

War Within a War
Lesson #3 of the Southern Campaigns Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did citizens choose sides and participate or avoid the tension and conflict during the Southern Campaigns?

OVERVIEW

As the Revolutionary War moved south, the terrain in the backcountry gave way to a sustained guerilla campaign in addition to the traditional Continental forces, putting communities and neighbors at war with each other and with invading forces. Because of this vicious divisiveness, these final years left a bitter impact in the memory of the survivors who endured a different type of war. Civilians were sometimes caught in the middle or sometimes directly choosing and supporting a side, and the conflict sometimes resembled a civil war as localized conflicts erupted within the larger scale campaigns and war.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Knowledge
 - Describe some of the divisions and conflict that existed among communities and neighbors during the Southern Campaigns of the Revolutionary War.
 - Discuss the experiences of civilians caught or participating in the war.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Examine primary sources about a civilians during the Revolutionary War and analyze findings.
3. Evaluation
 - Evaluate the primary sources for author's bias and consider the different sides and perspectives of 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. Watch ["Was the American Revolution a Civil War?"](#) (3 minutes)
3. If time permits, read this article for additional context: ["Bloody Ban" in the Backcountry Legacy of America's First Civil War](#)
4. Distribute the [primary source worksheet](#) and students can work individually or in groups.
5. Have the students select three primary sources to read and take notes from; then complete the worksheet and share their discoveries.

- a. 6 selected primary sources are available [under the “Primary Source” section this lesson plan page.](#)

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](#)
- [“Was the American Revolution a Civil War?” \(Video\)](#)
- [“Bloody Ban” in the Backcountry: Legacy of America’s First Civil War](#) (Article)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Biography Study

Have the students selected a historical person connected to the Southern Campaign. (There are six biography articles already prepared on the Lesson Plan Page). The students will read the biography and make notes for the following topics. Students can write a short essay, share their findings verbally, or incorporate their findings into a larger class project that might include art, costumes, or props.

Key Life Events:

Identify and describe three key events or milestones in the life of the individual. How did these events shape or influence their character, achievements, or contributions?

Legacy and Impact:

Reflect on the individual's lasting legacy and impact on society. What are the person's major contributions or accomplishments? Do you think these accomplishments were good? How have their actions influenced the course of history or inspired others?

Option 2: Considering Options

Invite a class discussion or a short essay to consider and answer the opinion question: what would you have done if you lived in the divided backcountry during the Revolutionary War? Have the students consider some of the options, including: enlisting in the army (British or American/Continental), joining a partisan group (Loyalist or Whig), moving further west into or beyond the Appalachian Mountains, trying to make a peaceful deal, ignoring the conflicts and hoping for the best.