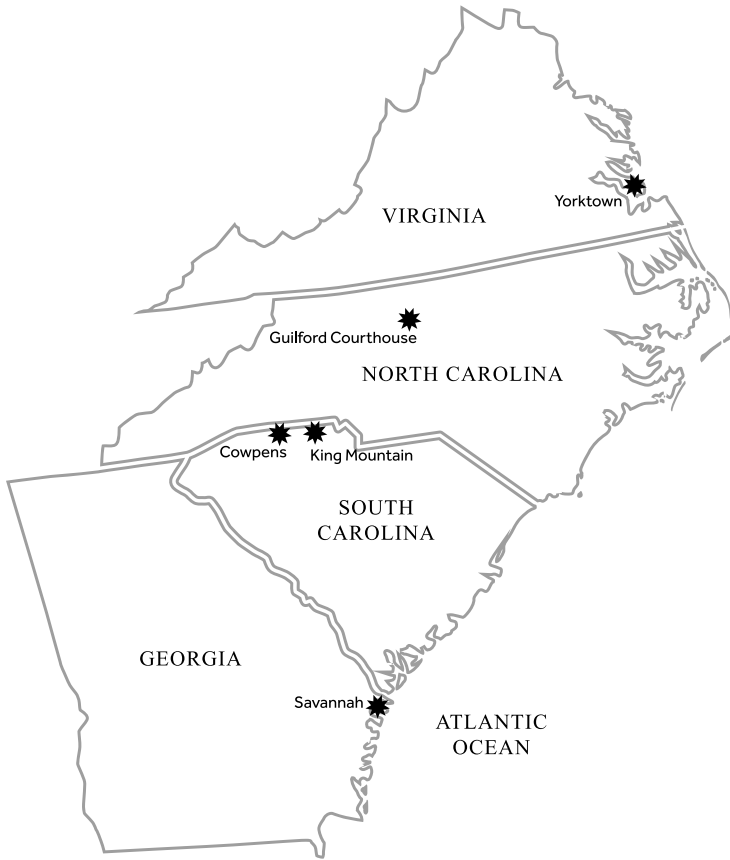


THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA AND THE BRITISH SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN PART 2

- ◆ **Learning Outcome:** Students can explain the ways that General Nathaniel Greene's Patriot army prevented the British Southern Campaign from succeeding and how these actions caused the American Patriots to win the American Revolutionary War.



Three years after the start of the American Revolutionary War, neither side seemed to be winning. So, a group of British generals came up with a plan to try to break this stalemate. This plan became known as the Southern Strategy or the Southern Campaign.

The British knew that many Loyalists lived in the southern states of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. (During the American Revolution, Loyalists were Americans who did not want the United States to declare independence and who helped the British army during the war.) British leaders hoped that they could train groups of southern Loyalists to fight alongside the British army.

For a while, the British plan appeared to be working. By May 1780, the British had captured the coastal cities of Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. These were **port** cities, where the British could land large ships full of soldiers and supplies. From Charleston, the British began taking over the rest of South Carolina.

At first, the Patriot army in the South was weak compared to the might of the British army. Many of the Patriot soldiers from southern states were farmers who had little experience

fighting battles against a large, well-trained army. Also, the first Patriot commander in the South, General Horatio Gates, made some bad mistakes, which caused the Patriots to lose several important early battles. In October 1780, General George Washington replaced Gates with a general from Rhode Island, who was named **Nathanael Greene**. He was a very clever general who understood how to take advantage of the **terrain** (hills, valleys, swamps, etc.) to make it



Nathanael Greene

VOCABULARY WORDS

- ◆ Terrain
- ◆ Surrendered

PEOPLE

- ◆ Nathanael Greene

FAMOUS BATTLES

- ◆ Battle of Kings Mountain
- ◆ Battle of Cowpens
- ◆ Battle of Guilford County Courthouse
- ◆ Battle of Yorktown

READING REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Why did General Greene split the Patriot army into smaller groups, and how did this choice help the Patriots defeat General Cornwallis's army?

Explain how General Greene's use of surprise attacks helped the Patriots to weaken the British army in North Carolina.

Why did General Cornwallis lead his army to the city of Yorktown, Virginia, and what happened when he arrived?
