

# Subject Guides

## American Revolution

Greenwood Public Library



This pathfinder is designed to help you locate all kinds of information on the American Revolution. It focuses on materials relevant for students grades K-12; these materials include [online searches](#), [print materials](#), [multimedia items](#), [websites](#), and [teacher resources/activities](#).

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, thirteen of the British Colonies in North America rejected the governance of the English monarchy and parliament. The result was the American Revolution that began with the Battle of Bunker Hill and ended at the Siege of Yorktown, the last major campaign of the war.

The print materials and multimedia materials were located using the Greenwood Public Library Evergreen search website, and they may all be located at Greenwood Public Library. The electronic materials were located through Google searches and other online databases.

### Keywords & Searching Tips

When searching for information through an electronic database or Internet search engine, you may find more or stronger resources by using the following tips:

When looking for a particular phrase, such as *American Revolution*, surround the phrase with quotation marks (“American Revolution”). This ensures that your results will include this entire phrase, rather than just “American” or “Revolution.”

If you do not want something in your results, put a minus sign (-) in front of it. For example, if I do not want information regarding *George Washington* in my American Revolution search, I could type: “American Revolution”- George Washington.

If you want to search for more than one phrase at the same time, use the word “OR” between the phrases. For example, if I searched “American Revolution” OR “Paul Revere,” I can locate materials that use either of these phrases.

You can narrow down your search even further by using the word “AND.” If I want to research the siege Yorktown during the American Revolution, I can search “American Revolution” AND “Yorktown” to get more appropriate results.

Try using the following search terms to locate various materials regarding the American Revolution.

- American Revolution
- Revolutionary War
- George Washington
- United States - History - Revolution - 1775-1783
- Constitutional History - United States
- Declaration of Independence
- War of American Independence
- Continental Army
- Patriots
- Sons of Liberty
- Paul Revere

- The Liberty Bell
- Loyalists
- Patrick Henry
- John Hancock
- Boston Tea Party
- Benedict Arnold
- King George III
- Benjamin Franklin
- The Boston Tea Party
- Thomas Jefferson
- Philadelphia
- Continental Congress
- John Paul Jones
- Yorktown
- Fort Henry
- Camden
- Cowpens
- The Stamp Act
- Boston Massacre
- Marquis de Lafayette

If looking for information on a particular battle during the American Revolution, use the search terms above and the name of the battle (for example: “American Revolution” AND “Yorktown”)

If looking for information on a particular person important during the period, type their last name, first name. For example, “Washington, George.”

## Multimedia

The following multimedia items contain both educational and recreational materials regarding the American government.

[Schoolhouserock.tv](#) This website includes the lyrics [Fireworks](#), [No More Kings](#), [Shot Heard ‘Round the World](#), and [Preamble](#). Each site also includes a link to watch the video of each song.

[America Rock](#) A series of fast-acting musical vignettes teach American history and government in a fun and easy way.

[The Crossing](#) It is Dec. 17, 1776. Hounded by superior British forces, his army decimated by disease, desertion and lack of funds, General George Washington faces the unthinkable: he is losing the war for American Independence. A week later, on Christmas Eve, Washington will make one of the most courageous decisions in military history. Staking everything on a risky surprise attack against a garrison of battle-hardened Hessian mercenaries, Washington sets out across the ice-choked Delaware River.

[The Patriot](#) When the British arrive at his South Carolina home, French and Indian War hero Benjamin Martin takes up arms again to protect his family after swearing off violence and fighting.

[Johnny Tremain](#) Johnny Tremain is drawn into the Revolutionary War and becomes a patriot, fighting to free the colonies from England. Along the way he learns about life and about himself.

[The Revolutionary War Volume 1 - Birth of a Nation](#) In Rebels and Redcoats, American farmers from a Massachusetts village defy the greatest power in the world, and, in Independence, an unseasoned general named George Washington takes command. Thomas Jefferson pens his irreversible Declaration, but as Washington loses one battle after another, the cause seems lost.

[The Winter of Red Snow](#) When General George Washington's troops first set up camp near Abigail Stewart's home; Abby believes war is exciting and glamorous. But during the long winter Abby sees for herself the hardships of war, as soldiers are starving, wounded, or dying. Abby must summon a newfound strength to help the soldiers and their loved ones carry on.

[The American Revolution](#) Using re-enactments, period art and artifacts and journal entries, documents the American struggle to form a new nation. This episode examines the important events of 1776.

