



Teacher's Guide

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

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

Standing on the banks of the Delaware near Philadelphia, Dave recalls the victory at Trenton, New Jersey when the Continental Army crossed the Delaware and overcame the Hessian troops under the command of Colonel Rall. At Monmouth Battlefield State Park Dave introduces the "first Pentagon", a dining room at Ford House that served as meeting place for the leaders of the Continental Army in the two winters that Washington and his troops prepared for the final battles of the Revolutionary War.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why the Battle of Trenton was a turning point in the Revolutionary War
- Describe the qualities that made George Washington an inspirational military leader
- Appreciate the hardships endured by the Continental Army as they prepared for the final battles of the Revolutionary War
- Appreciate the spirit of revolution that motivated Americans to take up arms against their oppressors

Vocabulary:

Hessians, earthworks, Battle of Trenton, Battle of Princeton, George Washington

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What is the meaning of the phrase, "crossing the Rubicon"? What famous military leader crossed the Rubicon?

Where did George Washington meet his Rubicon? Where did he cross the Delaware River to confront Hessian troops?

What epithet is written on the American quarter commemorating a renowned historic event in the history of New Jersey?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

This episode tells of several decisions General Washington made that were key to the Continental army's ultimate success in the Revolutionary War. What were these decisions? Which decision did you find most illuminating of Washington's character and/or his military genius?

What were conditions like in the two winters that Washington and his troops spent at Morristown?

What evidence is there that women were equally inspired with the revolutionary spirit? Do you think that the revolutionary spirit still exists in America today? What examples come to mind?

Further Activities:

Further investigate the lives of women of all social classes who lived during the Revolutionary War.

Report on the logistics involved in getting the Continental Army across the Delaware to Trenton, New Jersey.

Research the biography of the Revolutionary War general or colonel who interests you the most. Discover the personal qualities that made this person an outstanding or not so outstanding military leader.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

George Washington
Colonial Life Series