

Discover America

Course 5 - Teacher Guide



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4th Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define liberty.
- List two patriots that made a positive impact on the colonists.
- Explain how patriots inspired the colonists during the Revolutionary War.



The American Revolution - 4th 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 - 4th Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

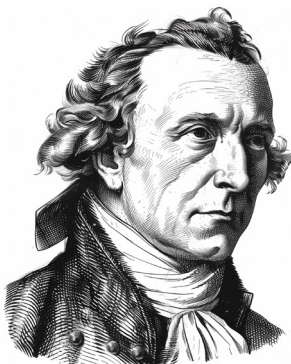
Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Paul Revere were very important people during the time of the American Revolution and the founding of America. They were brave, smart leaders.

Patrick Henry was a strong speaker who told people to be ready to fight for their freedom. He is famous for saying, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

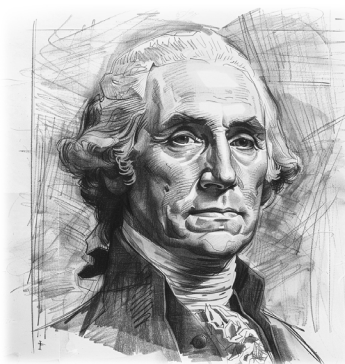
George Washington was the first president of the United States, but he was also a great military leader. He had a clever plan to surprise the British soldiers on Christmas by crossing a freezing river, and it worked!

Paul Revere was originally from France and came to Boston as an apprentice to a silversmith. He loved the tall church steeple, which he used to spy on the British soldiers and warn his fellow colonists that they were coming.

All three of these men helped America become a free and independent country. They were heroes who fought for liberty and freedom from England's rule.



Patrick Henry



George Washington



Paul Revere

The American Revolution - 4th Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

What is an adjective we can use to describe Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Paul Revere?

(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.

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 - 4th Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What is a patriot?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Tell students that you are going to play a game called Red Rover.

Divide everyone into two equal teams. Stand in a line, holding hands, and face each other. Make sure the teams are about six to ten yards apart. If you have younger kids, keep the teams closer to avoid accidents.

One team calls a player from the other team by saying, "Red Rover, Red Rover, will (name) come over!" The named player runs and tries to break through the linked arms of two players on the other team.

If the player breaks through, they go back to their team, and they get to take one of the players they broke through with them. If they can't break through, they join the other team.

Keep playing until one side is left with only one player.

Now, let's learn about the Hessians and some important patriots from the American Revolution. During the American Revolution, the British hired German soldiers called Hessians to help them.



Hessian Soldiers

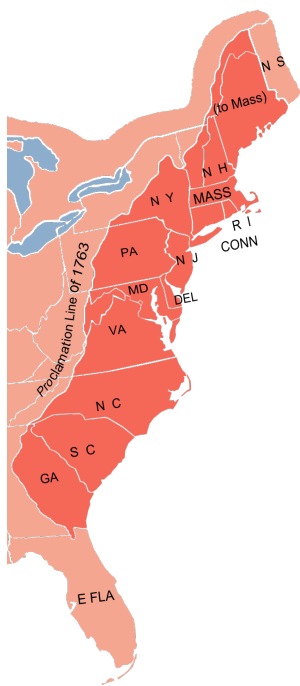
The American Revolution - 4th Grade

Lesson

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, like when you try to run through your friends' arms unexpectedly in Red Rover. 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.



13 Original Colonies

ASK Students

What is one event that made the British king very angry?

Who are some important patriots you have learned about?

Why are they important?

(allow students to respond)

