

Revolutionary Turning Points Lesson #3 of the Northern Campaigns Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What were some key turning points of the American Revolution and how did people feel about them?

OVERVIEW

Turning Points changed the course of events, and this lesson plan explores several of those moments of the Revolutionary War, with a focus on the Northern Campaigns. The Battles and Surrender at Saratoga (1777) and the French-American Alliance (1778) had global impact. Benedict Arnold's Treason (1779) was also a turning point, both personal and with military effect.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Knowledge
 - Describe some of the Revolutionary War turning points with global effect, specifically Saratoga and the French-American Alliance.
 - Discuss the “turning points” in people’s lives—like Benedict Arnold, Molly Pitcher, Marquis de Lafayette, or Tadeusz Kosciuszko people’s reactions George Washington’s leadership during the Revolutionary War.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Read and take notes from primary source and secondary sources, then fill out a cause and effect chart.
3. Evaluation
 - Evaluate and discuss some of the turning point moments of the Revolutionary War and their long-reaching effects.

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. Watch the [Northern Campaigns Animated Map Video](#). The 1777 Campaign begins around the 12:30 minute mark; we recommend starting there and watching to the end (about 6 minutes total) if you are short on time.
3. Have the students select a turning point to examine. The resources are directed toward 1) Battles of Saratoga, 2) French-American Alliance, or 3) Benedict Arnold's Treason.
4. Distribute [the worksheets](#) and have the students read several of the provided primary sources and secondary sources for this lesson.

- a. Primary Sources, Secondary Sources, and Biographies related to the suggested study choices are available on the [Lesson Plan Page](#).
5. Students will write take notes and fill out the cause and effect chart on their worksheet.

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](#)
- [Cause and Effect Worksheet](#)
- [Northern Campaigns Animated Map Video](#)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Interactive Timeline

Have the students read this article/timeline about the creation and effects of the French-American Alliance and identify key points. Each student or groups of students will research a separate key point and write down a three-sentence summary. Write the dates of the key points on sheets of paper and have the students sit or stand in timeline order and share their summary findings in order. *This concept could be expanded to include costumes, art, or other learning interactives.*

Option 2: Revolutionary Spies

Spies helped to prevent Benedict Arnold’s treason and provided other valuable information throughout the war. Have the students examine these sources and then create their own “spy persona.” A verbal description, short essay, or other style of reporting can be used to share their character with the classroom. *This concept could be expanded to include costumes, art, or other learning interactives.*

- [Video – Untold: Culper Spy Ring](#)
- [Article – Spies of the Revolutionary War](#)
- [Article – Black Spies of the American Revolution](#)