

Name _____



Help from Europe

By Cathy Pearl

The colonists were at war. It was very hard. They did not have enough supplies. Their generals had never fought a war before. They needed help from other countries to beat Britain.

The colonists hoped to get help from France. Congress sent Benjamin Franklin to Paris in 1776. They wanted him to talk to the king. The colonists wanted guns from France. They wanted France to go to war with Britain. France had a strong navy. It could help the colonists win.



France wanted to help. They were nervous, too. They didn't want to get into the war if the colonists couldn't win. France had lost to Britain in the French and Indian War. France was still angry because they had lost. France did not want to lose again.

France sent help after the colonists won the Battle of Saratoga. The colonists showed the world that they could beat Britain. France was the first country to sign a treaty with the United States. It was 1778. France said they would send help to the colonists. Soon, other countries said they would help. The Netherlands and Spain also joined the war. They made loans to the United States.

People also came to help the colonists. Marquis de Lafayette brought trained soldiers. He was from France. He would fight at the Battle of Brandywine. He became a very close friend of George Washington.

Friedrich von Stueben came from Prussia. Prussia was a German state. He helped teach Washington's troops how to march. He showed them how to fight like an army. He had served in the army in Prussia. He was one of the best leaders in Europe.

He spent the winter with the soldiers at Valley Forge. He volunteered his time. He didn't speak any English. He could speak French. Some

colonial officers could speak French. They would translate for him.

He is called a founder of the current army. He would spend days drilling the soldiers. When he got angry, he would swear at them in German and French. When he ran out of swear words, he had a helper swear at them in English.

Stueben started by training 100 men. He called them his model army. The 100 men then left and trained more men. These new men then trained more men. By doing it this way, the whole army was trained in one short winter.

Stueben has a statue near the White House. Only four foreign men who helped during the war have a statue. Many ships and towns have been named for him.

Thanks to the foreign help, the United States would win the Revolutionary War. Their win would give hope to many nations in their fights for freedom.

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Questions

- _____ 1. Prussia was part of what country?
 - A. France
 - B. Spain
 - C. Germany

- _____ 2. Who was the first country to sign a treaty with the United States?
 - A. France
 - B. Spain
 - C. Germany

