Revolutionary War Timeline:

1775

April- Lexington and Concord

May- Ticonderoga

June-Bunker Hill/Breed’s Hill

July-Olive Branch Petition

August-King George III orders colonies in rebellion

September- KGIII hires the Hessians

October- Burning of Falmouth (Portland), Maine…invasion of Canada☹

1776

January- Norfolk, Virginia burnt/British leave Boston/Thomas Paine and Common Sense

March- British leave Boston for New York

June 1776- Richard Henry Lee’s call for Independence/CC calls for a committee to create a formal statement of separation

July 2- CC formally agrees to Independence and then signs the DoI onJuly 4th.

Summer- Model Treaty- delegation sent to France to seek economic aid- No Military Alliance

July- 500 British ships and 35,000 troops arrive in New York, compared to Washington’s 18,000

Summer and Fall- Battle of Long Island- GW nearly defeated. Brit Gen. William Howe did not go for the jugular possible because of his failure at Bunker Hill and “other” reasons

December 26- Trenton: defeat the Hessians, a week later- Princeton- defeat small British army…good moral victories

1777

Burgoyne’s Invasion-3 pronged attack to spilt New England from rest of colonies

1. Burgoyne push down from Canada via Lake Champlain
2. Gen. Howe troops could come from New York if needed
3. Colonel Leger from the west by Lake Ontario into Mohawk Valley
4. Attack fails because- Howe leaves to take Philadelphia- defeats GW at Germantown and Brandywine, Leger meets resistance, and Patriot General Benedict Arnold slowed Burgoyne’s push on Lake Champlain in the fall of 1776, which allows American forces to regroup in the winter and put more pressure on Burgy in 1777 so he is forced to surrender at **Saratoga**

Oct- Saratoga- Burgoyne surrenders entire army to Horatio Gates and is Turning Point as French help comes.

1778

February- Franklin and American delegates sign the Model Treaty but have changed it into a military one, thus war is a world war, despite the fact that Parliament passed a “home rule” not independence law for the “colonies”

June- British leave Phily for New York after French involvement

Winter- George Rogers Clark takes Western British forts (Vincennes)

1780

-Benedict Arnold becomes a traitor

-British focus on the south- conquer Georgia and take Charleston (big blow for Americans/worse than Saratoga from British standpoint)

1780-1781

-King’s Mountain and Cowpens turns the tide for the Americans

-Nathaniel Green exhausts Gen Cornwallis in a series of stand and retreat battles, forcing the British to pursue and leave areas for Americans to take back

-Yorktown- Gen Cornwallis is surrounded by Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau, and French navy led by Admiral de Grasse, 16,000 Brits surrender

-Fighting continues for a year, Washington goes back to NY, engagements continue, British still have a large military presence.

1783

-Treaty of Paris- Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, got strict orders to let French lead negotiations, but Jay balks after learning of increase Spanish presence in Trans-Appalachia. Whig led Parliament wants quick peace so promises pick expansion into Trans-App area and Jay jumps at it. French agree to treaty because it lets them off the hook with Spanish promises America govt must protect Loyalists and allow British to acquire debt owed to them from colonists (however these rules are not obeyed, British do not leave western forts though). America gets the most out of the treaty.