Following a series of “intolerable acts” imposed on the colonists by the British and several skirmishes as the British tried to regain control its subjects, the colonists declared their independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. Although America was born, the British weren’t ready to give up. In August of the same year, Americans were defeated in New York by the British at the battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights and White Plains.

British troops under the command of General William Howe fought with George Washington’s troops at the Battle of Princeton; this battle resulted in the Americans capturing Princeton and chasing General Howe back to New York. Washington and his troops wintered at in Morristown, New Jersey. The stage was now set for the unfolding of the Philadelphia Campaign to begin in the summer of 1777.

This exhibit features a map of the Philadelphia Campaign which shows all the locations for the various battle grounds and troop encampments: Head of Elk, Brandywine, Battle of the Clouds, Paoli Massacre, Germantown, Fort Mifflin, White Marsh, Philadelphia and Valley Forge. In addition, biographical information is provided on the major generals – both the British and American. Brief statistics are provided for each of the battle sights or encampments. A timeline is provided for the entire Philadelphia period: June 1777 to February 1778.

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