The American Revolution - 4th Grade Lesson

TELL Students

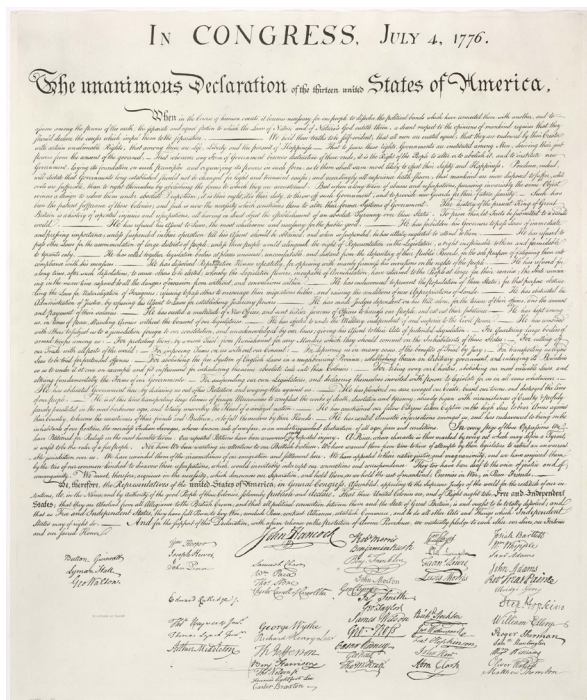
General Washington was determined and didn't want to give up, even though things were tough for his Continental Army. Please carefully read the passage below to learn more.

After some defeats, many people didn't believe the Patriots could beat the British, but on July 4, 1776, the 13 Colonies declared their independence with the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called "The American Crisis," which inspired Washington's soldiers. More Patriot soldiers joined Washington's army, and now he had 6,000 soldiers ready for action.

They crossed the Delaware River, and Washington had a secret plan. On Christmas night in 1776, they surprised the British in a battle. They captured 1,000 British soldiers and supplies, which boosted their spirits.

Washington's determination and the surprise attack at the Battle of Trenton helped keep the Patriot soldiers going.



U.S. Declaration of Independence

The American Revolution - 4th Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What effect do you think Patrick Henry's speech had on the other colonists?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

The Patriots were feeling more confident and ready to fight. The Continental Army and Congress believed they could win, so Washington led his soldiers back to Trenton on New Year's Eve. On January 2, 1777, the British attacked, but the Continental Army defended three times before sneaking away at night, leaving the British puzzled. Washington and his army were going to Princeton to fight the British there, and the British retreated towards New York after losing again. Thomas Paine, who inspired the Revolution, wrote another pamphlet called "The American Crisis," encouraging people to stand up for what's right even when it's tough. Washington had officers read it to the soldiers to inspire them to keep fighting for their beliefs.

ASK Students

What are some things you have learned about George Washington?

(allow students to respond)

The American Revolution - 4th Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Please read the passage below to review important American patriots.

On July 4, 1776, the 13 Colonies declared their independence, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. Despite the looming British threat, George Washington arranged for some of his soldiers to hear the Declaration read in Manhattan on July 9.

Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Paul Revere were really important during the Revolutionary War and when America was just starting. Patrick Henry was a passionate speaker who encouraged people to fight for their freedom. He famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" George Washington, who later became the first president, led the Continental Army to win against the British when things were tough. He surprised them on Christmas by crossing a freezing river! Paul Revere was originally from France and changed his name. He used the tall church steeple to spy on the British and warn others about them. All three of them helped make America free from England's rule. They were very brave and smart!

ASK Students

Why are the following men important to the founding of the United States: George Washington, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Supplemental Learn More With Liberty Course Videos:
The Determination of the Continental Army
Washington Crosses the Delaware
The Staten Island Peace Conference
Why Liberty Matters: The American Revolution



The American Revolution

A Bold Victory: Exploring the Battle of Trenton

Objective: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of the Battle of Trenton in the American Revolutionary War.
2. Identify key figures involved in the battle.
3. Understand the strategic importance of George Washington's surprise attack.

Introduction:

- Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of battles in wars. Ask students if they know any famous battles from history.
- Introduce the Battle of Trenton and its significance in the American Revolutionary War.
- Show a brief video or slideshow about the Battle of Trenton to provide visual context.

Key Figures in the Battle:

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Assign each group one key figure involved in the Battle of Trenton, such as George Washington, Johann Rall, or Hessians.
- Provide resources (books, articles, or online resources) for students to research their assigned figure.
- Have each group present a short summary of their assigned figure's role in the battle to the class.

The American Revolution

A Bold Victory: Exploring the Battle of Trenton

Strategic Importance of the Surprise Attack:

- Explain to students the strategic importance of George Washington's surprise attack on Trenton.
- Discuss how Washington planned and executed the attack on Christmas night, catching the Hessian troops off guard.
- Emphasize the morale boost and strategic advantage gained by the Continental Army as a result of this victory.
- Engage students in a discussion about the risks and rewards of surprise attacks in warfare.

