

Time & Setting: 1-155 pm (55 minutes)

Standard: 5.3.12-I can describe the major events of the Revolutionary War, including key battles, key alliances, and the roles played by key figures.

Objectives:

1. Students will identify the six major battles of the American Revolutionary War.
2. Students will summarize the series of events that occurred during the Revolutionary War.

Learning Targets:

1. I name the 6 major battles that happened during the American Revolutionary War.
2. I can identify when and where the battle took place.
3. I can identify who the important people involved were.
4. I can summarize the importance of each battle.

Procedures:

Before:

1. Students will be asked before lunch to get a computer and place it on their desk in preparation for the lesson.
2. Each homeroom pod has a social studies basket. Prior to the start of the lesson I will be putting all the materials needed for this lesson into their baskets.
3. At the start of the lesson, I will choose one person using the “number heads” poster and they will get their basket and be responsible for passing out the material throughout the lesson.

During:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Each homeroom pod will be assigned one of the six major battles of the American Revolutionary War. In their Social Studies baskets, pods will have reading passages that they can use to research their assigned battle.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Capture of Fort Ticonderoga ** I will discuss and model○ Battle of Bunker Hill○ Battle of Trenton○ Battle of Princeton○ Battle of Saratoga○ Battle of Yorktown <p>*The research worksheet will already have the sections divided to ensure that all students in the pods are participating.</p>
15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● I do: modeling-I will project the passage for the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga and model how I would find the information for each section and then add that information to the <i>Chart paper: Classroom Notes</i>
20-30 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Using the reading passages provided, students will read and identify the important information needed to complete their “<i>Group Research Worksheet</i>”● In addition to filling out their “<i>Group Research Worksheet</i>”, students will add their findings to their individual worksheet, “<i>Important Battles During the American Revolutionary War- Notes</i>” <p>*There will be one research worksheet per group, that will be submitted to the teacher before their presentation.</p>

Pod presentations will occur on the following day

Passage #1: Fort Ticonderoga

FORT TICONDEROGA

Located on Lake Champlain in northeastern New York, Fort Ticonderoga served as a key point of access to both Canada and the Hudson River Valley during the French and Indian War. On May 10, 1775, Benedict Arnold of Massachusetts joined Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont in a dawn attack on the fort, surprising and capturing the sleeping British garrison. Although it was a small-scale conflict, the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga was the first American victory of the Revolutionary War, and would give the Continental Army much-needed artillery to be used in future battles.

BACKGROUND OF FORT TICONDEROGA

In 1755, French settlers in North America began building a military fortification, Fort Carillon, on the western shore of Lake Champlain. Because of its location, which offered access to both Canada and the Hudson River Valley, the fort saw more fighting during the French and Indian War than any other post. In July 1758, British forces unsuccessfully attacked the fort, suffering heavy casualties. Under the command of General Jeffrey Amherst, the British returned the following year and were able to defeat the French, who destroyed much of Fort Carillon and withdrew to Canada.

With the fort now under their control, the British renamed it Fort Ticonderoga. By April 1775, when hostilities broke out between colonial militiamen and British soldiers at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, the British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga numbered barely 50 men.

Fort Ticonderoga was located directly across Lake Champlain from Vermont, where the Green Mountain Boys—a militia organized in 1770 to defend the property rights of local landowners—joined the revolutionary effort without hesitation. On the morning of May 10, 1775, fewer than a hundred of these militiamen, under the joint command of their leader, Ethan Allen, and Benedict Arnold of Massachusetts, crossed Lake Champlain at dawn, surprising and capturing the still sleeping British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga.

