

Social Studies 7: Inquiry Based Lesson

Compelling Question: Should a traitor be erased from history?

Using primary and secondary sources students will participate in a day long activity where they will culminate in making the decision of whether or not Benedict Arnold has earned his place on the Saratoga Monument and if he should be named on the boot monument.

Anticipatory Set (5 minutes)

Begin the class by displaying the two attached websites and reading through them with the class

Visit the attached website to read the background on the famous monument to Arnold's leg:
http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/popup_arnoldsleg.html

Visit the attached website to read the background on the Saratoga Monument:
<http://www.nps.gov/sara/learn/photosmultimedia/saratoga-monument-virtual-tour-part-3.htm>

Print out enough of the images for each student to have one. Pass out the images of the two different monuments.

Stations Activity (35 minutes)

Set up your classroom with five different stations. One will need to have access to electronic equipment able to play a youtube video clip.

Print out enough copies of each of the stations activity information sheets for each student to have one to look at when they are at the station. (Class of 20, 5 stations, 4 copies needed) Label the stations with numbers and put the copies in the middle of the table.

Print out enough of the questions packets for each student to have one.

Set up a timer where students will have roughly 7 minutes at each station. If they aren't quite finished, have them move along anyway.

Read over the directions with your student's and then have them begin working.

Alternative to Stations (35 minutes)

You may find that this activity would work better with all of the students completing it in the same order. If this is the case, you might start with a whole class video clip and then give each group a copy of the Stations sources to work through in chronological order.

Summative Assessment

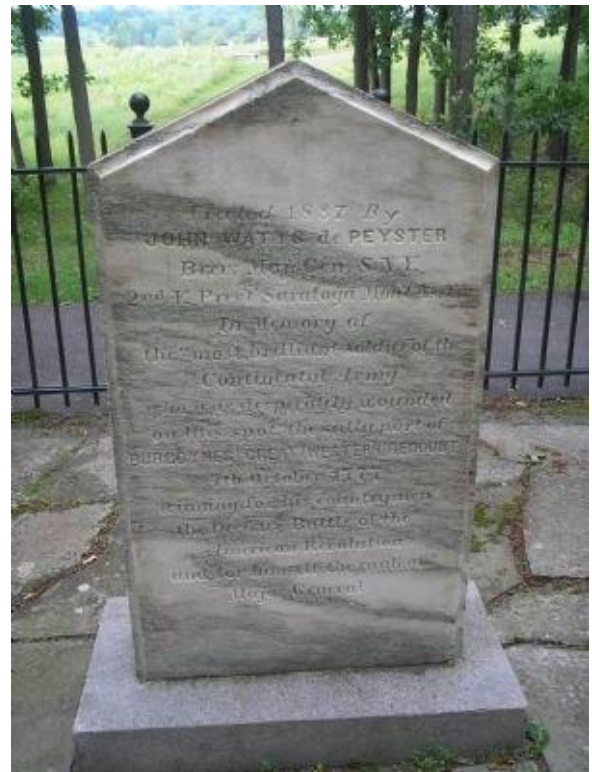
When you are finished with the students working their way through the content have them complete the Summative Assessment as a homework assignment or follow-up activity the following class day. This could also be followed up with an in-class debate, letters written to Saratoga, or a poster campaign.

The Boot Monument



Transcription

Erected 1887 by
John Watts de Peyster
Brev. Maj. Gen. S.N.Y.
2nd V. Pres't Saratoga Mon't Ass't'n
In memory of
the "most brilliant soldier" of the
Continental Army,
who was desperately wounded
on this spot, the sally port of
Burgoyne's "Great (Western) Redoubt"
7th October 1777,
winning for his countrymen
the Decisive Battle of the
American Revolution
and for himself the rank of
Major General



The Saratoga Monument



The empty niche where Arnold's statue was supposed to appear.

Station 2: Timeline of Arnold's Life

Source: http://historyexplorer.si.edu/video/arnold/Time_Trial_of_Benedict_Arnold.pdf

April 1775	Battle of Lexington and Concord, start of the Revolutionary War
May 1775	Arnold participates in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga.
December 1775	Arnold leads an invasion of Quebec, in which one of his legs is severely injured.
October 1776	Arnold slows the British advance at the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain.
August 1777	Arnold and his troops succeed in reversing the British at Fort Stanwix.
October 1777	Arnold leads American troops to victory at the Battle of Saratoga; Arnold again receives a leg wound.
May 1779	Arnold begins providing information to British sources.
August 1780	George Washington orders Arnold to take over command of West Point
September 1780	Arnold's conspiracy is discovered during a review of the fort by General Washington. Arnold's British contact, Major John André, was caught with documents demonstrating the plan and incriminating Arnold. Upon hearing of André's capture, Arnold flees to a British warship, the Vulture, waiting in the Hudson River. André is hanged on October 2. Arnold spends the rest of the war as a brigadier general in the British army.
October 1780	Arnold issues a proclamation urging Americans to side with the British.
January 1781	Arnold leads a British invasion of Virginia, forcing Thomas Jefferson, then governor of Virginia, to flee his home, Monticello.
October 1781	Lord Cornwallis surrenders British troops at Yorktown.
September 1783	Treaty of Paris is signed, formally ending the war.

