

Lesson Plan

A Day in the Life of a Revolutionary Soldier

Objective: To assist students in their understanding of the conditions under which Revolutionary War soldiers, both Continental and British, lived, fought and died.

Opening statement/Question: What motivates a soldier to fight?

- Together let's list a few reasons why an American colonist would fight in the Revolutionary War.
- To compare and contrast: Why would a British or Hessian soldier fight in the same conflict against the Americans?
- Of these three, who do you think has the greatest motivation? Why?

Procedure:

1. Have students do a quick Think- Pair -Share. Ask them to consider and **THINK** about:

What do they already know about the life of British and Continental soldiers during the American Revolution?

PAIR up with a classmate and share your answers.

SHARE your responses with the rest of the class
2. Prepare a T chart on the board and have students fill in their ideas
3. Based on your experiences as a Soldier for a Day - address their responses by adding to their previous knowledge. At the same time, to add to their knowledge. Pass on specific information you learned from your day in uniform.
4. If your students were also present at the re-enactment, review the answers on their worksheets. Ask:
 - What information did you pick up as you watched the battle?
 - Was it what you expected an 18th century battle to look and sound like?
Why or why not?
 - How was camp life different than you had expected?
 - What aspect of the battle, uniforms or camp life surprised you?

5. Describe to the students what your experience was like in camp and on the battlefield.

- How noisy was it?
- Was the battle well organized or did conditions change as the battle progressed? i.e. did you experience the “fog of war” ?
- How heavy was the equipment? (relate this to the numerous deaths of British soldiers who died of heat stroke at the Battle of Monmouth)
- When under fire, was it easy or very difficult to hear the commands? (ask students how this might effect the outcome of a battle plan)
- How was the food prepared? How important then was the job of the camp followers? How many women were in the camps?
- From your experience, how comfortable was camp life for the average soldier?

Closing Statement: What was a stake for soldiers on both sides? In other words, who do you, the students, had the greatest cause to fight for?

- How hard might it have been to remain motivated under these conditions?
- How might this motivation lead to victory or defeat, even against overwhelming odds?

Homework: Look at the regimental histories of the 2nd PA Regiment and that of the 43rd Regiment of Foot. Write a brief history of each regiment and compare their service in the American Revolution.

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Additional Resources: www.243regiment.com