A SURPRISE ATTACK

As the first rebel victory of the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga served as a morale booster and provided key artillery for the Continental Army in that first year of war. Cannons captured at Fort Ticonderoga would be used during the successful Siege of Boston the following spring. Because of its location, the fort would also serve as a staging ground for Continental troops before their planned invasion of British-held territory in Canada

Passage #1: Battle of Princeton

After his victory in Trenton, Washington reviewed his options. After discussions with his generals, Washington decided to cross the Delaware once again, to follow the defeated British troops. The American troops did not all get across the Delaware until December 31st. Crossing the Delaware on the last day of December presented a significant challenge to General Washington, since many of his men's terms of service ended the next day (on January 1st). However, Washington secured their continued service by offering a signing bonus of \$10 (considered a large sum at that time) for all those who agreed to stay in the army.

By the time Washington's army had fully crossed the Delaware, the British forces had reorganized. American forces returned to Trenton, while a large British force commanded by General Cornwallis headed for Trenton. On January 2nd 1777, 8,000 British troops departed Princeton for the 10 mile march to Trenton. It took the British forces all day to arrive at the Assunpink Creek, where American forces had established a strong defensive line. As soon as he had what he believed to be sufficient forces in place, Cornwallis ordered the first assault across the one bridge that spanned the Creek. His troops were met with murderous fire from the Continentals. Three assaults failed before nightfall. 365 British soldiers fell trying to cross the bridge. This brought the one day loss of the British to 500 soldiers, which included those shot by snipers during their march to Trenton.

Overnight, with a large British army facing him across the creek, Washington and his advisors needed to decide whether to stand and fight or withdraw back across the Delaware. The Americans ultimately decided on a third options. They proceeded instead to outflank the British forces and attempt to capture Princeton, toward the British rear (where the British had not left a large number of troops behind to guard.) Washington's forces succeeded in moving off their lines past the British forces and toward Princeton.

As the American forces were approaching Princeton they collided with British forces heading South to Trenton. The British force was heavily outnumbered as they faced the American forces in an open field. The British troops fought stubbornly, and at times it looked like the day might be theirs. However, General Washington became personally engaged in the battle, directing the troops from his large grey horse. Finally, the outnumbered British troops broke and retreated toward Princeton. The American troops were closely on their heels, defeating any attempt at resistance. By the end of the day, the British forces had lost 450 troops, while the Americans lost only 37 dead. The American victory at Princeton capped off ten days that changed the direction of the war. Before their victory at Trenton, the American forces had been defeated. At that point, it appeared the Americans were one battle from away from total defeat. By January 4th, the British had effectively been forced out of Southern New Jersey.

Passage #2: Battle of Princeton

Battle of Princeton

Battle of Princeton Definition: The Battle of Princeton was a military conflict between the Kingdom of Great Britain and its thirteen colonies in North America during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). The year and date that the Battle of Princeton took place on Friday, January 03, 1777. The battlefield in which the British and American Forces fought during the Battle of Princeton was located in Princeton, New Jersey. The Battle of Princeton ended in victory for the American colonists.

Overview and Summary of the Battle of Princeton

The Battle of Trenton had been a surprising and a significant victory for the Americans and a crushing defeat for the Hessian army. American morale rose and the patriots were ready to face another conflict, fighting for their independence from British rule. General William Howe sent Lord Charles Cornwallis with a strong military force to destroy the American rebels. George Washington and the main part of the Continental Army was encamped on the south side of the *Assanpink. Lord Charles Cornwallis was positioned on the other bank at Trenton. George Washington left some of his troops to build some fortifications over the Assanpink and led the major force toward Princeton, New Jersey. General Charles Cornwallis had left 1,400 British troops under the command of Lt. Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton. George Washington was able to mount a night attack and defeat the British troops at Princeton and get out before General Charles Cornwallis could arrive with reinforcements. George Washington then led his army to the safety of highlands of New Jersey where he set up a winter encampment at Morristown. The weather conditions that winter were terrible but the coming of warmer weather also brought an additional 9,000 soldiers when new troops volunteer to fight. The British abandoned nearly all their posts in New Jersey and retired to New York. The Siege of Fort Stanwix & Battle of Oriskany was the next bloody conflict. General William Howe and General George Washington would fight again at the Battle of Brandywine.

