## 6.1 The Early Years (162-171)

**READING CHECKS:** Answer each question as you read the text.

- What disadvantages did the Patriots face?
- Why was the total number of soldiers in the Continental Army decreasing?
- What was the outcome of the battle at Trenton?
- Why was the Battle of Saratoga an important victory for the Americans?

**KEY TERMS:** Define each term's meaning or significance in terms of the text.

- neutral
- mercenary
- recruit