

Washington's Leadership Lesson #2 of the Northern Campaigns Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

When and how did George Washington's leadership shape the Revolutionary War?

OVERVIEW

George Washington, a Virginian farmer with military experience from the French & Indian War, was appointed to lead the American Continental Army. Throughout the Revolutionary War, General Washington's leadership was put to the test, especially during the period from 1776 to 1778. This lesson plan explores leadership victories and challenges, including Crossing the Delaware (1776), the battles during the Ten Crucial Days (1776-1777), and Winter at Valley Forge (1777-1778).

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Knowledge
 - Describe some of George Washington's military leadership moments, including Crossing the Delaware, Battle of Princeton, and Encampment at Valley Forge.
 - Discuss people's reactions to George Washington's leadership during the Revolutionary War.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Read and chart about primary source documents, then write a letter based on findings.
3. Evaluation
 - Evaluate and discuss some of the difficult moments and victories 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 these Videos
 - a. [Washington's Crossing In4](#)
 - b. [Princeton: Washington's Key Victory](#)
3. Distribute the [primary source worksheets](#) and have the students several of the provided primary sources for this lesson.
 - a. 6 selected primary sources are available [under the "Primary Source" section this lesson plan page.](#)
4. Students will write a letter based on their findings from the primary sources and their worksheet notes.

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](#)
- [Washington's Crossing In4](#) (Video)
- [Princeton: Washington's Key Victory](#) (Video)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Ten Crucial Days Timeline

Students can watch the 2 minute [video “The Ten Crucial Days.”](#) On their own or as a class, create a timeline of this campaign that resulted in several important American victories. Use this [article from American Battlefield Trust](#) and [this article/timeline from Washington Crossing Historical Park](#) as a reference for each of the days. Create a timeline or a day-by-day calendar which can include illustrations, historic images, or photos.

Monday, December 25, 1776

Tuesday, December 26, 1776

Wednesday, December 27, 1776

Thursday, December 28, 1776

Friday, December 29, 1776

Saturday, December 30, 1776

Sunday, December 31, 1776

Monday, January 1, 1777

Tuesday, January 2, 1777

Wednesday, January 3, 1777

Option 2: Winter at Valley Forge

Have the students watch [“Valley Forge In4”](#) and read [this primary source](#). Have students write newspaper headlines as though they are reporting on the following topics/conditions for the Continental Army during their Winter at Valley Forge.

1. Food
2. Shelter
3. Weather
4. George Washington's reactions
5. Learning military drill
6. Why a soldier says he will stay in the army