*Assunpink Creek is a 22 mile tributary of the Delaware River in western New Jersey in the United States

The Importance and Significance of the Battle of Princeton

Significance of the Battle of Princeton: The significance of the conflict was that the British lost control of New Jersey and retreated to New York. Following the victories at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton the Americans believed that they could win the war.

Facts about the Battle of Princeton

Facts about who fought in the Battle of Princeton and who were the leaders of the conflict. Facts about where the Battle of Princeton was fought, the location of the battlefield. Facts and stats about the number of troops involved in the conflict and the numbers of those who were killed, wounded, missing in action or captured. Interesting history and facts about the Battle of Princeton:

Facts about the Battle of Princeton

Name of Conflict:	Battle of Princeton
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Result of the Battle of Princeton:	The Battle of Princeton ended in victory for the Americans
Location of Battlefield:	The battlefield was located in Princeton, New Jersey
Date of the Battle of Princeton:	Friday, January 03, 1777
Combatants:	The British Army and German Hessians fought against the Americans

Battle of Princeton	American Colonies	British Forces
Names of Leaders & Commanders:	George Washington Hugh Mercer	Charles Mawhood Charles Cornwallis
Strength of Forces:	4500	1200
Number of men killed in the Battle of Princeton:	25	100
Number of men wounded:	40	70
Number of men captured:	0	280

American Revolutionary war - The Battle of Princeton

The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), which included the Battle of Princeton, was the culmination of the political American Revolution, in which many of the American colonists rejected the legitimacy of the British Parliament to govern the 13 colonies without representation.

Passage #1: Battle of Bunker Hill

The Battle of Bunker Hill was the first major battle in the American Revolution. It was the bloodiest battle of the American Revolution. The British soldiers were trapped in Boston after the end of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The British had begun to fortify the Charlestown Peninsula to protect their control over the city of Boston. Breed's Hill was to be fortified first. Bunker Hill was to be next.

It was the night of June 16, 1775. American colonists gathered and plotted to push the British soldiers out of Boston. A group of patriots climbed Breed's Hill. The hill was an overlook of Boston. Colonel William Prescott led militiamen on a mission. There were to build a fort at the top of the hill. They worked throughout the night to surprise the British. The number of patriots had grown to around ten thousand. British troops assaulted the positions of the Continental army the morning of June 17, 1775. The British fired upon their fort. The British soldiers struggled to climb Breed's Hill. They were picked off by Continental sharpshooters. They were running low on ammunition. Colonel Prescott roared, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." The militiamen were able to drive the British back off the hill twice. They did this until the third time the British tried to climb the hill. The militiamen had eventually run out of ammunition. They used their muskets as clubs. They used their fists. They used their determination but it was not enough and they were forced into a retreat.

One month after the conclusion of the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British began to imagine a war lasting longer than they had originally planned. They had lost over one thousand men. The Americans lost approximately four hundred and fifty soldiers. The British were forced to evacuate in December of 1775. The British then made New York City the center of their military operations.

Passage #2: Battle of Bunker Hill

The Battle of Bunker Hill was a series of three attacks by the British on June 17, 1775 during the Siege of Boston. This was one of the early battles of the American Revolution.

The colonists learned that the British were planning on occupying the hills around Boston, Massachusetts as a way to control the city. The American troops went to the hills and built forts out of earth, called redoubts, to defend the hills.

The British charged the American troops in three attacks. The British had over 3,000 troops and the Americans had 2,500. The Americans won the first two attacks and heavily damaged the British forces. On the third attack, the colonists ran out of ammunition and had to retreat over the hills into Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While the British won the battle, they suffered over 1,000 injuries and deaths, including a large number of officers. The American forces had only 450 deaths or injuries. The Battle of Bunker Hill encouraged the Americans because it proved that the inexperienced colonial forces could fight the well trained and highly experienced British Army.

