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George Washington and 1776

This lesson introduces the students to a variety of different sources. Students will analyze primary source documents, read three chapters from the books 1776 and Rediscovering George Washington Founding Father, watch a video, answer questions and complete a project based learning assignment.

Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards

USI.4 Analyze the reasons for the American victory and the British defeat during the Revolutionary war.

USI.5 Explain the role of Massachusetts in the Revolution, including important events that took place in Massachusetts and important leaders from Massachusetts.

Objectives

1. To emphasize the importance of reading primary source documents in the study of history.
2. To analyze the role of George Washington during the early years of the American Revolution
3. Summarize the events surrounding the evacuation of Boston and the Battle of Trenton

Background

In the summer of 1775 George Washington was named Commander-in- Chief of the Continental army. Washington had experience serving with the British Army and had to form a new approach to warfare that was “not British like”. Washington was encamped outside of Boston and did not have the artillery needed to engage the British Regulars. It was not until March of 1776 that Henry Knox brought guns from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston. The British decided to abandon Boston and transported troops and civilians to Halifax, Nova Scotia, leaving on March 17, 1776.

In the summer of 1776 Washington was driven from New York by Gen. Howe into New Jersey. Washington raised the morale of the Americans by raiding Trenton, New Jersey on Christmas Day 1776 and capturing 900 Hessians. He followed up that victory by defeating the British at Princeton on January 3, 1777.

Activities

Part 1: Establish historical context for the class.

- A. Have the students view the second video of the HBO mini series *John Adams*, focusing on the selection of Washington as commander in chief, Washington's Army encamped in Charlestown and Colonel Knox dragging the artillery by Abigail Adams
- B. Assign pages 17-45 in Brookhiser's Founding Father. Write a 2-3 page summary on the Authors view of Washington. Was he the right man for the leadership role? Was he a successful general? Why or Why not?

Part 2: Evaluating Primary Sources

- A. Read the letter from John Bowater to the Earl of Denhigh, March 25, 1776. What reasons did Bowater give for the evacuation of Boston?
 - B. Read the letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams "Remember the Ladies" March 1776. Summarize the thoughts of Abigail. How does she describe Boston Post-evacuation?
 - C. Read *A Tory view of the siege of Boston Peter Oliver: from "The origins and progress of the American Rebellion"* Give a chronological account on the British evacuation based on this reading.
- Prepare to discuss each primary source in class

Part 3: Dorchester Heights

- A. Watch The A&E Video The American Revolution Video number 2 and answer guided questions
- B. Assignment: Read Chapter 3 of the book 1776 by David McCullough
- C. Project Based Assignment 1. Hand draw a map of Boston and surrounding area, circa March of 1776 2. Write a diary entry for Colonel Knox discussing his journey from Ft. Ticonderoga to Boston. (at least 1 page) 3. Provide a visual as a primary source, map, artwork, etc. relevant to chapter 3 4. Provide a written primary source, journal, letter, diary, relevant to chapter 3 5. Write a one page biography on any person in this reading. 6. Write a letter from Gen. Howe to England explaining his reasoning for evacuating Boston. 7. Write a one page reflection on the chapter. Have fun be creative

Part 4: Evaluating primary Sources

- A. Read *The American Crisis number one* by Thomas Paine. Summarize Paine's views, points and concerns in this reading. Is this propaganda? Did Washington make a good decision reading this to his troops? Why?
- B. Read the letter from George Washington to Lund Washington, Dec 10 and 17, 1776 *The American Retreat: Pennsylvania, December 1776*. What was the state of the American Army? How was Washington Handling the Situation?
- C. Read the letter from George Washington to John Hancock December 1776. Summarize the Generals Letter.

Part 5: The Crossing/Trenton

- A. Watch the A&E Video The American Revolution number 3 and answer the guided questions
- B. Read Chapter 7 of the book *1776* by David McCullough
- C. Project based assignment: 1. A hand drawn map of Trenton and the surrounding area, circa December 1776 2. Write a diary entry for John Glover, discussing the crossing of the Delaware 3. Provide a visual as a primary source, map, artwork, etc., relevant to chapter 7 4. Provide a written primary source, journal, letter, diary, etc., relevant to chapter 7 5. Write a one page biography on any person in this reading. (not George Washington) 6. Write a letter from General Washington to the Continental Congress explaining his reason for the attack. 7. Write a one page reflection on chapter 7 Have fun be creative!

The project based assignments can be presented to the teacher in three ways.

- 1. Made into a book
- 2. Placed on a poster board
- 3. E-mailed as a power point to mikeconnor001@yahoo.com

Grading

1. Each video is accompanied by a guided question Quiz.
2. The Brookhiser Reflection is considered your weekly essay, Quiz Grade.
3. The primary sources will be discussed in class and answers will be checked for a homework grade
4. The projects will be counted as a test grade

Grading

Map _____ 5 pts Diary _____ 15 pts Visual Primary _____ 5 pts

Written Primary _____ 5 pts Biography _____ 15 pts

Letter _____ 15 pts Reflection _____ 30 pts Effort _____ 10 pts

Total Pts _____

Students only have to do one of the project based assignments, Chapter 3 or 7

Video Quiz #2

1. How tall was George Washington?
2. Two weeks after what battle did Washington take command of the continental army at Cambridge?
3. What two men led the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga?
4. Who transported the artillery to Boston from Ticonderoga?
5. Where did the British sail to when they left Boston on March 17, 1776?
6. How many miles through the wilderness did Benedict Arnold lead his troops?
7. What may have prevented Arnold from taking Quebec?
8. When did Arnold Attack Quebec?
9. Where did a musket ball hit Gen. Arnold?
10. How old was Ben Franklin in 1776?
11. Who did Abigail Adams ask John to remember when making new laws?
12. Who did Jefferson believe should have written the Declaration of Independence?
13. What did Jefferson condemn in the original drafting of the Declaration?
14. Who predicted that the Dec of Indep would be celebrated for all future Generations?
15. What did the colonists make out of the metal from a toppled statue of King George?

Video #3

1. Washington made his move on Trenton on this date;
2. Where was John Glover from?
3. The name of the German mercenaries where;
4. How many prisoners did Washington take at Trenton?
5. Describe Washington's retreat from Cornwallis before Princeton:
6. How many horse did Washington have shot out from underneath him during the war:
7. Name of the 19 year old French officer that came to help Washington?
8. Who was victorious at Brandywine?
9. What city did Cornwallis take after Brandywine:
10. What is the name of the Town the American Congress fled to;
11. Who was victorious at Germantown?
12. Where did Washington "winter" in 1777-78?
13. How many patriots died there?
14. What was Gen. Burgoyne's plan before Saratoga? (New England)
15. Who built a navy at Valcour Bay to delay the British?
16. Where did Gen. Burgoyne want to meet the other two British armies moving towards New York?
17. Who led the Patriots at Saratoga?
18. What is the other name for the Battle of Freedman's Farm?
19. What General was shot in the thigh while charging the British at Saratoga?
20. How many British were killed at both battles of Freedman's Farm?

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