



Teacher's Guide

New York & the Revolutionary War **Drive Thru History/American History**

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

In his tribute to Revolutionary War sites in New York City, Dave also pays tribute to contemporary New York, the eastern terminus of the Lincoln Highway in New York City, and the New York tradition of Lombardi's pizza. Beginning at the Shrine to Liberty on Long Island, Dave recalls how their overnight retreat and the dense fog that descended saved Washington's troops. Dave explains that prisoners of war were kept in horrible conditions on ships in the Hudson River and that 20,000 of the 30,000 Hessian troops hired to supplement the British army died from unsanitary conditions, rather than battle wounds. The defeat at Fort Washington is followed by the Battle of Harlem Heights that renews the faith of Americans that they can win the war against the British.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Describe how Washington's leadership saved his troops during the Battle on Long Island
- Understand that the German mercenaries assigned to the British were conscripted soldiers, many of whom died in America
- Describe conditions on prison ships and in Hessian huts
- Explain why Fort Washington and Fort Lee were key positions in the Revolutionary War
- Understand that the spirit of American troops was revived as a result of The Battle of Harlem Heights

Vocabulary:

mercenaries, Hessians, portico, crypt

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

If you could visit New York City, what tourist spots would you visit?

What historical sites in New York City would you also visit?

Which historical sites in New York City and Long Island are associated with George Washington and the Revolutionary War?

Name the other generals who were involved with battles that took place in New York City and Long Island.

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What does the Shrine to Liberty, located on Long Island, commemorate? How did Washington save the lives of many Americans who took part in this battle?

How were German mercenaries procured to augment the British troops? What eventually happened to these soldiers?

What were conditions like in the Hessian huts and on prison ships? Why did so many soldiers die in these places?

After the defeat at Fort Washington, what battle renewed the spirits of Washington's soldiers? Were the Americans overwhelmingly successful in this battle?

Further Activities:

Find other examples of epithets on shrines, statues, and gravestones that attest to the spirit of Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Review the progress of troop movement at the Battle on Long Island or the defeat at Fort Washington.

Further investigate the history and biographies of German mercenaries sent to augment the British army during the Revolutionary War.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

George Washington

Colonial Life series

The Making of the America's Presidency