

Discover America

Course 5 - Teacher Guide



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5th Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of faith and its significance during the Revolutionary War.
- Identify two methods through which patriots motivated and inspired colonists during the Revolutionary War.
- Provide a summary of the Revolutionary War, highlighting key events and outcomes.



The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Continental Army** - the army that represented the 13 colonies.
- 02 **determination** - the act of never giving up.
- 03 **faith** - the act of believing in something.
- 04 **Hessians** - German troops hired by the British Army to fight in the Revolutionary War.
- 05 **liberty** - the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want.
- 06 **patriot** - a person who loves his or her country and is willing to do anything for it.

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Unfair taxes imposed by King George III of England made the colonists very upset. They believed it was unfair to be taxed without having a say in England's government, and their rallying cry became "No taxation without representation!" This meant they refused to pay taxes if they didn't have a voice in how those taxes were decided.

Led by important patriots, the colonists joined together to protest British rule and used boycotts to fight against various taxes imposed by King George III. This led to the king sending British soldiers known as "Redcoats" to enforce his laws. These taxes included the Sugar Act, which taxed sugar, the Stamp Act, which taxed printed paper, and the Townshend Acts, which taxed items like paint, paper, glass, lead, and tea.

In an act of defiance, a group of merchants led by Samuel Adams called the "Sons of Liberty" boycotted the unfair taxes and even threw 90,000 pounds of tea into Boston Harbor to protest. In response, King George III passed the "Coercive Acts," also known as the "Intolerable Acts," to make the colonists pay for the destroyed tea and unpaid taxes.

To continue their fight against British rule and taxation, the colonists and patriot leaders formed the First Continental Congress. This Congress had representatives from each colony (except Georgia) and met in Philadelphia in 1774 to create a united plan to break free from the rule of the King of England.

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

What caused the Boston Tea Party?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Before we explore why faith, liberty, community, and life were important to the brave Americans who fought for our freedom, let's discover a group called the Hessians! Faith is the act of believing in something. Liberty is the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want.



Hessian Soldiers

Many people are not familiar with the Hessians, but they played an important role in America's fight for independence. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn about the Hessians and the American Revolution.

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode:
Crossing the Delaware



Scan Me!

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

ASK Students

How would you describe America's journey to freedom?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Please read the passage below to learn about a pivotal time during this journey to freedom.

During the American Revolution, the British hired German soldiers called Hessians to help them. One night, when George Washington surprised the Hessians by crossing the Delaware River, they were caught off guard. Washington's army captured many Hessians, and some of them later decided to stay in America.

People from Europe and Africa moved to the original 13 colonies and created new communities for different reasons, like religion or business.

As the colonies grew, Britain taxed the colonists, which made them lose faith in the British government. They had to deal with taxes like the Stamp Act and the Townshend Act, which were not well-liked.

ASK Students

What inspired the colonists to fight for their freedom, even when things were bleak?
How did the colonists instill determination in one another?

(allow students to respond)

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

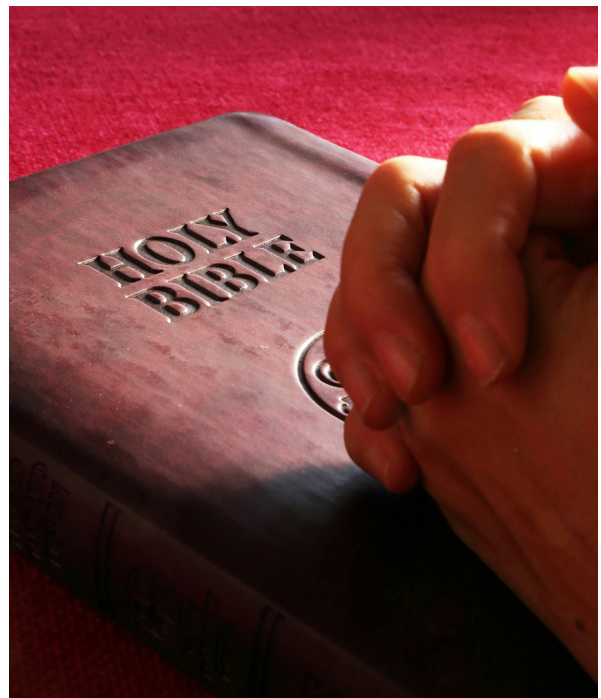
TELL Students

Faith was really important to the patriots. The founding fathers depended on their faith when they wrote the Declaration of Independence. This faith helped them make sacrifices to win battles. The early colonists had faith in God, and in 2 Chronicles 20:17, it says, "You won't need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, and God will save you." The colonists would have been familiar with verses from the Bible. The colonists had faith even when times were tough.

