

* MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *

Join *the* ARMY

Face the choices and challenges of the Revolutionary War
in this choose-your-own-adventure activity.

You will need to print the following cards double-sided.
The front offers you a choice, and the back reveals the
results. You will also need one pair of dice.

Good luck!

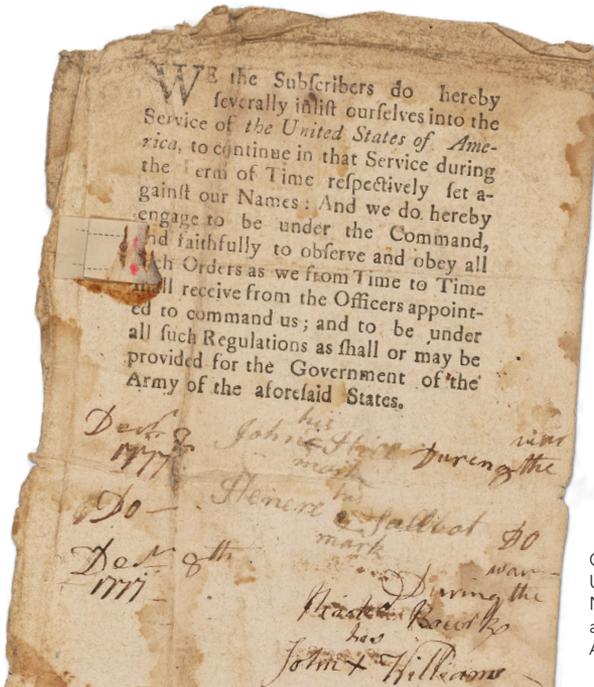


Enlistment

It is 1775 and everyone is excited for the War. The British are in Boston. General Washington and Congress have asked recruits to sign up for service. You can volunteer now or wait to see how long this war will last.



***Do you sign up now
or wait it out?***



Courtesy of the United States National Archives and Records Administration.

❖ Enlistment ❖

SIGN UP

Congratulations! You are now enlisted with the Continental Army. You believe in the ideas of liberty and the colonies' independence from Great Britain. But maybe you also followed your friends and are excited about a new adventure.

WAIT

The idea of liberty is appealing to you, but you still are not sure if you're ready to fight and break away from England. By 1777, you have seen enough to know your choice is clear. You join up, and even though you have missed a few of the most critical early victories, like Princeton & Trenton, you will see battles of your own one day soon!

❖ Food ❖

Congress has ordered a Continental thanksgiving for the troops. Your company has worked hard. But you have had nothing to eat for the past three days. As your thanksgiving meal, you receive a small cup of rice and a tablespoon of vinegar. Do feel that this is the best food Congress could provide?



What will you do to get the food that you need to survive? Steal? Trade? Wait it out?



❖ Food ❖

Not having enough food was common during the Revolutionary War. Soldiers sometimes stole, traded, or saved as much as they could until their next rations arrived. Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin received only rice and vinegar for his thanksgiving dinner, and later, he wrote,

“I lay here two nights and one day, and had not a morsel of anything to eat all the time, save half of a small pumpkin, which I cooked by placing it upon a rock, the skin side uppermost, and making a fire upon it; by the time it was heated through I devoured it with as keen an appetite as I should a pie made of it at some other time.”

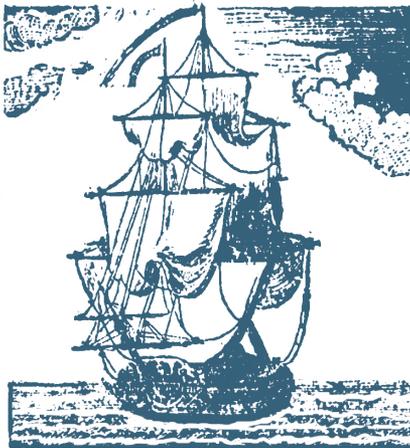


❖ Soldier *or* Privateer ❖

Your first enlistment term has expired. You have a new opportunity: a ship is being equipped in your neighborhood for a privateering voyage. The risks are great: you might be captured by the British and thrown in prison! But the rewards might also be great: as a privateer, you would search for enemy merchant ships to plunder!



Do you reenlist as a soldier or continue your war efforts at sea?



❖ Soldier *or* Privateer ❖

SEA

Your time at sea proves to be successful. You capture two British ships and get to take your money home! After spending a few weeks at home (and spending most of your money), you decide that your fight for liberty is not over. You reenlist again as part of another regiment on land.

LAND

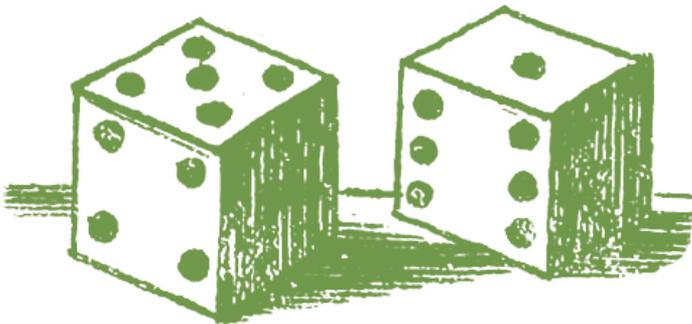
You don't go to sea. But there is not much work at home, and you decide to reenlist with friends for a three-year term in the Continental Army. ***Give yourselves a Huzzah!***

❖ Smallpox ❖

Many of the soldiers in the Army have a contagious and deadly disease called smallpox. The disease is spreading fast around camp. Hundreds of soldiers are too sick to work.