## Fiction/Nonfiction Books

### Nonfiction : Grades K-5

[Benedict Arnold](#) by Susan R. Gregson Follows the rise and fall of Benedict Arnold, America's most famous traitor, tracing his life from his wealthy, upper-class childhood to his betrayal of the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Explains Arnold's legacy in modern society. (JUV BIO ARN)

[Food and Recipes of the Revolutionary War](#) by George Erdosh Describes the kinds of foods commonly consumed by colonists, including soldiers, during the time of the American Revolutionary War. Includes recipes. (J 641.597 ERD)

[Yankee Doodle: a song from the American Revolution](#) edited by Ann Owen Provides a complete version of the song as well as its historical context and significance. Includes directions for making a Yankee Doodle hat. (Request through Evergreen)

[What People Wore During the American Revolution](#) by Allison Stark Draper This book describes what people wore in the days of the American Revolution, discussing the uniforms of both American and British soldiers, the simple clothes of the Americans, and the fabrics that were first manufactured in America. (J 391 DRA)

[The American Revolution](#) by Deborah DeFord (J 973.3 DEF)

[Tories and Patriots: Neighbors at War](#) by Jeremy Thornton Describes the American revolution and gives brief biographical sketches of important leaders of the time. (J 973.3 THO)

[Women Soldiers, Spies, and Patriots in the American Revolution](#) by Martha Kneib Biography of eight women who played a role during the American Revolution, including Deborah Samson, Nancy Morgan Hart, Lydia Darragh , Mercy Otis Warren, Esther DeBerdt Reed, Elizabeth Martin, Sybil Ludington, and Margaret Corbin. (J 973.3092 KNE)

[The American Revolution](#) by Lisa Frederiksen Bohannon Chronicles the American Revolution, including the causes, strategies, and characters of the war, both famous and lesser-known. (Request through Evergreen)

*Patriots in Petticoats: Heroines of the American Revolution* by Shirley Raye Redmond Profiles girls and women who participated in the American Revolution by refusing to buy British merchandise, collecting money, and even going to war as wives, nurses, spies, or soldiers. (J 973.3082 RED)

*George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides* by Rosalyn Schanzer Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution. (J 973.3 SCH)

*The Boston Tea Party in American History* by Mary E. Hull Presents the people and events connected with the dynamic episode called the Boston Tea Party, which helped to spawn the American Revolution. (J 973.3 HUL)

*Yorktown* by Michael Weber Focuses on the last major battle of the American Revolution, after which the British forces under General Cornwallis surrendered to the Americans in October 1781. (J 973.3 WEB)

*The Revolutionary John Adams* by Cheryl Harness A biography of John Adams with emphasis on his role in the American Revolution. (J 973.3092 HAR)

*The Story of the Boston Tea Party* by R. Conrad Stein Recounts the events leading up to the colonists' defiant act against the British known as the Boston Tea Party, which ultimately climaxed in the American Revolution. (Request through Evergreen)

*Black Heroes of the American Revolution* by Burke Davis An account of the black soldiers, sailors, spies, scouts, guides, and wagoners who participated and sacrificed in the struggle for American independence. (J 973.3 DAV)

## Fiction : Grades K-5

*Lizzie and the Redcoat: Stirrings of Revolution in the American Colonies* by Susan Martins Miller Twelve-year-old Lizzie Murray risks her life to help a British soldier who was wounded by a mob in the days leading up to the American Revolution. (J FIC MILL)

*Love Thy Neighbor: The Tory Diary of Prudence Emerson* In Green Marsh, Massachusetts, in 1774, thirteen-year-old Prudence keeps a diary of the troubles she and her family face as Tories surrounded by American patriots at the start of the American Revolution. (J FIC DEAR)

*Five Smooth Stones* by Kristiana Gregory In her diary, a young girl writes about her life and the events surrounding the beginning of the American Revolution in Philadelphia in 1776. (J FIC MYAM)

*Revolutionary War on Wednesday* by Mary Pope Osborne Using their magic tree house, Jack and Annie travel back to the time of the American Revolution and help General George Washington

during his famous crossing of the Delaware River.  
(J ECB OSB)

**Samuel's Choice** by Richard Berleth Samuel, a fourteen-year-old slave in Brooklyn in 1776, faces a difficult choice when the fighting between the British and the colonists reaches his doorstep and only he can help the rebels. (J FIC BER)

**Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.  
(J FIC AND)

**Sarah Bishop** by Scott O'Dell Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness. (J FIC ODE)

**Peril at King's Creek** by Elizabeth McDavid Jones In 1776, Penny is concerned that the British Army will steal her horse and burn her family's plantation. (J FIC AMER)

**Emma's Journal: The Story of a Colonial Girl** by Marissa Moss From 1774 to 1776, Emma describes in her journal her stay in Boston, where she witnesses the British blockade and spies for the American militia. Features hand-printed text, drawings, and marginal notes. (J FIC MOS)