ASK Students

Can you remember a time when things were really tough, but you had faith in someone or something to help make everything better?

(allow students to respond)



The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

ASK Students

How would you describe America's journey to freedom?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Please read the following passage to learn more about America's journey to freedom.

The Thirteen Colonies didn't like being taxed without having a say in the British government. This led to protests, and in 1775, Massachusetts was declared rebellious by the British. Battles broke out in Lexington and Concord, starting the Revolutionary War.

At first, things went well for the Patriots. They surrounded the British in Boston, but the British came back stronger and defeated George Washington's army in New York and New Jersey. However, the Patriots regrouped and made a bold counter-attack.

George Washington surprised the British by crossing the Delaware River and defeating them. Then, they defended against the British in Trenton and won another battle in Princeton. The British retreated to New York and had to change their plan.

The British tried to divide the colonies but failed. They planned to attack from the north, south, and west, but only the northern forces came. They were defeated at the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, and the Patriots won a great victory, which also brought the French into the war on the Patriots' side.

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

ASK Students

What events in the Revolutionary War were difficult for the colonists?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Another country joined the Revolutionary War. It was France, and they had been secretly helping the Colonial Army with supplies. France and Britain had a long history of not liking each other, so France wanted to help anyone fighting against the British. They had a score to settle because the British had beaten them in a previous war. After the Patriots won at Saratoga, the French openly supported them, thinking the Patriots could win with their help.

In 1776, the 13 Colonies declared themselves free and independent with the Declaration of Independence. However, the Patriots and the French faced some failures in battles at Newport, Rhode Island, and Savannah, Georgia. So, the French sent 6,000 soldiers to Newport in 1780. They teamed up with George Washington and his army and marched to Virginia. The French fleet defeated the British in Chesapeake Bay, which meant the British couldn't get help or escape by sea.

ASK Students

Why did France enter the Revolutionary War?

How did their entrance change the Revolutionary War?

(allow students to respond)

The American Revolution - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

The hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of the Patriots finally paid off. In September 1781, they, along with the French, arrived in Williamsburg, Virginia, and had a big army of almost 18,000 soldiers. They surrounded the British forces in Yorktown and bombarded them with heavy guns. On October 14, 1781, they attacked the British, and after more heavy bombardment, the British realized they couldn't win. They surrendered, and about 8,000 British soldiers were captured.

The British wanted to march out with their flags flying, but they had denied this honor to the Patriots earlier. So, the Patriots didn't allow it. The British commander, Lord Cornwallis, didn't attend the surrender ceremony, so his second-in-command, Charles O'Hara, led the British.

Meanwhile, in Britain, the Prime Minister realized that the Revolutionary War was lost. The British Parliament voted to end the war, and the Prime Minister and his government resigned. Finally, on September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed to officially end the war. The treaty said the United States of America was now free and independent.

ASK Students

What sacrifices did the colonists make to secure independence?
(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Supplemental Learn More With Liberty Course Videos:
Why Faith Matters: The American Revolution
The Battle of Yorktown
The French Enter the Revolutionary War
The Revolutionary War



The American Revolution

Taxation Aggravation:

Design the Worst Tax!

Objective: To understand the impact of taxation policies on the American colonies and the causes of the Revolutionary War.

Materials Needed:

- paper
- markers or colored pencils
- creativity!

Introduction:

- Begin by reviewing the concept of taxation with the students. Explain that taxes are charges imposed by the government on individuals or businesses to generate revenue.
- Provide a brief overview of the taxation issues faced by the American colonies leading up to the Revolutionary War, such as the Stamp Act, Tea Act, and the Intolerable Acts.
- Explain that the activity will involve designing the worst tax possible, inspired by the grievances of the colonists during the Revolutionary era.

The American Revolution

Taxation Aggravation:

Design the Worst Tax!

Brainstorming Session:

- Divide the students into small groups.
- Encourage each group to brainstorm ideas for the worst possible tax they can imagine. Remind them to consider the impact of the tax on different segments of society, including individuals, families, and businesses.
- Provide prompts to guide their brainstorming, such as:

What goods or services should be taxed?

How high should the tax rates be?

Should there be any exemptions or special rules?

What penalties should be imposed for non-payment of the tax?

Design and Presentation:

- Once the groups have brainstormed their ideas, instruct them to create a visual representation of their worst tax using the paper and markers.
- Encourage creativity in their designs, including colorful illustrations and catchy slogans.
- After completing their designs, each group will present their tax proposal to the class. They should explain the rationale behind their tax, its potential impact on society, and why they believe it would be the worst tax imaginable.

The American Revolution

Taxation Aggravation:

Design the Worst Tax!

Discussion:

- Facilitate a discussion with the class after all groups have presented their tax proposals.
- Encourage students to reflect on the similarities between their invented taxes and the actual grievances of the American colonists.
- Discuss the role of taxation as a contributing factor to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War and its significance in shaping American history.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the importance of understanding historical events such as taxation policies in shaping the course of history.

The American Revolution

Taxation Analyzation

Objective: To research and compare specific taxes imposed on the American colonies by the British government with self-designed taxes, analyzing their impact and implications.

Materials Needed:

- paper
- research materials (books, articles, websites)
- writing utensils
- computer or tablet (optional)

Research Colonial Taxes:

- Begin by researching specific taxes imposed on the American colonies by the British government leading up to the Revolutionary War. Encourage students to use a variety of sources, including books, articles, and reliable websites.
- Students should focus on understanding the details of each tax, including its purpose, who it affected, and how it was implemented. They can take notes to organize their findings.

Design Invented Taxes:

- After researching colonial taxes, instruct students to brainstorm and design their own invented taxes. They should consider the impact and implications of each tax, drawing inspiration from the grievances of the colonists during the Revolutionary era.
- Students can create a list of invented taxes, providing details such as the name of the tax, what goods or services it applies to, the tax rate, and any penalties for non-compliance.

The American Revolution

Taxation Analysis

Compare and Analyze:

- Once students have researched colonial taxes and designed their own taxes, they should compare and analyze them.
- Students can create a Venn diagram or a two-column chart to compare the similarities and differences between the historical taxes and their invented taxes. They should consider factors such as the purpose of the tax, its impact on society, and the reactions it may have elicited.
- Encourage students to reflect on how their invented taxes address similar grievances as those faced by the American colonists.

Reflection:

- Instruct students to reflect on what they have learned from the activity. They should consider the significance of taxation as a contributing factor to the Revolutionary War and its implications for society.
- Students can write a short reflection paragraph discussing their insights and observations from the activity, including any connections they drew between historical and invented taxes.

Sharing and Discussion:

- Invite students to share their reflections with the class. Encourage discussion on the similarities and differences between colonial and invented taxes, as well as their potential impact on society.
- Facilitate a discussion on the role of taxation in historical events such as the Revolutionary War and its relevance to contemporary issues.

Extension: Students can further explore the broader economic, social, and political factors that contributed to the Revolutionary War. They can research key figures, events, and documents of the Revolutionary era and analyze their impact on American history. Additionally, students can investigate the long-term consequences of the Revolutionary War and its implications for the development of the United States as a nation.

The American Revolution Resource List

- 01 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/british-evacuate-boston>
- 02 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/new-york/>
- 03 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-long-island/>
- 04 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/new-york-campaign/>
- 05 <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.03902300/?st=text>
- 06 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/thomas-paine/>
- 07 <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/washingtons-revolutionary-war-battles/the-trenton-princeton-campaign/10-facts-about-washingtons-crossing-of-the-delaware-river/>
- 08 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/washington-crosses-the-delaware>
- 09 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-trenton/>

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty:

Founding Father: George Washington

The Battle of Yorktown

The French Enter the Revolutionary War



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Notes