Chapter 7 Strengths and Weaknesses

The Continental Army was put together hastily. The British had one of the world’s strongest experienced army. How did the American Continental Army win the Revolutionary War?

**American Strengths**

The American men fighting in the Continental Army had a lot of **Patriotism** (pride in their country). Many men were willing to die to defend the ideas of liberty and democracy. They no longer wanted a king to rule them. The Continental Army most powerful strength was the leadership of General George Washington. He was an experienced **commander**. Before and during the war, Washington had to quickly train his new undisciplined men army. He inspired courage and confidence to his soldiers. At the beginning, the French supplied the Continental Army with 90% of the gunpowder. Later, the French sent soldiers and their navy fleets to help the American cause. At first, Washington did not allow Africans to fight. When he needed more men, he allowed them enlist to help. The slaves were hoping to get freedom after the war ended. Many Loyalists became patriots during the war because the British soldiers treated them unfairly.

**British Strengths**

The British had a professional army. They had more than 42,000 troops at all times. They were well trained in European military **strategies**. They **excelled** in battle fighting against large troops on open ground. The British soldiers had more experience in firing **artillery**. The British were also **well supplied** with food, uniforms, weapons and ammunition. The British army also had a large navy with many fleets. They had many allies that helped them at the beginning. They recruited German Hessians as **mercenaries** (professional paid soldiers). They also had Loyalists in the colonies that supported them. Many African Americans helped the British because Great Britain promised them freedom. Some Native American tribes helped the British too, hoping for land claims.

**American Weaknesses**

The Continental Army had many weaknesses during the American Revolutionary War. First, there was always a shortage of men. George Washington had 20,000 troops or less at times. The men **enlisted** (joined) for only six months to a year. Afterwards, they would go back to work on their farm and be with their families. Next, only a few men were trained for battle. Some were hunters and knew how to shoot from behind a tree. But they were **inexperienced** in fighting large groups of British soldiers-face to face. Many patriot men would turn and run.

The Second Continental Congress lacked power to raise money for supplies by taxing colonists so the Continental Army had issues with **scarcity** (shortages). The army did not have enough guns and gunpowder. Food supplies were always short consequently many soldiers had to beg for handouts from people. They did not have extra uniforms for the soldiers so many soldiers were shoeless in the winter. Lack of taxes/money also caused an issue with providing ships to the small navy for the Continental Army.

**British Weaknesses**

The main problem for the British was the poor Leadership of **Lord George Germaine**. He had no real experience on how to defeat the rebels since he never set foot in North America. His plan to win the war was to conquer a few key cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Another problem was the British army had a long the distance from Great Britain to America. It took a long time to send the British troops and supplies across the Atlantic. The journey was long and slow. This also made it difficult for British leaders to come up with plan actions because by the time the soldiers made it to America, things changed.

Finally, the British people did not care for the war. The King and Parliament couldn’t convince the British people that defeating the rebels would be important to Great Britain’s future. The people were unhappy paying taxes for a war that dragged on- for four years.
## Ch. 7 Strengths and Weaknesses

**Directions**: Read about the Continental army versus the British Army strengths and weaknesses. List the facts as you read the article. Highlight the proof in the article.

### American Strengths

- **Patriotism**
  - Many men gave their lives to defend the ideas of liberty and __________

- **Great Leadership of General George Washington**
  - Experienced commander
  - ___________ courage and confidence

### American Weaknesses

- **Shortage of Men**
  - ___________ troops at a time
  - Only enlist for ___ to a year
  - Would leave army to go back to work on farm and be with their families

- **Untrained Army**
  - 4 ______ men were trained for battle
  - Some were __________
  - Knew how to shoot from behind a tree
  - Inexperienced fighting mass (large) well-disciplined redcoats face to face
  - They would turn and __________

- **Shortage-Scarcity**
  - Guns and __________
  - Food: many had to ________ for handouts
  - Uniforms: many were ____________ in the winter, their blood in the snow tracks
  - Money: the Second Continental Congress __________ to raise money for supplies by taxing colonists

- **Navy-** __________ less fleets (ships)

### British Strengths

- **Professional Army**
  - ___________ troops
  - Well trained in European ____________
  - ___________ in large battle fighting by mass troops on open ground
  - More experience in firing __________

- **Well Supplied**
  - Food, uniforms, weapons and ammunition

- **Navy-** __________ (many fleets)

### British Weaknesses

- **Distance from Great Britain to America**
  - Sending troops and supplies across the Atlantic was ___________ and ___________
  - Difficult for British leaders to plan actions

- **British People**
  - King/Parliament couldn’t ____________
  - British people that defeating the rebels was important to Great Britain’s future
  - Not happy paying ____________ (taxes) as the war dragged on for years

- **Poor Leadership of Lord George Germaine**
  - Had _____ real ________ how to defeat the rebels
  - ________ set foot in North ________
  - His plan was to conquer key ________
  - Did not focus on defeating them state by state
American Allies:

- French
  - Supplied 90% of the __________________
  - Later, their soldiers help in ground attacks and their naval fleets in battle at sea
- African Americans- hoping for freedom
- Loyalists that later change their minds and become Patriots during the war

British Allies:

- Recruited Others
  - __________, Hessians- mercenaries
  - Loyalists
  - African Americans- hoping for freedom
  - Native Americans- hoping for more lands

Uniforms:

Color in the Blue Coats

Uniforms:

Color in the Red Coats