## NonFiction : Grades 6-12

**Choosing Sides on the Frontier in the American Revolution** by Walter S. Dunn Jr.  
(ADU 977.01 DUN)

**A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution** by Theodore P. Savas (ADU 973.33 SAV)

**1776** by David McCullough Draws on personal correspondence and period diaries to present a history of the American Revolution that ranges from the siege of Boston, to the American defeat at Brooklyn and retreat across New Jersey, to the American victory at Trenton. (ADU 973.3 MCC)

**Revolutionary War** by Benton Minks A narrative account of the American Revolution, covering the origins of disputes with Britain, profiles of the key figures, and descriptions of major battles. (ADU 973.3 MIN)

**The American Revolution** by Kirk D. Werner (ADU 973.3 AME)

**American Revolution in the West** by George M. Waller Fresh examination of a neglected area of the Revolutionary War, recounting how the War for Independence was fought on the western frontier from the Appalachians to the Mississippi.  
(ADU 973.3 WAL)

**Uniforms of the American Revolution in Color** by John Mollo (ADU 355.14 MOL)

[The Pictorial History of the American Revolution as told by eyewitnesses and participants](#) by Kay Smith (ADU 973.3 FUR)

[The History of Weapons of the American Revolution](#) by George C. Neumann (ADU 623.4 NEU)

[The Great Separation: the story of the Boston Tea Party and the beginning of the American Revolution](#) by Donald Barr Chidsey (Request through Evergreen)

[Revolutionary Medicine, 1700-1800](#) by C. Keith Wilbur (Request through Evergreen)

[The Revolutionary Soldier, 1775-1783](#) by C. Keith Wilbur (Request through Evergreen)

[Pirates and Patriots of the Revolution](#) by C. Keith Wilbur (ADU 973.35 WIL)

[The Boston Massacre](#) by Bonnie L. Lukes Historical examination of the aftermath, including the trials, of the Boston Massacre of 1770. (ADU 973.3 LUK)

## Fiction : Grades 6-12

[The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: The Pox Party](#) by M.T. Anderson Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. (YA AND)

[The Secret of Sarah Revere](#) by Ann Rinaldi Paul Revere's daughter describes her father's "rides" and the intelligence network of the patriot community prior to the American Revolution. (YA RIN)

[Finishing Becca: a story about Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold](#) by Ann Rinaldi In 1778 fourteen-year-old Becca takes a position as personal maid to Peggy Shippen, the daughter of wealthy Philadelphia Quakers, and witnesses the events that lead to General Benedict Arnold's betrayal of the revolutionary American forces. (YA RIN)

[Or Give Me Death: A Novel of Patrick Henry's Family](#) by Ann Rinaldi With their father away most of the time advocating independence for the American colonies, the children of Patrick Henry try to raise themselves, manage the family plantation, and care for their mentally ill mother. (YA RIN)

# Teacher Resources

## All Ages

[People of the American Revolution Word Search](#)

[Spy Letters of the American Revolution](#)

[American Revolution Crossword Puzzle](#)

[Revolutionary War Coloring Pages](#)

[The American Revolution for Kids: a history with 21 activities by Janis Herbert](#) Discusses the events of the American Revolution, from the hated Stamp Act and the Boston Tea Party to the British surrender at Yorktown and the writing of the Constitution. Activities include making a tricorne hat and discovering local history.

## K-5 Activities

[Early American Leaders](#) Students will demonstrate a leaders certain traits, qualities or characteristics and identify leaders that exist in America today and existed in early American history as well.

[Ben Franklin Timeline](#) Students will the contributions of individuals from various backgrounds who have influenced the history of the United States.

[Who Was George Washington?](#) Students will recognize George Washington as a leader and first president of the United States and some of the many ways we remember and honor him.

[Yankee Doodle Dandy](#) Students will recognize some patriotic music form the time of George Washington and the traditions of parades as a way of celebrating.

[The Beginnings of the Revolutionary War](#) Students will study literature about the Revolutionary War era, list some of the reasons why our country wanted its independence from Great Britain, and discuss the reasons for rules and laws and why we need them.

[There Are Symbols that Represent Our Country](#) Students will be able to understand the meaning of the American flag, the liberty bell, and the eagle as symbols of the Untied States.

## 6-12 Activities

[American Revolution: Causes](#) Students will understand how taxation of the American colonists by the British led to the revolution. Students will study how all eras have protest poetry and songs.

[American Revolution: Moving West and South](#) Understands how political, ideological, and religious ideas joined economic interests to bring about the "shot heard round the world" (e.g., leaders of resistance to imperial policy; the English tax on the colonists to help pay for the Seven Years War; the interests and positions of different economic groups, such as northern merchants, southern rice and tobacco planters, yeoman farmers, and urban artisans).

