



Image: **The Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga, October 16, 1777**, John Trumbull, c. 1822-1832, oil on canvas, courtesy of Yale University Art Gallery, Trumbull Collection, 1832.7



Object: **Trophy Cannon (British light three-pounder cannon)**, cast by Jan and Pieter Verbruggen, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, England, 1776, cast bronze on reproduction wood and iron cannon carriage, courtesy of Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA-3725

Battle of Saratoga



The Capital Region in 50 Objects

Battle of Saratoga

When British General John Burgoyne began his northern campaign from Canada through New York in 1777, he brought along the best available artillery including this three-pounder cannon, cast in bronze in England in 1776. Weighing over 200 pounds, the cannon fired an iron ball weighing about three pounds, thus, the name three-pounder cannon.

Facing General Horatio Gates and the American Continental Army at Bemis Heights, north of the modern-day Village of Stillwater in Saratoga County, the British army fought two battles: one on September 19 and the other on October 7. After the American victory on October 7, the British retreated north to Saratoga (today Schuylerville), where after a siege and negotiating terms of surrender, the mightiest army in the world surrendered to the newest on October 17, 1777.

The victory at Saratoga brought much-needed aid to the American cause, and the Battles of Saratoga are considered a turning point in the American War for Independence. This cannon was one of forty-seven artillery pieces surrendered to the American Army at Saratoga. It was engraved with the honors of war several years later at West Point: "Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga / Octr. 17. 1777". Today, the Saratoga trophy cannons are icons of the American victory during the Revolutionary War.

Vocabulary

Artillery - large guns that are used to shoot over a great distance

Campaign - a connected series of military operations forming a distinct phase of a war

Cast - to give a shape to (a substance) by pouring in liquid or plastic, forming into a mold, and letting harden without pressure

Negotiate - to discuss something formally in order to make an agreement

Retreat - movement by soldiers away from an enemy because the enemy is winning or has won a battle

Siege - a military blockade of a city or fortified place to compel it to surrender

Surrender - to agree to stop fighting, hiding, resisting, etc., because you know that you will not win or succeed

Battle of Saratoga

Name _____ Date _____

Directions

Use the depiction of the object, image, and corresponding text to answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of the object? _____

2. What is significant about the object's name? _____

3. During what historic event was the object used? _____

4. How was it acquired by the American Army? _____

5. What event does the painting depict? _____

6. Identify two people represented in the painting:

a. _____ b. _____

7. Why are the two Battles of Saratoga considered a turning point in the American Revolution?

8. Based on what you see in the painting, what is the story the artist is trying to tell?

