



We hold these truths to be self-evident:
all men and women are created equal;
endowed by their Creator

...these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

Honored PLACES



1. Boston Harbor - 2. Castle William - 3. Dorchester Neck - 4. Dorchester Meeting House - 5. Boston Common

A View of the City of Boston, taken from Beacon Hill, showing the Lines, Entrenchments, Redoubts, &c. - of the



Honored

PLACES

1. Fort Mifflin 2. Castle William - 3. Dorchester Neck - 4. Dorchester Meeting House - 5. Boston Common

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For additional copies please go to the National Park Service American Revolution
Web Site: www.nps.gov/revwar

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in Honored Places: The National Park Service Teacher's Guide to the American Revolution. The National Park System has been called "America's greatest university without walls." It contains magnificent landscapes, the finest examples of American culture, and historic objects and places that reflect the most important events in American history. Parks are powerful places which contain information that does not exist anywhere else. These powerful resources offer unique learning opportunities. Honored Places invites teachers to visit National Park sites and discover firsthand the rich resources that help connect your learners with our nation's stories of independence and freedom.

It is our hope that every student is able to visit a national park and use the park as a classroom to enrich his or her learning. When this guide arrives on your desk, it is more than a classroom resource; it serves as an invitation to visit these and other National Park Service sites with your students. Nothing compares to a hands-on fieldtrip to one of these remarkable, inspirational places, where the past is honored and memories are made.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Bomar
Director
National Park Service

FOREWARD

The American Revolution remains a powerful touchstone for American civic life. The events, the people, the struggles, and the ideals of the Revolution continue to shape and reshape the nation more than 225 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each year, millions of people reach for personal connections with these long-ago events by visiting national parks and historic sites. We can stand in the spot of the famous shot heard 'round the world or in the chamber where colonists debated whether to break away from England. We can trace the troop movements of victories and defeats; we can follow the trail of struggle that followed the War for Independence as Americans grappled with building a nation.

With this innovative teacher's guide, the National Park Service provides teachers with a great wealth of primary sources and lesson plans for teaching the American Revolution. This kit extends the boundaries of historic places by making their resources available in a format that will move easily into the classroom. In the pages that follow, teachers will find the background they need to tell engaging stories that come alive with the diverse voices of people who participated in the American Revolution. Students will be active, investigative learners as they explore documents and artifacts. This guide's clearly described classroom activities and links to National Standards for History and Social Studies will make it a welcome addition in classrooms.

This guide takes a step beyond most classroom guides to the American Revolution by also considering its aftermath. Students and teachers will revisit not only the events of the 18th century, but also the continuing struggles of the quest for women's rights, the Civil War, and the words and deeds of such African American civil rights leaders as Frederick Douglass and the Rev. Martin Luther King. These, too, are touchstones of the American Revolution as it echoes across time into today's national parks, national historic sites, and classrooms.

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Minute Man Statue
MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

INTRODUCTION

People, Places, and Events

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,

Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;

Here once the embattled farmers stood;

And fired the shot heard round the world.

The American Revolution began with ideas, thoughts shaped in the hearts and minds of patriot colonists. But when the American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote the opening stanza of the “Concord Hymn,” he chose to describe that tangible moment in time when musket fire shattered the Massachusetts springtime. He focused attention on the startling, on the “shot heard round the world.” He used his art to immortalize that world-changing event when patriot ideals, molded by years of debate and deliberation, morphed into battle. No longer an intellectual fight with words, this was now a physical war waged with powder and ball. Eight years of warfare, in fact, followed the spark that ignited gunpowder on that April day, forcing the philosophical issue. Once the rift occurred, what other events, at how many other places would occur before an inventive people forged a new nation, or a chastened, baker’s dozen colonies, emerged from the strife?

A resident of Concord, Emerson knew what had happened. His poetic tribute, written in 1837 to celebrate the completion of a monument commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord, was likely influenced by his physical proximity to the place where this watershed battle occurred. His poetry illustrates what he sensed and we know—historic sites, like those included in Minute Man National Historical Park, move us because they “witnessed” history.

Many of the places where significant events happened, including over 30 sites associated with the American Revolution, are preserved and managed by the U. S. National Park Service (NPS). They speak to visitors in real and vivid ways, inviting us to walk the grounds, and often to experience the sights, sounds, smells, and perspectives of those who lived in other times. And those same people from long ago—those who are well remembered as well as those who remain unknown—become more alive during a visit to the places where they lived, died, worked, and played. Historic sites provide opportunities for heightened understanding of the past and new levels of insight into the present and future. The NPS is dedicated to preserving these national historic sites—their landscapes

and structures as well as their treasured artifacts, documents, and art—and to helping them to tell their stories.

The National Park Service Teacher’s Guide to the American Revolution brings the rich resources of the National Park Service’s Revolutionary sites into the classroom.

Although written for a middle school audience, the activities are easily adapted for lower and higher grades. By examining and interpreting primary source documents and artifacts, students will explore the many ways that people, places, and events are interrelated, and how they can enrich the study of our nation’s history.

Lessons focus on the ideals upon which the American Revolution rested as well as the social and economic conditions that fostered discontent and ultimately the emergence of a new nation based on principles that continue to influence national and international history. The guide contains five lessons: Lesson 1 introduces the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. Lessons 2 through 5 explore the ideals of the revolutionary generation as demonstrated by individuals and their actions, both at the time of the war and later. Lesson sub-themes include remembrance and commemoration; leadership and taking a stand; and legacies. Together, the activities

sharpen student skills in reading, writing, reasoning, interpreting, critical thinking, oral communication, and visual arts. Each lesson includes background information for teachers, activities based on specific documents and artifacts, student worksheets, *Tying it Together*, vocabulary, and sources.

GOALS OF THE HONORED PLACES TEACHER’S GUIDE

This guide aims to:

- Convey the complexity, contingency, uncertainty, and changing nature of the Revolutionary period—the outcome of the Revolution was by no means inevitable.
- Encourage personal (intellectual and emotional) connections that highlight the meanings and relevance of the American Revolution—to reach beyond merely describing differences in lifestyle and show relevance to today’s issues. For example, to explain what 18th-century politics and the Continental Army have in common with politics and the army today, not describe how weaponry is different.
- Illustrate the context of and connections among American Revolution-related sites, stories, and themes. Explore the consequences of the Revolution.
- Encourage multiple points of view by exploring the range of positions. Examine the complexities of an issue’s “gray areas” by going beyond simple presentation of opposite positions or “representative” views of a particular demographic group at a single point in time.
- Be inclusive in scope and broad in context reflecting the diversity of the participants and interpretations of the American Revolution. Incorporate rather than separate social and societal influences, stories of women, African Americans, children, and others.
- Promote historical literacy and critical thinking skills by examining how history is constructed, the limitations and biases of the historical record, the reliability of sources and authenticity of resources, the need to make inferences and judgments, and the evolving nature of historical interpretation.