Revolutionary Activity Guide

Discover Revolutionary New Jersey

www.revolutionarynj.org
New Jersey was an important place during the American Revolution. Located between the rebel capital in Philadelphia and the British army headquarters in New York, the colony of New Jersey became a crossroads for soldiers and patriots. Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area was created to show people today how New Jersey helped in the fight for independence. Almost every part of the state was at some point involved in the American Revolution. In fact, if you live in New Jersey, there are many historic buildings or battlefields nearby that you can visit!

Here are just a few important events that happened in New Jersey during the American Revolution:

* The battles of Trenton and Princeton were George Washington’s first victories!
* The Battle of Monmouth demonstrated that the Continental Army could stand toe-to-toe with the British army as an equal!
* The Continental Army barely made it through the winter of 1779 at Morristown. Low on supplies, soldiers survived in small huts buried under 12-foot-tall snow drifts!
Directions: Pick out the two Patriot squirrels that are the same.
Did you know that squirrels were a popular pet during the 1700s?

Answer: 2 and 3
George Washington – Secret Agent

During the height of the Revolutionary War, information on the enemies’ actions was at a premium. With this in mind, George Washington organized a new unit, known as the Culper Ring, in order to spy on the British Army. Using a special code, Washington and members of the Culper Ring, were able to transcribe and decipher hidden messages without the British ever knowing. Using the letters and numbers below, see if you can decipher the hidden message!

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

A – 1, 27, 53
B – 2, 28, 54
C – 3, 29, 55
D – 4, 30, 56
E – 5, 31, 57
F – 6, 32, 58
G – 7, 33, 59
H – 8, 34, 60
I – 9, 35, 61
J – 10, 36, 62
K – 11, 37, 63
L – 12, 38, 64
M – 13, 39, 65
N – 14, 40, 66
O – 15, 41, 67
P – 16, 42, 68
Q – 17, 43, 69
R – 18, 44, 70
S – 19, 45, 71
T – 20, 46, 72
U – 21, 47, 73
V – 22, 48, 74
W – 23, 49, 75
X – 24, 50, 76
Y – 25, 51, 77
Z – 26, 52, 78
1 – a
2 – b
3 – c
4 – d
5 – e

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Did You Know?

John Honeyman was a resident of New Jersey working as a farmer, butcher, and weaver, but he may or may not have also secretly been a spy for George Washington. Though there is no concrete evidence of his involvement, Honeyman is thought to have been crucial to George Washington’s Army during the Battle of Trenton!
William Franklin: A Loyal Loyalist

Directions: Fill in the blanks to create a twist on the life of William Franklin!

William Franklin was __________ in 1731. His father was Benjamin Franklin, whom he assisted with a (adjective) number of _________ and _________ . After becoming a _________ in the military, William pursued (noun) (noun) (noun) a law career in which he worked with his father. Eventually, the King of _________ appointed him (verb) Royal Governor of New Jersey. William’s relationship with his father _________ due to his loyalty to (past tense verb) Britain. In 1776, William was arrested and _________ for two years before being released and moving (past tense verb) to the _________ held New York City. In 1782, William _________ to England where he later married (adjective) (verb) Mary Johnson d'Evelin. Though he never reconciled with his _________ , they met one time in 1785 (noun) when his father stopped in Britain during a _________ to France. (noun)

Did you know?
Popular pets of the 1700's included deer and squirrels!
General Washington

Complete the math problems and color in the squares using the color key.

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**Color Key:**

1. Grey
2. Tan
3. Black
4. White
5. Green
6. Brown
7. Blue

**Did You Know?** George Washington had two horses during the Revolutionary War named Nelson and Blueskin.
Create Your Own Writing Quill

Directions:
Color the quills, then carefully cut them out. Tape or glue the quills together over a pen or pencil to create your very own 1700's writing quill.
A Famous Painting: More than Meets the Eye?

Did you know that the famous painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware to Trenton on Christmas night in 1776 contains many hidden meanings and symbolisms?

Created by German artist Emanuel Leutze nearly 70 years after the event took place, this painting was originally intended to inspire German reformers in Germany. Its popularity led it overseas to the United States in 1851.

The details of the boat symbolize a number of characteristics. For one, the boat is much smaller than real Durham boats, which was meant to emphasize the soldiers. Also, the boat in the painting was meant to display unity among the soldiers towards the goal of liberty.

Notice the diversity among the twelve figures in the main boat. It is thought that these figures represent different regions and cultures at the time.

In the painting below, see if you can uncover any hidden meanings in the painting, from the artist’s use of color, to the weather, to the shapes of the objects!
A Musical Revolution

During the American Revolution, armies needed a way to communicate, as cell phones hadn’t been invented yet! To combat this, soldiers would play the high-pitched fife and low-pitched drum instruments as a means of delivering orders. Most musicians were people either younger than 16 years old or older than 50 years old, and, in addition to delivering military commands, would play music for daily routines, marching, and ceremonies. As you can see, revolutionary Americans were quite the musicians!

Follow the directions below to create your own drum!

Step 1
Cover a small container, such as a coffee can, with construction paper. You can add additional details however you like!

Step 2
Remove the lid and replace with a piece of plastic or fabric, tying the material with a rubber band or string.

Step 3
Play your new drum with pencils, spoons, or your hands!
Privateering the High Seas

Connect-the-Dots

During the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the Americans were outmatched on the high seas. As a result, they hired pirates, known as Privateers, in order to attack British shipping vessels for financial gain. Unlike pirates however, Privateers were required to carry a “Letter of Marque” and a “Letter of Reprisal,” in order continue their legal “piracy.”

Connect the numbered dots below to reveal the Privateer’s preferred method of transportation!
Want to learn more about Revolutionary New Jersey?

Visit our website:
www.revolutionarynj.org

Crossroads of the American Revolution was established by congress in 2006 and encompasses 2,155 square miles in New Jersey, 212 municipalities in 14 counties. It was established to promote a greater understanding of Revolutionary Era historical sites and landmarks in New Jersey. Crossroads depends on partnerships with individuals, businesses, civic groups, and foundations, as together we protect, preserve, and enjoy New Jersey’s precious historic legacy.

www.revolutionarynj.org 101 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08608 609.292.2060

*Activity Guide created by Cody Knowles for Crossroads of the American Revolution