INTRODUCTION

The Declaration of Independence is read to jubilant crowds in New York on July 9, 1776. America’s thirteen colonies have taken on the might of the world’s leading superpower, determined to shake free from the yoke of British colonial power. Offshore, 500 ships bristling with soldiers and guns are readying for what will be the largest British invasion until D-Day. Within months General George Washington’s army has been decimated and defeat seems inevitable.

Yet in 1783, against all the odds, America prevails. It is a conflict that tests the resolve of the soldiers to the breaking point. It takes us from the battlefields of Brooklyn, the disease-ridden encampment of Valley Forge and the forests of Saratoga to the victory of Yorktown.

American forces learn the hard way to master the landscape, new weapons, and unconventional battle tactics. And with this elite force, Washington saps the strength of the British Army and he and his forces triumph over the British. The British are forced to relinquish power and the United States is born.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Daniel Morgan, and what role did he play in the American Revolution?

2. Why was it important for the Americans to win the support of France during the Revolution?

3. What change in the construction of rifles helped the Americans during the Revolutionary War?

4. What were some of the innovative ways Americans fought disease during the Revolution? What were the risks and potential rewards of these methods?

5. What are three major reasons the Americans won the Revolutionary War? Give some specific examples from this program or from your own reading.
1. This document was the first recruitment poster for U.S. naval sailors, used to draw new sailors into the Revolutionary cause. Based on the language in this poster, what were some of the important characteristics of sailors?

2. What were some of the incentives sailors were offered for joining the navy?