Station 3: Arnold Background information

Source: Billias, George Athan. "Arnold, Benedict." *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*. Grolier Online, 2015. Web. 30 Sept. 2015.

Benedict Arnold, born Norwich, Conn., Jan. 14, 1741, was an American Revolutionary general and America's most infamous traitor. At the age of 14, Arnold was a druggist's apprentice, but he ran away twice to serve in the colonial militia during the French and Indian War (1754–63). When the American Revolution broke out, Arnold marched his Connecticut militia company to Massachusetts, where he was made a colonel. His force, along with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, captured Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775.

Arnold then led a force of 1,100 men through Maine in the dead of winter to invade Canada. His march remains a military classic. Linking up with another American force under Richard Montgomery, he led an unsuccessful attack on Quebec in December and was wounded. For his courage, he was promoted to brigadier general in January 1776.

Before his defection, Arnold had a brilliant career in the Continental Army. In October 1776 he fought a series of naval battles on Lake Champlain that helped delay a British invasion from Canada. When the British raided Danbury, Conn., in April 1777, Arnold drove them off. He particularly distinguished himself in the Saratoga campaign as second in command to Horatio Gates. During the second battle of Saratoga on Oct. 7, 1777, Arnold led a charge and was again wounded.

Arnold suffered many disappointments that embittered him. When he was promoted to major general in February 1777, others he thought less deserving preceded him in rank. Gates received the credit for the victory at Saratoga. Named (June 1778) commander in Philadelphia, Arnold was accused of overstepping his authority. His second marriage (1779) to Margaret (Peggy) Shippen, the daughter of a Loyalist, also aroused suspicions.

His bitterness, along with a need for money to pay heavy debts, led Arnold to negotiate with the British. He conceived a plan to betray West Point, a post that he commanded. His attempted treachery was revealed when John André, a British major, was captured in September 1780 carrying Arnold's message. Arnold escaped to the enemy lines and was commissioned a brigadier general in the British army. For his property losses, he claimed and was paid about \$10,000. He led two British expeditions, one that burned Richmond, Va., and the other against New London, Conn.

Arnold went to England in 1781 and turned to trade. Worn by depression and suffering from a nervous disease, he died in London on June 14, 1801.

Station 4: Arnold Quotes

Sources: James Kirby Martin Powerpoint presentation at NEH: Landmarks in American History Institute, July 2015

http://www.eastconn.org/tah/1011VV1_BenedictArnoldPrimarySourcesTimeline.pdf

After the Boston Massacre, Arnold responds:

“Good God, are the Americans all asleep and tamely [calmly] giving up their liberties [freedoms]?”

After the Battle of Saratoga, when he is overlooked for promotion Arnold wrote (1777):

“Having... become a cripple in the service of my country, I little expect to meet (such) ungrateful returns.”

After being restored his seniority after this fighting in Danbury, CT, Arnold wrote the following to George Washington on March 12, 1778:

“It is my most ardent wish to render every assistance [help as much as I can] in my power, that your Excellency may be enabled to finish the arduous [hard] task, you have with so much honor to yourself and advantage to your country, been engaged in, and have the pleasure of seeing peace and happiness restored to your country on the most permanent basis.”

After Pennsylvania’s Supreme Executive Council publicly attacked Arnold for financial abuses in his time of leading Philadelphia; Arnold wrote to his wife Peggy Shippen:

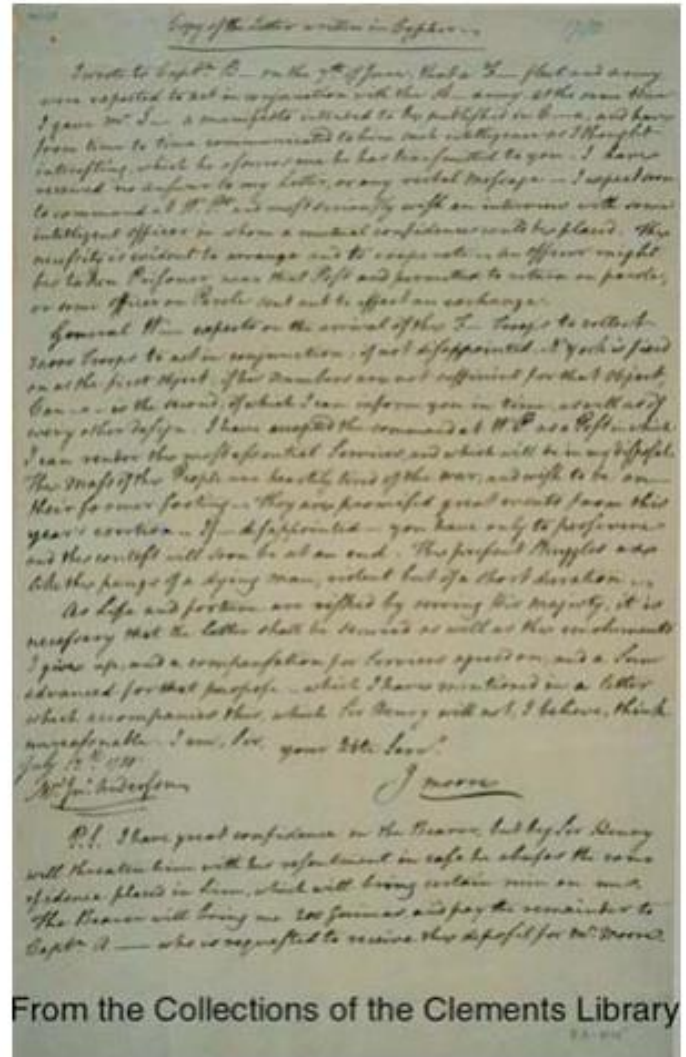
“I am heartily tired with my journey, and almost so with human nature. I daily discover so much baseness [lack of moral character] and ingratitude among mankind that I almost blush at being of the same species.