Roll the dice to see if you catch smallpox or not.



❖ Smallpox ❖

YOU ROLL 1 - 3

Huzzah, you are one of the lucky ones that does not contract the disease! To keep you healthy, Washington orders you and the rest of the troops to be vaccinated against smallpox. This will help to prevent its spread. But it is painful and you get a little sick.

YOU ROLL 4 - 6

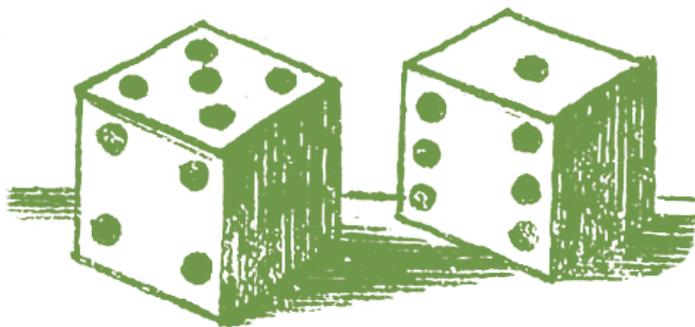
You are cold, so you borrow a blanket from another soldier who has smallpox. You begin to feel achy and sick, and break out in itchy rashes that last for a month. Washington orders a separate hospital for sick soldiers like you. You are one of the lucky ones. You recover to fight another day, but you will always have scars on your face from the disease.

❖ Winter ❖ Encampment

After the defeat at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown, the British have now occupied the city of Philadelphia. Washington wants to keep a close eye on the British Army in the city and marches the Continental Army to the winter encampment at Valley Forge. Facing a long winter, you consider “deserting,” or quitting the Army.



***Roll the dice to see if you
stay or go.***



❖ Winter Encampment ❖

YOU ROLL 1 - 3

You and a few friends desert, but you only make it a few miles before a patrol catches you. Luckily for you, you only have to spend a few days in jail before you are sent back to your regiment.

YOU ROLL 4 - 6

You decide to stick it out. And more help is on its way! In the spring, the Baron von Steuben arrives and teaches the Army new drills. He creates a single manual that the entire Army can use.

❖ Camp Followers ❖

Soldiers are very busy, and they don't have time to do all their chores. But someone has to wash all the dirty laundry. And remember how little food there was? What if someone went shopping and brought back food to sell to the soldiers? “Camp followers” were people who followed the army to help with these jobs. They often were related to soldiers.



If your family decided to follow the army, what kind of work do you think they would do?



Details, Panoramic view of West Point, New York, Pierre L'Enfant, 1782, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

◆◆ Camp Followers ◆◆

Can you find things in the Revolution Place encampment around you that a camp follower would have used? You might think that the kettle hanging over the fire belongs to one of them, but actually soldiers did most of their own cooking! What other chores are happening here?

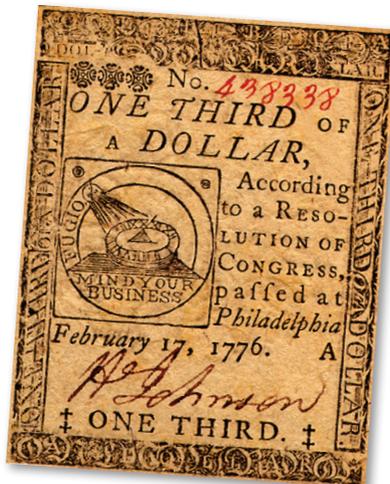


❖ Mutiny ❖

In the winter of 1779, your regiment encamps at Morristown. The weather is harsh and you and the rest of the men are cold, hungry, and angry. You haven't been paid in a long time. One day you overhear a few of the men talking about what they should do: they have decided to make their grievances known in a protest called a mutiny. But mutineers can be punished or even executed.



Do you join in or sit it out?



❖ Mutiny ❖

JOIN

Mutinies were all different. In 1779, soldiers from Connecticut marched to Hartford, their state capital, to air their grievances directly to their government. You decided to take your concerns to your officers. Joseph Plumb Martin, another soldier, did the same. Martin received a “furlough,” a fifteen-day vacation. Would that have satisfied you?

SIT IT OUT

You don't want to risk punishment, so you remain obedient. Conditions take a while to improve, but you have demonstrated your loyalty to the cause.

❖ End of the War ❖

It is 1781, many years since you first joined the Army! In October, the Continental Army and its new French allies begin their attack on the British in Yorktown, Virginia. The British surrender! But no one knows if the War is over. General Washington asks you and the other soldiers to travel to New York, just in case there are more battles to come. But is it worth the risk?



***Do you go home or march
with Washington's Army?***



Sketch by Jean Baptiste Antoine de Verger,
The Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library.

❖ End of the War ❖

GO HOME

You return to start a new life in this new country. There are many challenges ahead, but you are optimistic!

MARCH

While you are with the Army in New York, Washington awards soldiers like you, who have served at least three years, with a special stripe to wear on their coat sleeves. You leave the Army with pride in your service, although you never received all the money you were promised.

But the Revolution is not over!

Americans will continue to struggle for equal rights in the years to come. You can learn about Revolutionaries throughout the Museum. Will you be the future of the American Revolution?"