[American Revolution: From Saratoga to Valley Forge](#) Students will learn how the conditions under which the American Revolution was fought during the period 1777 until July 1778 were indeed harsh.

[American Revolution: The Declaration and Beyond](#) Students will learn and understand how as the American Revolution approached, writers created highly persuasive documents calling for separation from England.

[American Revolution: Victory](#) The lesson discusses the difference between loyalty and treason, and students learn how the United States began to recognize the wounded as deserving of commendation toward the end of the American Revolution.

[Ben Franklin](#) Students will learn how Benjamin Franklin is known, among other things, for his wit and wisdom.

[Thomas Jefferson](#) Students will learn how Thomas Jefferson was accomplished in many spheres of human activity.

[American Beginnings](#) Students will discuss how historians learn about the past, analyze political cartoons from the Revolutionary period, and write a paragraph summarizing what each cartoon means.

[Road to Revolution](#) Discuss some of the different viewpoints of the British and the colonists at the time of the American Revolution. Describe different events and sentiments of the revolution as expressed in quotations from the period. Read three primary sources and rewrite one in their own voice, including the main ideas and sentiment of the original writer.

[The Declaration of Independence: From Rough Draft to Proclamation](#) This lesson focuses on the drafting of the Declaration of Independence in June of 1776 in Philadelphia. Students will analyze an unidentified historical document and draw conclusions about what this document was for, who created it, and why. After the document is identified as Thomas Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence, students will compare its text to that of the final document adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776 and discuss the significance of differences in wording.

[The Reluctant Revolutionaries](#) Examine why colonists, many of whom felt strong loyalties to the British Empire, decided to abandon their mother country and join the Revolution.

[The Continental Army and Washington](#) Understand the American soldiers' experiences at Valley



Forge, the Battle of Trenton, and other battles, and describe the significance and impact of Washington's leadership skills.

## Websites

### Databases

A database is a collection of related electronic records in a standardized format, searchable in a variety of ways, such as title, author, subject, and keyword. Common examples of databases are the library catalog and citation indexes. The library subscribes to a variety of websites and also provides access to a state run database known as Inspire. Through each database you can access journal and magazine articles from a variety of sources.

[Inspire](#)

[Student Research Center](#)

### Websites

When searching for information on the Internet, you need to find out where the information is coming from. Anyone can create a website so make sure that the information is referenced or is provided by an educated source. An educated source can be from a university/school, a teacher or usually a site that ends in .edu or .org. Some .com sites have good information just make sure that the person that created the website is qualified. If you are not sure, look for their contact information at the bottom of the website.

**Liberty! - The American Revolution (PBS)** (<http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/>) LIBERTY! Online is the official online companion to the PBS series LIBERTY! The American Revolution. It features a wealth of interactive information on the Revolutionary War.

#### **Kid Info: Your Guide to the American Revolution**

([http://www.kidinfo.com/American\\_History/American\\_Revolution.html](http://www.kidinfo.com/American_History/American_Revolution.html)) Student, teacher, and parent reference resources on the Revolutionary War.

**The American Revolution** (<http://www.nps.gov/revwar/>) This is the official National Park Service American Revolution Web Site. Explore this truly revolutionary period that resulted in a new nation and new form of government. The events of 1775 through 1787 changed the course of history. The effects of the Revolution are still felt today around the world. Tour the places and view the objects that bring this history alive.

**Yorktown Victory Center** (<http://www.historyisfun.org/Yorktown-Victory-Center.htm>) Today the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution, chronicles America's evolution from colonial status to nationhood through a unique blend of timeline, film, thematic exhibits and outdoor living history.

## Mount Vernon

(<http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/index.cfm//cfid/30116641/cftoken/57963536>) Information on George Washington and his Virginia estate.

## The Declaration of Independence: Rewriting the rough draft

(<http://myloc.gov/Education/Pages/onlineActivities/Declaration/default.html>) Thomas Jefferson created a “Rough Draught” of the Declaration of Independence and gave it to other people to edit. Take a look at some of their suggestions and create a new draft of your own.

## American Memory Timeline: The American Revolution

(<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/amrev.html>) This resource was developed to help teachers and students use the vast online collections of the Library of Congress. The links to the right will lead you to sets of selected primary sources on a variety of topics in United States History. The sets are arranged by chronological period.

## Revolutionary War: Our America

([http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/our\\_america/revolutionary\\_war/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/our_america/revolutionary_war/)) A scholastic website that provides primary sources and activities on the American Revolution.

**The Revolutionary War** (<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/module1/index.html>) The modules cover more than twenty topics that correspond to the major periods in American history and take into consideration the history standards, both required and advanced, to which high school students are held.