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## The Battle of Saratoga

In London, British officials were dismayed by the army's failure to crush the American forces. Early in 1777, British war generals devised a plan to bring a quick end to the war: They would effectively sever New England from the rest of the colonies by taking control of New York City, Albany, and the Hudson River.

General John Burgoyne had a three-pronged attack plan. Three British armies would march on Albany, New York from three different directions. They would crush American forces there. Once they controlled the Hudson River, the British could stop the flow of soldiers and supplies from New England to Washington's army in New York.

First, British General John Burgoyne would lead 8,000 troops from Canada. Barry St. Leger would direct his troops east from Lake Ontario, and General Howe would move his troops north from New York City, where all three would meet at Albany to destroy the American armies.

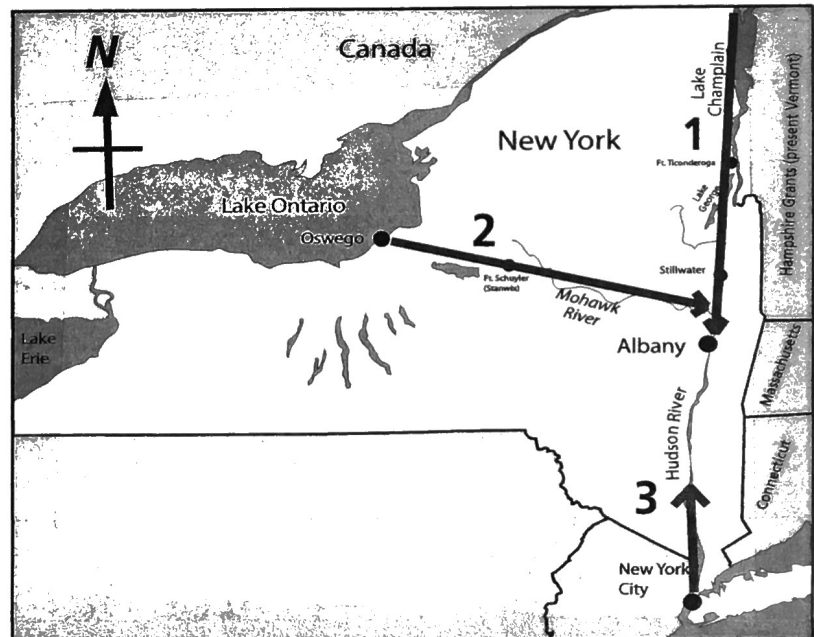
General Howe, however, had different plans. Howe brought his army south from New York and invaded the Patriot capital of Philadelphia. Although he succeeded in capturing the city and forcing Congress to flee to York, Pennsylvania, he decided to camp his army in the capital for the winter, rather than proceeding with the plan and marching to Albany.

Furthermore, American forces under the infamous General Benedict Arnold kept St. Leger from making it to Albany.

### The Northern Campaign - 1777



Map 1: The red dotted line represents the British idea of isolating the New England Colonies. (larger view, pg. 20)



Map 2: British plan to invade New York in 1777

Only Burgoyne was left to march on Albany. His army moved very slowly because it had many heavy baggage carts to move through the woods. To slow Burgoyne further, Patriots cut down trees and dammed up streams to block the route.

Despite these obstacles, Burgoyne recaptured Fort Ticonderoga. He then sent troops into Bennington, Vermont to find food and horses. There Patriots attacked the redcoats at the Battle of Bennington. They wounded or captured nearly 1,000 British soldiers.

Burgoyne's troubles grew. The Green Mountain Boys hurried into New York to help American forces there. At the village of Saratoga, the Americans surrounded Burgoyne and the British troops. When Burgoyne tried to break free, the Americans beat him back. Realizing that he was trapped, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army to the Americans on October 17, 1777.



The Patriot victory at Saratoga was a major turning point in the war. It ended the British threat to New England. The crucial American victory made the Americans more confident and built up their morale. Most importantly, it also convinced France, a long-time enemy of England, to become an ally with the Americans and join the war on the side of the United States. Allies are nations that work together to achieve a common goal. Not long after, Spain and the Netherlands did the same thing.

While the war was far from over, America's victory at Saratoga had world-changing effects: this victory led to international recognition of the United States and won foreign support that help the Americans gain their independence from England.

1. What was the goal of General Burgoyne's 3-pronged attack plan? to isolate New England from the rest of the colonies
2. Why did British General Howe not make it to Albany, New York? He successfully attacked Philadelphia instead
3. Why Did General Barry St. Leger not make it to Albany, New York? He was attacked by the Continental army, led by Benedict Arnold
4. How did the Americans slow down General Burgoyne? the Patriots cut down trees and dammed up streams to block Burgoyne's route
5. Why did Burgoyne send troops to Bennington, Vermont? He sent troops to Bennington to get food and find horses
6. What happened at the Battle of Bennington? The Patriots attacked the British and wounded or captured 1000 British soldiers
7. Why did General Burgoyne surrender in Saratoga? He was surrounded
8. What is the Battle of Saratoga considered a major turning point of the American Revolution? - It ended the British threat to New England  
- Americans became more confident  
- Foreign countries became allies of the Americans
9. What is an ally? Nations that work together to achieve a common goal
10. What countries decided to help the United States after the Battle of Saratoga? France, Spain, Netherlands