

The End of the Revolutionary War

1. As the fighting dragged on, the decision was made to move the capital of Virginia from Williamsburg to Richmond. In 1780, Richmond became the capital of the colony of Virginia. The population of Virginia had been moving westward for many years and the Piedmont region was becoming home to more and more settlers. As the population moved west, so did the capital. The city of **Richmond** was chosen as the site of the new capital. Richmond was a more central location than Williamsburg and its inland location and distance from the Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay gave it added protection from possible attacks by the English navy.

2. On October 19, 1781, after 6 long years of fighting, the English general Cornwallis surrendered to the Continental Army at Yorktown, Virginia. While it did not end the war, it was the last major battle and the most important American victory of the Revolutionary War. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783.