

Decisive Moments
Lesson #2 of the Southern Campaigns Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What were some important battles of the Southern Campaign and how did they shape America's fight for independence?

OVERVIEW

The British commanders' new Southern Strategy aimed to keep control of the agriculturally prosperous South, in case they had to sue for peace with George Washington in the North. However, Americans fought against the invasion and nearly three years of vicious battles ensued, featuring lesser known American generals such as Benjamin Lincoln, Daniel Morgan, Johann de Kalb, Horatio Gates and Nathanael Greene leading the Patriot forces time and time again in the Southern Colonies against the likes of Charles Cornwallis, Patrick Ferguson and Banastre Tarleton. As Greene once put it, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." The Americans just had to hold out long enough to wear down the British war effort. The campaign culminated at the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia in 1781, ultimately leading to the end of the Revolutionary War and the dawn of American Independence.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
 - Describe some of the decisive moments in the Southern Campaigns of the Revolutionary War.
 - Discuss the importance of the American perseverance and the British defeats during the Southern Campaigns which eventually led to the British surrender at Yorktown and the Treaty of Paris.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Examine a secondary and primary source about a Revolutionary War battle and analyze findings.
3. Evaluation
 - Evaluate and discuss some of the battles of the Southern Campaigns and their impact during the Revolutionary War.

ACTIVITIES

1. Use the [Lesson's PowerPoint](#) to explore the context and history; the PowerPoint introduces Essential Questions and lays foundational knowledge about the conflict.
2. Let students decide which battle to study. This could be in a group, as a class, or individually. It can be done as written work sheets or as verbal discussion.
3. Distribute the [primary source worksheet](#)

4. Watch one of or all of these short battle videos and have the students fill out Part 1 of their worksheet.
 - a. [King's Mountain](#)
 - b. [Cowpens](#)
 - c. [Guilford Courthouse](#)
5. Have the students read the primary source related to their chosen battle and fill out Part 2 of their worksheet.
 - a. 6 selected primary sources are available [under the "Primary Source" section this lesson plan page.](#)
6. Finally, the students will fill out Part 3 of their worksheet to compare the Secondary Source (video) and the Primary Source and draw their conclusions.

STANDARDS

Please visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) and select the "Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies" to view the details.

RESOURCES

[Visit the Lesson Plan Page](#) to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, and biographies.

Quick Links

- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Primary Source Summary Worksheet](#)
- [King's Mountain In4 Video](#)
- [Cowpens In4 Video](#)
- [Guilford Courthouse](#)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Southern Campaigns Animated Map

Students can watch the 15-minute Southern Campaigns Animated Map and answer the comprehension questions.

[Southern Campaigns Animated Map](#)

[Southern Campaigns Animated Map Comprehension Questions](#)

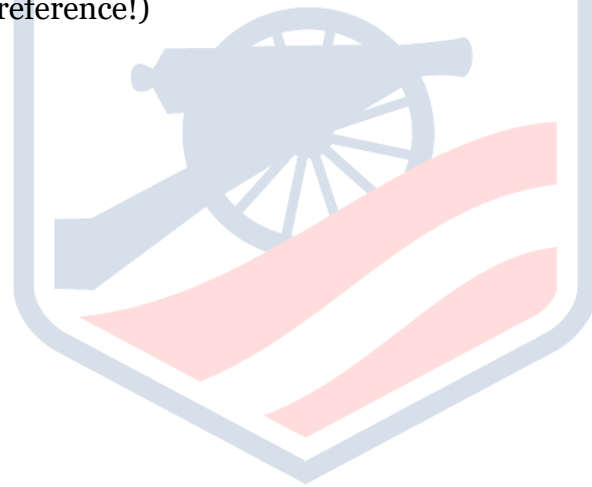
Option 2: Biography and Letter

Students can research a military leader connected to the Southern Campaign or a battle in the Southern Campaign and identify his decisive moment. (There are selected biographies on the [Lesson](#)

[Plan Page.](#)) Then, the students will write a letter as if they were writing to that military leader offering praise or concern about that decisive moment.

Option 3: Yorktown Battlefield Driving Tour

Hop in the car with Revolutionary War Historian Kristopher White for this [all-encompassing virtual tour of the Yorktown Battlefield](#), where American Independence was won in 1781. Visit all of the pivotal locations including Cornwallis's Cave, Redoubts 9 & 10, the Moore House and Surrender Field. Students can take notes about a favorite location and write a summary of what they learned. (The entire driving tour is almost 100 minutes. You may want to select portions of the tour and the video is segmented for this option or reference!)



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