Interactive Map Activity:

- Provide students with maps of the area where the Battle of Trenton took place.
- Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a specific aspect of the battle to focus on, such as troop movements, river crossings, or key locations.
- Have students use markers or stickers to mark these aspects on their maps.
- Encourage students to discuss their findings and compare maps with other groups.

The American Revolution

A Bold Victory: Exploring the Battle of Trenton

Reflection and Conclusion:

- Lead a class discussion reflecting on what students have learned about the Battle of Trenton.
- Ask students to share their thoughts on why the battle was significant in the context of the American Revolutionary War.
- Summarize the key points of the lesson and reinforce the importance of understanding historical events in shaping the course of history.

The American Revolution

Battle of Trenton Quiz

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Read each question and answer set carefully. Circle the correct answer.

- 01 Who was the leader of the Continental Army during the Battle of Trenton?
 - a) George Washington
 - b) Thomas Jefferson
 - c) Benjamin Franklin
 - d) John Adams

- 02 What was the strategic significance of the Battle of Trenton?
 - a) It marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.
 - b) It was a decisive victory for the British army.
 - c) It boosted the Continental Army's morale and inspired support for the revolution.
 - d) It resulted in the capture of George Washington by the British.

- 03 Why was the timing of George Washington's attack on Trenton significant?
 - a) It took place in the winter when enemy forces least expected an attack.
 - b) It happened on July 4th, a symbolic date for American independence.
 - c) It coincided with a major British holiday, weakening their defenses.
 - d) It took place during a ceasefire agreement between the two sides.

- 04 Who were the primary opponents in the Battle of Trenton?
 - a) Continental Army vs. French Army
 - b) British Army vs. Continental Army
 - c) Hessian mercenaries vs. Spanish conquistadors
 - d) Native American tribes vs. British settlers

- 05 What was the outcome of the Battle of Trenton?
 - a) The British captured George Washington.
 - b) The Continental Army suffered a major defeat.
 - c) The Hessians surrendered, resulting in a victory for the Continental Army.
 - d) The battle ended in a stalemate.

The American Revolution

Battle of Trenton Quiz

- 06 Why did George Washington choose to attack Trenton on Christmas night?
- a) To take advantage of the British troops celebrating the holiday.
 - b) To honor the tradition of surprise attacks on significant dates.
 - c) To commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.
 - d) It was the only night suitable for crossing the Delaware River.
- 07 Which of the following statements best describes the significance of the Battle of Trenton?
- a) It marked the end of the American Revolutionary War.
 - b) It inspired renewed hope and support for the American cause.
 - c) It led to the surrender of the Continental Army.
 - d) It resulted in the capture of key British generals.
- 08 Who were the adversaries that George Washington's forces surprised at Trenton?
- a) Spanish conquistadors
 - b) British regulars
 - c) Native American tribes
 - d) Hessian mercenaries
- 09 What role did the weather play in the Battle of Trenton?
- a) It was sunny and warm, facilitating easy troop movement.
 - b) It was rainy, leading to muddy conditions on the battlefield.
 - c) It was bitterly cold, catching the Hessians off guard.
 - d) It was foggy, hindering visibility for both sides.
- 10 How did the outcome of the Battle of Trenton impact the American Revolutionary War?
- a) It discouraged further support for the revolution.
 - b) It convinced the British to negotiate a peace treaty with the colonies.
 - c) It bolstered morale and momentum for the Continental Army.
 - d) It led to the collapse of the Continental Army.

The American Revolution

Answer Key

- 01 **A)** George Washington
- 02 **C)** It boosted the Continental Army's morale and inspired support for the revolution.
- 03 **A)** It took place in the winter when enemy forces least expected an attack.
- 04 **B)** British Army vs. Continental Army
- 05 **C)** The Hessians surrendered, resulting in a victory for the Continental Army.
- 06 **A)** To take advantage of the British troops celebrating the holiday.
- 07 **B)** It inspired renewed hope and support for the American cause.
- 08 **D)** Hessian mercenaries
- 09 **C)** It was bitterly cold, catching the Hessians off guard.
- 10 **C)** It bolstered morale and momentum for the Continental Army.

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 Determination of the Continental Army

Washington Crosses the Delaware

The Staten Island Peace Conference



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