

Road to Yorktown –

Teacher's Guide for COBBLESTONE[®] Road to Yorktown

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Objectives:

- Students will gain an understanding the importance of the Battle of Yorktown in American history.
- Students will fully understand the strategic planning needed in warfare.

Introduction:

- Prior Knowledge: Prepare a KWL Chart that will be completed as they read this magazine (What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned).
- Map Skills: Provide a map of the United States in 1780 to identify where Yorktown was located.

“Washington Makes his Move.” Pages 2-3

Read the article aloud with the students.

Discussion question:

- During the first six years of the war, where did the majority of the fighting take place?

Written Assignment:

- Have students briefly, outline why Cornwallis’s plan to stay at Yorktown led to trapping the British at Yorktown.

“How Did They Stack UP?” Page 3

Read over the chart comparison of George Washington and Charles Cornwallis. On the board write the following question. Have students write their answers and discuss the answers.

1. Examine the chart on George Washington and Charles Cornwallis. Do you feel that George Washington’s characteristics may have aided in America’s victory? Why or why not?

“Partisans Spring into Action.” Pages 8-11

Knowledge Questions:

1. What is a partisan?
2. Why did the British plan to rely on homegrown military men backfire?
3. What is guerrilla warfare?
4. Briefly, explain the importance of Marion, Sumter, and Pickens.

Research Question:

- Jigsaw: Divide the class into 3 groups. Assign one of the three (Marion, Sumner, Pickens, Washington and Cornwallis to each group. After reading the information about their person and further research each group will explain that person's contributions and a bibliography of their life to the rest of the class.

“France America’s Foreign Friend.” Pages 12-16

Ideas for discussion or written assignment:

1. What necessities did France provide America with?
2. Why did many European military officers travel to America?
3. What event from the past encouraged France to help America?
4. What was sent to aide the Americans in July 1780?
5. Briefly, explain how France helped with the success at Yorktown.

“Under Siege.” Pages 18-20

Ideas for discussion and/or written assignment:

1. What are earthworks?
2. Why did the earthworks at Yorktown make the American attack more difficult?
3. What measures had Cornwallis taken to prevent a surprise attack?
4. Why did Cornwallis sink frigates along Yorktown’s waterfront?
5. Explain how the French and Americans would besiege the British?
6. Beginning on September 28, 1781 and ending with October 19, 1781, create a timeline of events at the Battle of Yorktown.

“Geographically Speaking: The Armies Clash.” Page 22

Map Skills:

- Examine the map and discuss the various areas that each army was located at. Discuss why this may have happened.

“World Turned Upside Down.” Pages 26-28

Discussion question:

- Why did Cornwallis surrender?

Point of view:

- Write a journal entry from Cornwallis about his feelings after his surrender.

Content questions:

1. Explain why the date October 17, 1777 significant.
2. Why did Washington grant Cornwallis a two hour cease-fire?

Creative Writing:

- Write a newspaper article outlining the final battle.

“Peace at Last.” Pages 32-33

Discussion and/or written assignments

1. The American Revolution did not end at the siege at Yorktown. Explain why British forces remained.
2. List factors that eventually led the British to want peace.
3. Why did the Americans agree to negotiate a peace settlement without France?

Point of View:

- Put yourself in the shoes of the French. Explain your feelings after finding out that the Americans had negotiated a peace settlement without you.

“The Past is Present: Yorktown Yesterday and Today.” Pages 36-38

Research and Visual Art:

Research and draw a color picture of one of the following buildings that still remain at Yorktown today:

- Thomas Nelson, Jr., House
- Cole Diggs House
- Augustine Moore House
- Custom House

“Going Global: Last Man Standing.” Pages 40-41

Research and Presentation:

Put the students into small groups and have them examine the information regarding conflicts that France, Spain and Great Britain faced before and after the American Revolution. Each group should choose one country and prepare a presentation including visual aides to explain the various conflicts.