Passage #1: Battle of Trenton

The Battle of Trenton was fought on December 26, 1776. This battle encouraged the American forces at an important time in the American Revolution.

The winter of 1776 had been difficult for the young U.S. army. They had lost several battles in New York and had been forced to retreat to Pennsylvania. The soldiers were discouraged. General George Washington, commander in chief of the U.S. forces, planned a surprise attack on the Hessians. The Hessians were German soldiers hired to fight by the British.

General Washington's plan was to go from Pennsylvania to New Jersey on Christmas night, December 25, 1776. This was a dangerous plan, since the American troops would have to cross the Delaware River in bad winter weather. Only part of the American troops, about 2,400, were able to cross the river.

The Hessians stationed at Trenton, New Jersey, had celebrated Christmas with a large feast. They did not think the Americans would attack, so they did not assign any guards on Christmas night. The Americans were able to get into place for the attack without being seen. The next morning, December 26, the Americans surprised the Hessians, taking most of them as prisoners.

The American victory at the Battle of Trenton changed the course of the American Revolution. It raised the spirits of the American soldiers and more men volunteered for the army.

Passage #2: Battle of Trenton

On Christmas night of 1776, Washington and his army were huddled together in their camp by the Delaware River. Defeated and tired they had retreated to Pennsylvania. The army of 3,000 men dressed in rags were discouraged and weakened. Across the river in Trenton slept a small group of Hessians who were stationed to guard New Jersey. General Howe had sent a large percent of soldiers to Newport and New York, sensing the Americans were not strong enough to attack.

Since the British were relaxed and unsuspecting, Washington announced that now was the time to attack. His plan was to send three different divisions across the Delaware at different times during the night, then join in an attack on the Hessians. This operation required every man and was a huge risk. They crossed the river in boats through sleet, hail, and ice. The Americans then charged on the sleeping Hessians and in 1 hour captured almost 1000 prisoners and took Trenton.

Washington's army finally felt hope and courage for the first time all winter. The news of the victory spread, eliminating any rumors or doubts of Washington's competency.

Date	December 25, 1776	
Weather	20 °F, cloudy, calm winds	
Location	Trenton, New Jersey	
	British	American Colonists
Commanders	Johann Rall	George Washington
Casualties	Force: 1,520 Killed: 22 Wounded: 86 Captured: 906	Force: 2,400 Killed: 2 Wounded: 5 Captured: 0

Passage #1: Battles of Saratoga

The first day of fighting, September 19th, 1777, was technically a British victory. They held the ground (stayed), and the Americans had retreated behind their own lines.

Two and a half weeks of relative quiet followed. During that time, the British forces grew weaker. Starting out with about 7500 men On September 19th, their numbers would fall to about 6700 by October 6th. They ran short on food, and the days were getting cooler. The soldiers had to do all their own heavy work in camp, including building protective walls and earthworks (long piles of dirt).

The American forces grew stronger, from about 8500 on September 19th to about 13,000 on October 6th. Militia soldiers entering camp helped by doing much of the heavy work, leaving the continental (regular) soldiers less tired. The Americans also had more supplies, but not without work. Citizens of the city of Albany melted the lead from their windows (used to hold the glass in place) so the troops could make musket balls. Farmers' animals and crops were taken by the American army –sometimes paid for, but not always.

Their many advantages resulted in the Americans winning the second day of fighting, on October 7th, 1777, and to the British surrender, ten days later, on October 17th, 1777. That American victory brought France in the war on the side of the United States and gave the Americans needed supplies, more soldiers, and foreign support. That support helped guarantee United States independence.

Passage #2: Battles of Saratoga

The Battle of Saratoga was the turning point of the Revolutionary War. The scope of the victory is made clear by a few key facts: On October 17, 1777, 5,895 British and Hessian troops surrendered their arms. General John Burgoyne had lost 86 percent of his expeditionary force that had triumphantly marched into New York from Canada in the early summer of 1777.

