the British invasion. The Patriots win over the Loyalists helped raise the Loyalists’ morale, and Cornwallis retreated to South Carolina.

**Battle of King’s Mountain from the History Channel**

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/battle-of-kings-mountain
Yorktown and the Treaty of Paris


The outlook for General Washington and the Americans never looked better. Although the American military was still enduring losses in 1780, the French were making a difference. The French navy was disrupting the British blockade. French commanders such as Lafayette and Rochambeau earned the respect and admiration of the American troops.

Although, the British occupied much of the south, they had still been unable to mobilize the local Loyalists. Grumbling in England grew louder over the war’s expense and duration. The morale of Washington’s men was improving. The war was by no means over, but the general could now see a bright side.

Battle of Yorktown #1
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEGSci03euo

The Siege of Yorktown

(Pictured Above: The French navy and the Continental Army conceived a daring plan to entrap Cornwallis in Yorktown. The plan worked: Cornwallis surrendered Yorktown, and three weeks later the war was over.)

The year 1781 found a large squadron of British troops led by Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Cornwallis hoped to keep his men in the Chesapeake town until fresh supplies and reinforcements could arrive from Britain. The French and the Americans conspired to capture the British before that could happen.
A French naval unit led by Admiral de Grasse headed north from the West Indies. Washington’s army was stationed near New York City at the time. Along with a French unit from Rhode Island, Washington’s troops marched over 300 miles south toward Yorktown. Along the way, he staged fake military maneuvers to keep the British off guard.

When Washington reached Virginia, Americans led by Lafayette joined in the siege. The French navy kept the British out of Chesapeake Bay until Cornwallis was forced to surrender his entire unit of nearly 8,000 troops on October 19, 1781. The capture of the troops severely hampered the British war effort.

**FIGURE 1.4**

The British Surrender at Yorktown

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLOLaEeZMpk

**Peace and the Treaty of Paris**

(Pictured Above: John Trumbull painted Surrender of Cornwallis in 1786-87. Although Trumbull did sketch the actual scene of surrender, his painting was not meant to be a literal recording of the event. Instead, he placed Cornwallis between the French and American forces to show their united effort against England.)

Treaty of Paris Lesson by Tom Richey
Despite the American victory, the British military continued to fight. But the Battle of Yorktown turned the British public against the war. The following March, a pro-American Parliament was elected and peace negotiations began in earnest.

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay met with the British in the hopes of securing a peace treaty. The Americans played off European rivalries to reach a most favorable agreement.

Results of the Treaty of Paris

In the 1783 Treaty of Paris the British agreed to recognize American independence as far west as the Mississippi River. Americans agreed to honor debts owed to British merchants from before the war and to stop persecuting British Loyalists. David had triumphed over Goliath. Independence was achieved at last!