

# ANALYZING PERSIFOR FRAZER'S LETTER



GRADES 6-8

## OVERVIEW

Students will read a letter from Major Persifor Frazer to his wife Polly, written at Ticonderoga on September 21, 1776 then answer a series of questions. A map of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence is also provided for context.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- \* Read and analyze a primary source document
- \* Make inferences using context clues
- \* Answer questions based on information in the letter
- \* Incorporate background knowledge of the geography of Ticonderoga

## STUDENT STANDARDS

### COMMON CORE:

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1**  
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4**  
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/ social studies.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH. 6-8.6**  
Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose

### C3 FRAMEWORK:

**D2.His.3.6-8** Use questions generated about individuals and groups to analyze why they, and the developments they shaped, are seen as historically significant.

**D2.His.4.6-8** Analyze multiple factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.



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## INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1776 Persifor Frazer was promoted to major in the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion under the command of Colonel Anthony Wayne. The Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion was raised in Chester County, southwest of Philadelphia. While at Ticonderoga, Major Frazer wrote a series of letters to his wife, Polly.

## MATERIALS

- \* Persifor Frazer's letter to Polly
- \* Map of Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence (1777)

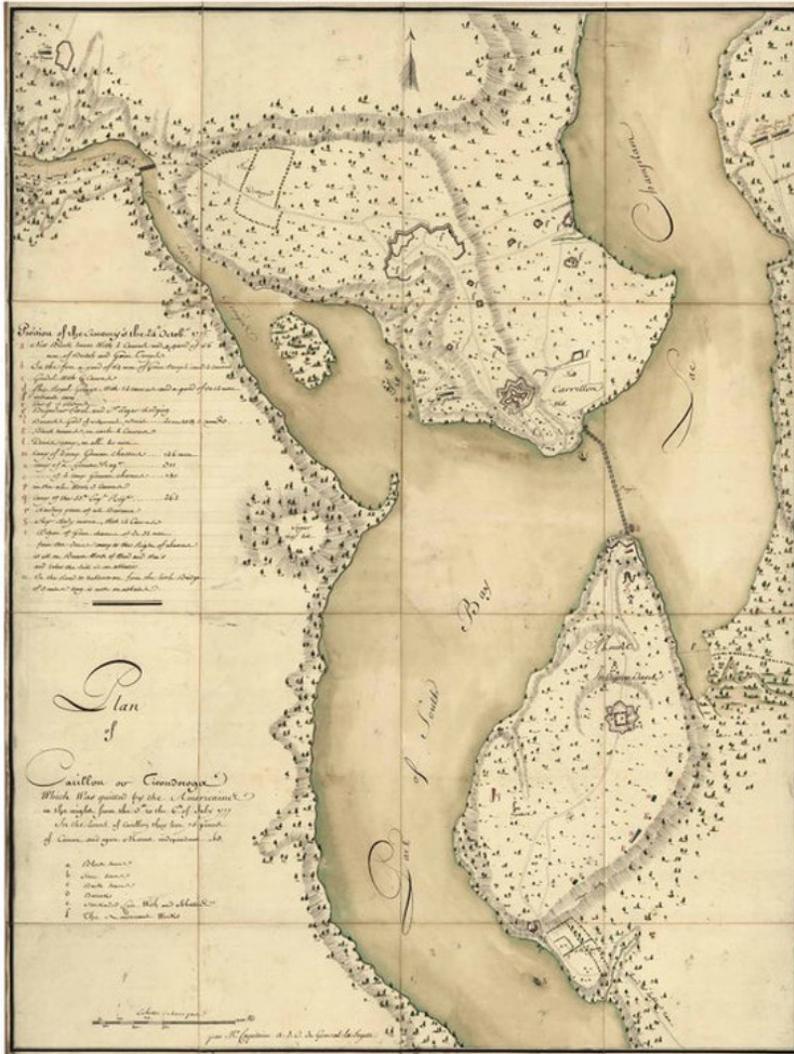
## ACTIVITY

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



## MAP OF FORT TICONDEROGA & MOUNT INDEPENDENCE (1777)

Fort Ticonderoga - Mount Independence 1777



## A LETTER FROM PERSIFOR FRAZER TO HIS WIFE POLLY WRITTEN AT TICONDEROGA ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1776

I was yesterday with Captain Christy and Captain Robinson upon Mount Independence, the other side of the lake where most of the New Englanders are encamped. Upon our return in the evening we were obliged to wait a short time for a boat that was coming over. When it came to shore and the passengers were landing I espyed our servant Jacob Down that ran away from us. I laid hold of him and asked him if he knew me. He said he had never seen me before. When I told him my name, after a considerable time, he thot proper to recollect me. He had enlisted in Massachusetts where I understand he was born. I brot him over with me; his Captain came over shortly after. He and I today have been agreeing on his price. I believe I shall get 51 dollars for him which is the sum he cost me.

"Persifor Frazer to his wife Polly," Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum Volume X, Number 6 (January 1962), 450-52, 21 September 1776.

Directions: Use this chart to answer questions about the following letter:

On which side of Lake Champlain is Major Frazer encamped?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
On which side of Lake Champlain is Jacob Down encamped?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
Who was Jacob Down, according to Major Frazer?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
Jacob Down enlisted with a regiment from which state?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
At the time the letter was written, how did troops move back and forth between Ticonderoga and Mount Independence?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
What do you suppose Major Frazer meant by the term "servant?"	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
What had Jacob Down done after running away from Major Frazer's family?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:

What does Major Frazer mean by "agreeing on his price?"	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
Where do you think the money will come from to pay "his price?"	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
Why do you think Major Frazer chose to accept a commission as an officer in the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion and go to Fort Ticonderoga?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
Why do you think Jacob Down chose to enlist in a Massachusetts Regiment and go to Fort Ticonderoga?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence:
What do you think Major Frazer and Jacob Down have in common?	
Answer:	Cite your evidence: