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American Flags

Scott Stephenson: Declaring independence was one thing. Achieving independence, especially in the face of a massive British military invasion, was another. Now we've been through a series of Galleries that asked you to reflect on the question: "How did people become revolutionaries?" And we're about to step into another series of Galleries that will ask: How did the Revolution survive its darkest hour? But before we step in to the Battle for New York and the Revolution's Darkest Hour, stop for a minute to view the two flags on display in this corner. They are among the fewer than 30 original Revolutionary War flags that have survived to the present day. Explore the designs of these flags and see if you can find the transition that took place between a resistance movement dedicated to restoring British rights and a Revolution to establish an independent republic.