

Using Art to Learn about History

Fort Ticonderoga has an extensive collection of artworks depicting Fort Ticonderoga's history. Many students walk by these works with little or no notice. These activities encourage students to stop and examine selected works of art on display in the Fort Ticonderoga Museum on the second floor of the South Barracks. Museum Interpreters are happy to help your students and chaperones locate the key paintings used in these activities.

The pictures of the paintings on each sheet are intended as aids to help students to locate the original painting in the Museum and are not of sufficient size or quality for students to be able to answer the questions without looking at the original artwork.



Protecting Paintings & Artifacts

Please take a moment to discuss the importance of preserving Fort Ticonderoga and its artifacts with your students. Please stress that students (and chaperones) should not touch artifacts on display in the Museum. The oils on human skin can cause artifacts to deteriorate—even items made of wood and metal. Paintings are especially fragile—please look but don't touch.

Looking at Art at Fort Ticonderoga

Find this painting in the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, then answer the questions by looking at the painting. **Please do not touch the paintings in the Museum.**



Ethan Allen Captures Fort Ticonderoga

Fort Ticonderoga Museum

Artist: unknown

Date painted: unknown

Medium: oil on canvas

1. Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775. Do you think the artist was there to see the event happen? Why or why not?
2. Who did the artist think was the most important person in the painting? Why do you think that? Why do you think he chose not to include Benedict Arnold in the painting?
3. What's happening in the background on the left side of the painting?
4. Does the Fort Ticonderoga depicted in the painting look like the Fort Ticonderoga you are visiting today? Why do you think it does or doesn't?
5. What's happening in the painting?

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Montcalm Congratulating the Troops, July 8, 1758

Fort Ticonderoga Museum

Artist: Henry A. Ogden

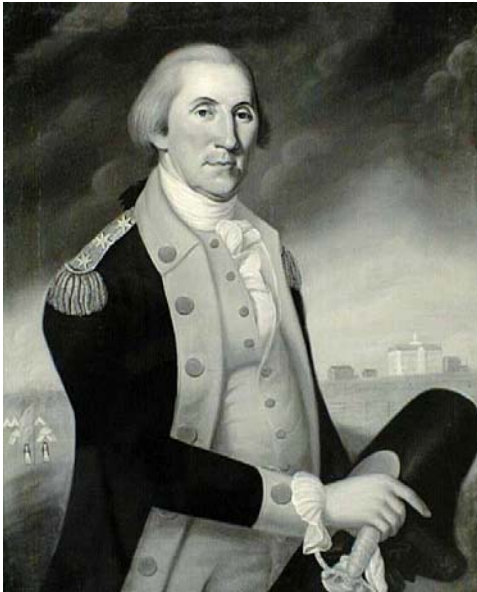
Date painted: 1930

Medium: watercolor on paper

1. Where is Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga) in the painting?
2. What can you learn about the French soldiers who fought in the Battle of Carillon by looking at the painting?
3. What do you think the barrels in the foreground were used for?
4. What do you think the weather was like on July 8, 1758?
5. Who did the artist want your eyes to be drawn to in the painting? How did he do that?

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General George Washington

Fort Ticonderoga Museum

Artist: Charles Peale Polk

Date painted: c. 1790

Medium: oil on canvas

1. Does this portrait of George Washington look like the one you find on a dollar bill? Why might the two portraits be different?
2. Artists often use symbolism in their paintings—they select background colors and things to convey a meaning. What do you think the black clouds might symbolize? How about the building in the right side of the portrait?
3. There were no cameras during the American Revolution; the only pictures of George Washington are ones made by artists. Do you think this is what George Washington really looked like? Why or why not?
4. What do you think the three stars on Washington's shoulder stand for? How many points are on each star?

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The Battle of Saratoga

Fort Ticonderoga
Museum

Artist: unknown

Date painted:
c. 1860-1890

Medium: oil on
canvas

1. This painting depicts several events that occurred during the second Battle of Saratoga on October 7, 1777. While the events did not all happen at the same time or in the same place, why do you think the artist chose to depict them all in the same painting?
2. Why do you think the artist made the center of the painting brighter and easier to see than the borders?
3. The unknown artist who painted this painting was working 100 years after the battle. How accurate do you think the painting is? How do you think the artist knew what to paint?
4. What can you learn about the Battle of Saratoga from this painting?