

FEEDING THE CONTINENTAL ARMY



GRADES 5-7

OVERVIEW

On November 4, 1775, the Continental Congress resolved, or voted, to provide specific foods in certain quantities- or rations - to the soldiers of the Continental Army. Based on the list of rations allotted to Continental soldiers, students will perform various mathematical calculations to determine the amount of food needed to feed soldiers over various periods of time and under various circumstances. Students will read a brief excerpt from Continental Army General Orders as Ticonderoga, as recorded in Colonel Anthony Wayne's 1776 Orderly Book for the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion explore when supplies of provisions ran short and compare the regulation amount of rations and the substituted amounts of rations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- * Read and comprehend word problems and devise the appropriate mathematical operation(s) to answer the questions
- * Read excerpts from transcripts of historical document and extract relevant information
- * Solve multi-step math problems
- * Make comparisons across various units of measure

STUDENT STANDARDS

COMMON CORE:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.B.3

Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator ($a/b = a \div b$). Solve word problems involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.B.4

Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.B.6

Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.



INTRODUCTION

Continental Army soldiers at Fort Ticonderoga made their meals from flour, beef, pork, or fish, and dried beans or vegetables. Soldiers were divided into “messes,” with each mess consisting of 5 or 6 soldiers. Each soldier received a “ration” of food—a ration being a certain amount of food for a given period of time, usually a day or week. In November 1775, the Continental Congress voted to provide the following quantities of rations to the soldiers:

Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789
Saturday November 4, 1775

Resolved, That a ration consist of the following kind and quantity of provisions, viz:

- * 1 lb. of beef, or $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. pork, or 1 lb. salt fish, per day.
- * 1 lb. of bread or flour per day.
- * 3 pints of pease, or beans per week, or vegetables equivalent, at one dollar per bushel for pease or beans.
- * 1 pint of milk per man per day, or at the rate of $\frac{1}{72}$ of a dollar.
- * 1 half pint of Rice, or 1 pint of indian [corn] meal per man per week.
- * 1 quart of spruce beer or cyder per man per day, or nine gallons of Molasses per company of 100 men per week.
- * 3 lb. candles to 100 Men per week for guards.
- * 24 lb. of soft or 8 lb. of hard soap for 100 men per week.

STUDENT STANDARDS

COMMON CORE:

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.RP.A.3.B

Solve unit rate problems including those involving unit pricing and constant speed.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.RP.A.3.D

Use ratio reasoning to convert measurement units; manipulate and transform units appropriately when multiplying or dividing quantities.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.7.RP.A.1

Compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, including ratios of lengths, areas and other quantities measured in like or different units.



On some occasions, the Commissary (the soldier or officer who distributed the rations) was unable to provide beef to the soldiers. The General Orders for the Continental Army at Ticonderoga provided an alternative when beef was unavailable.

*Head Quarters Sepr 1st 1776 Ticonderoga
Parole Pensacola*

Counter Sign Georgia

... When there is no beef, the commissary is to issue, ½ pound of pork, and one pound and ½ of flower, pr. day to each man, until further orders.

ACTIVITY

Read Persifor Frazer's letter and use the map provided to answer the questions on the attached worksheet.