In late September and during the first week of October 1777, Gate's American army was positioned between Burgoyne's army and Albany. On October 7, Burgoyne took the offensive. The troops crashed together south of the town of Saratoga, and Burgoyne's army was broken. In mop-up operations 86 percent of Burgoyne's command was captured.

The victory gave new life to the American cause at a critical time. Americans had just suffered a major setback the Battle of the Brandywine along with news of the fall of Philadelphia to the British. One American soldier declared, "It was a glorious sight to see the haughty Brittons march out & surrender their arms to an army which but a little before they despised and called paltrons." A stupendous American victory in October 1777, the success at Saratoga gave France the confidence in the American cause to enter the war as an American ally. Later American successes owed a great deal to French aid in the form of financial and military assistance.

Passage #1: Battle of Yorktown

The Siege of Yorktown was the last major battle of the American Revolution. It signaled the end of the war, as the British general, Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington, commander of the American forces. The British signed the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783, which finally ended the war.

The battle was fought in Yorktown, Virginia from September 28 to October 19, 1781. The battle was fought both on land and on the sea. The French army and navy joined the American army to fight against the British. The French army was lead by General Rochambeau and the French navy was headed by Admiral de Grasse.

Passage #2: Battle of Yorktown

In the fall of 1781, a combined American force of Colonial and French troops laid siege to the British Army at Yorktown, Virginia. Led by George Washington and French General Comte de Rochambeau, they began their final attack on October 14th, capturing two British defenses and leading to the surrender, just days later, of British General Lord Cornwallis and nearly 9,000 troops. Yorktown proved to be the final battle of the American Revolution, and the British began peace negotiations shortly after the American victory.

When Charles, Lord Cornwallis, British commander in the South during the American Revolutionary War, retreated to the Yorktown peninsula in June 1781 to rest and re equip his battered army, George Washington was outside New York, preparing an assault on that British-held city with the help of the four-thousand-man French expeditionary force commanded by the count of Rochambeau.

Then came news that the thirty-four-ship French West Indies battle fleet was heading for Virginia with three thousand infantry. (Rochambeau had urged the French admiral, de Grasse, to undertake this gamble.) Plans for New York were abandoned, and Washington executed a swift concentration of every available soldier before the little tobacco port on the Chesapeake. A trapped Cornwallis asked the British fleet and army in New York for help. The fleet sortied to clash with French ships of the line off the Virginia Capes in one of the most important least-known naval battles of history. The outnumbered British admiral, Thomas Graves, adhered rigidly to the conservative "Fighting Instructions," which prescribed a strict line of battle formation aimed at limiting losses. De Grasse battered several British ships in a two-and-a-half-hour clash, and Graves, after two more days of fruitless maneuvers for advantage, abandoned Cornwallis and returned to New York.

Meanwhile, a smaller French squadron under Admiral Barras slipped into the Chesapeake, carrying the French army's siege artillery. Trapped behind hastily constructed redoubts, without cannon heavy enough to match the French big guns, Cornwallis's army crumbled under night and day bombardment. On October 14, two key redoubts were carried in a night assault. Three days later, Cornwallis surrendered. As his men marched out to stack their guns, their bands played "The World Turned Upside Down." In London, when Prime Minister Lord North heard the news, he cried: "Oh God, it is all over." So it was.

Independent Student Note Sheet:

Important Battles During the American Revolutionary War- Notes

Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Capture of Fort Ticonderoga				
What happened?				Results

Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Battle of Bunker Hill				
What happened?				Results

Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Battle of Trenton				

What happened?				Results

Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Battle of Princeton				
What happened?				Results

Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Battle of Saratoga				
What happened?				Results

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Battle Name	Date	Location	Military Leaders	Important Details
Battle of Yorktown				
What happened?				Results

Group Battle Research Worksheet

Group Battle Research Worksheet

WHAT: Title of battle	WHO: Key people
WHY: Purpose or Goal	WHEN:
	WHERE:
SIGNIFICANCE:	RESULTS: