

Discover America

Course 5 - Teacher Guide



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Kindergarten Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify who fought in the American Revolution.
- Describe the significant role determination played in the American Revolution.



The American Revolution - Kindergarten

Key Terms

- 01 **colonist** - a person who settles in a new colony or moves to a new country.
- 02 **Continental Army** - the army that represented the 13 colonies.
- 03 **determination** - the act of never giving up.
- 04 **faith** - the act of believing in something.
- 05 **Hessians** - German troops hired by the British Army to fight in the Revolutionary War.
- 06 **liberty** - the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want.
- 07 **morale** - the spirit a group has that makes them want to succeed.

The American Revolution - Kindergarten

Introduction

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.

Many people aren't 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 a very important event called the American Revolution!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures:
Crossing the Delaware



Scan Me!

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Lesson Guide

ASK Students

Who are the Hessians?

(allow students to respond)

ASK Students

The Hessians, as professional soldiers, received a lot of training to improve their combat skills and coordination. Just like sports teams strategize their plays and tactics to outmaneuver their opponents, the Hessians were sent out strategically by their commanders to achieve military objectives. Do you like basketball, football, baseball, or maybe you enjoy dancing in competitions? Think about the most important game or performance you have been in. Were you ever nervous?

Now, imagine this: It is the last minute of the game, or the last inning in baseball, or just one minute before you have to go on stage. Your team is losing, and they need you to make that winning touchdown, three-pointer, or home run. Or if you are a dancer, you have to fill in for a teammate who got hurt.

In all these situations, your team is counting on you. No matter what sport you play, when it is game time and your team is losing, you have to forget about your fears and do your best.

How do you feel in this situation?

(allow students to respond)

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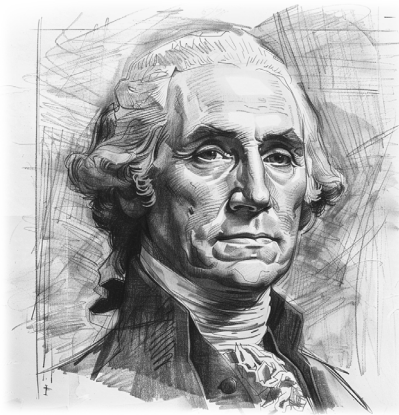
Lesson Guide

TELL Students

In the winter of 1776, something similar happened to George Washington and the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. The Continental Army was that army that represented the 13 colonists. They were losing the fight for freedom, and time was running out. At the beginning of that year, the colonists had a lot of hope. But as months went by, they suffered defeats, and their spirits dropped. A colonist is a person who settles in a new colony or moves to a new country. Many thought they would lose to the powerful British army.

But George Washington and his army believed in the ideas they were fighting for and were committed to defending their freedom. They knew it wouldn't be easy, but they kept going.

Then, just before Christmas, a man named Thomas Paine wrote something that inspired the Continental Army to keep fighting. He said that true heroes are the ones who stand up for what is right even when it is hard.



George Washington

The American Revolution - Kindergarten

Lesson Guide

ASK Students

What inspired the Continental Army to keep fighting?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Washington realized his army needed a big win to boost morale and show that they could win their freedom. Morale is the spirit a group has that makes them want to succeed. Washington planned a surprise attack on Hessian soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey. They had to cross the icy Delaware River in freezing weather. This was not easy but they did it. They surprised the Redcoats and captured the city, which was a huge success. This victory increased their confidence, leading them to take charge of the war.

The defeat of the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It showed the colonists that victory was possible, and it inspired more people to join the fight for freedom. Washington's determination and courage made a big difference. Determination is the act of never giving up.

ASK Students

Who fought in the Revolutionary War?

(allow students to respond)

The American Revolution

Revolutionary Hat Design

Objective: To introduce kindergarten students to the American Revolution in a fun and interactive way. To encourage creativity and imagination while learning about historical events.

Materials Needed:

- construction paper (blue, red, and white)
- scissors
- glue
- markers or crayons
- stickers or other decorative items (optional)

Introduction:

- Gather students and review the American Revolution. Keep the explanation simple, focusing on the idea of people fighting for freedom and independence.
- Show pictures or illustrations of soldiers wearing tricorn hats from the Revolutionary War period.

Hat Making Activity:

- Provide each student with a piece of blue construction paper and demonstrate how to fold it into a tricorn hat shape. You can use pre-cut templates or guide students through the folding process.
- Allow students to choose red and white strips of construction paper to decorate their hats. They can glue these strips onto the brim of the hat to represent the American flag.
- Encourage students to use markers or crayons to draw stars and stripes on their hats, similar to the design of the American flag.
- For added fun, provide stickers or other decorative items that students can use to personalize their hats.

The American Revolution

Revolutionary Hat Design

Discussion:

Once students have finished making their hats, gather them together for a brief discussion.

Ask the students questions like:

- "What colors did you use on your hat?"
- "What do the colors red, white, and blue represent?"
- "What do you think it means to fight for freedom?"
- "How do you feel wearing your Revolutionary hat?"

Closing

- Conclude the activity by allowing each student to share their hat with the class. Encourage them to explain the design choices they made.
- Remind students that American history is important and informs the way our country is governed today.

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



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