Source: http://www.eastconn.org/tah/1011VV1_BenedictArnoldPrimarySourcesTimeline.pdf

Excerpted Decoded Letter in Jonathan Odell's hand:

I have accepted the command of W[est]. P[oint]. As a Post in which. I can render the most essential Services, and which will be in my disposal./ The mass of the People are heartily tired of the War, and wish to be on / their former footing – They are promised great events from this / year's exertion – If – disappointed – you have only to persevere / and the contest will soon be at an end. The present Struggles are / like the pangs of a dying man, violent but of a short duration ---

As Life and fortune are risked by serving His Majesty, it is / Necessary that the latter shall be secured as well as the emoluments [fee] / I give up, and a compensation [payment] for Services agreed on and a Sum / advanced for that purpose – which I have mentioned in a letter / which accompanies this, which Sir Henry will not, I believe, think / unreasonable. I am Sir your humble Servant./ July 12, 1780 J. Moore/ Mr. Jn Anderson / P.S. I have great confidence in the Bearer, but beg Sir Henry / will threaten him with his resentment in case he abuses the con- / fidence placed in him, which will bring ruin on me./ The bearer will bring me 200 Guineas, and pay the remainder to / Captain A---- who has requested to receive the deposit for Mr. Moore.



From the Collections of the Clements Library

Name: _____

SS Per #: _____

Your Mission:

The year is 2025, you are a recent college graduate and you have been hired by the National Park Service as a part of a committee to decide what to do about the aging monuments in the Saratoga National Historic Park. There is much debate emerging as to what to do about the unnamed hero of the boot and the missing statue on the monument.

Your task is to travel to the different stations around the classroom to reach your own conclusion about which side to take in this debate. Please make sure you answer all questions in complete sentences.

Tonight's homework is to complete the Summative Assessment at the end.

Station 1: A&E Benedict Arnold (1995)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrWm66ymlVk>

Historical Context: Aired in 1995, this A&E Biography recounts the life of American revolutionary war hero/traitor Benedict Arnold. One of the most ardent and courageous of the field commanders of the war, he gradually became disillusioned with the cause, and plotted to surrender West Point to the British in 1779. This video clip picks up after Arnold and Allen's victory at Ticonderoga and during his attempt to help our nation win control of Canada.

Directions: As you are watching the video clip please answer the questions in complete sentences. They are in order of the video.

1. Describe Arnold's march to Quebec. _____

2. What happened in the Battle of Valcour Island?

3. What does this battle tell us about Arnold's bravery?

4. What happened after the battle that made him upset?

Station 2: Timeline of Arnold's life

Source: http://historyexplorer.si.edu/video/arnold/Time_Trial_of_Benedict_Arnold.pdf

Directions: Examine the timeline at your station and then answer the questions that follow.

1. What events from the timeline show Arnold as a brave soldier/hero? Explain

2. Are there any events that hint as to why Arnold might have been upset with the Continental Congress?

3. How does the end of the timeline differ from the beginning?

Station 3: Arnold Background information

Source: Billias, George Athan. "Arnold, Benedict." *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*. Grolier Online, 2015. Web. 30 Sept. 2015.

Directions: Read the encyclopedia article at your station and then answer the following questions.

1. List four things that Arnold did that were considered brave/heroic:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

2. Describe two things that happened to Arnold that might have made him decide to turn traitor.

Station 4: Arnold Quotes

Sources: James Kirby Martin Powerpoint presentation at NEH: Landmarks in American History Institute, July 2015

http://www.eastconn.org/tah/1011VV1_BenedictArnoldPrimarySourcesTimeline.pdf

Directions: Read through the quotes you have been provided and answer the questions that follow.

1. How do the quotes show a shift in Arnold's feelings?

2. Based on your learning so far, what might have caused this shift?

Station 5: Benedict Arnold to John André (decoded) July 12, 1780

Source: http://www.eastconn.org/tah/1011VV1_BenedictArnoldPrimarySourcesTimeline.pdf

Directions: Read the letter in which Arnold offered up West Point to John Andre and then answer the following questions.

1. In the opening paragraph what does Arnold say about the colonial feelings about the war?
