

Revolutionary Concord Lesson Plan

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Framing Question:

1. What were the reactions of Provincials to the actions of the British military in Concord in April 1775?
2. What paths were taken by the Patriots and British Regulars to sway public opinion in their favor?
3. Using your prior knowledge, predict the role and duties of the women of Hartwell Tavern before, during and after their encounter with the British Regulars?

Objectives:

- ✿ Students will be able to identify the effect that carnage & bloodshed had on residents in Concord.
- ✿ Students will identify reactions Concordians had to the British actions in April 1775.
- ✿ Students will be able to analyze how propaganda played a role after the Battles of Lexington & Concord.
- ✿ Students will be able to identify how local concerns and outside forces influenced Concordians' reactions to British actions in the spring of 1775.
- ✿ Students will be able to identify the options residents had as British regulars marched into Concord.
- ✿ Students will understand and explain the political, economic and social effects of the Battle of Concord on the Patriots

Artifact 1: The Doolittle Prints & Modern Lexington and Concord

View the Doolittle Prints online at the National Park Service's *American Revolution* website: http://www.nps.gov/revwar/educational_resources/teachers.html. (The images are located in Lesson One: Prelude to the American Revolution.)

This engraving, "Plate II. A view of the town of Concord," is one from a series of four by silversmith Amos Doolittle and artist Ralph Earl, both members of a volunteer Connecticut military company, drawn in the spring of 1775. This particular engraving depicts the events on the day of April 19, 1775 in Concord, Massachusetts. While Doolittle and Earl did not directly experience the British Regulars' raid on Concord, they travelled to the town from Cambridge in May of 1775, and created the painting/engraving based on accounts from colonists living in the area who witnessed the event. This is one of the only primary source drawings depicting this event and historians believe it to be a fairly accurate account, from a Patriot perspective. The drawing shows the British troops as they marched into Concord, seeking out military supplies and ransacking houses in the process. On the cemetery hill overlooking the village, are Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn. Buildings and landmarks that can be seen are the Meeting house and Mill Pond on the left, Wright's Tavern in the center, and Dr. Timothy Minot's house, the town courthouse and tiny schoolhouse to the right.

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. Explain why the British entered Concord in April 1775.
2. Based on the drawing and your knowledge of U.S. history, briefly summarize what the British did once they arrived in Concord.
3. Identify ways the colonists of Concord may have reacted to the events in the drawing. Explain why.
4. Compare the colonists' reactions to British occupation in April 1775 with their reactions to British occupation during the French and Indian War. How were they similar and/or different? Why?
5. Look at the photograph of the town of Concord taken in 2010. How is the painting and photograph similar? In what ways are they different? In what ways did the events on April 19, 1775 change the town of Concord?

Artifact 2: Hartwell Tavern

As a small country town, Concord seemed relatively removed from the control the British had on Boston, approximately 20 miles away. However, because of the location of their tavern, life for the Hartwell's changed dramatically on the morning of April 19, 1775. Since the tavern was located on the "Bay Road," it was the main means of travel the British militia used on their way to and from Concord. As a result the Hartwell family found themselves in the midst of the early unrest of the American Revolution. Hartwell men were heavily involved in the battles and the women played witness to the actions and deaths on that very road. In order to survive the impending turmoil on the horizon, it was necessary for the Hartwell family to change the order of their everyday lives in many ways.

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. As proprietor of Hartwell Tavern, how did Ephraim Hartwell's life change in economic, political, and social terms during the Concord conflict with the British Regulars?
2. Using the phrase "crossroads of the Revolution", explain the possible choices the residents of Hartwell Tavern had and the potential effects?
3. Explain the importance of how Hartwell Tavern could have been used to share the latest news of the conflicts brewing between England and the Colonies.
4. Using your prior knowledge of the Hartwell family, explain what the reactions could have been as British soldiers marched past the Tavern on their way to Boston, as well as the effect of the dead bodies lining the Battle Road.

Artifact 3: A Bloody Butchery

View this document on the Massachusetts Historical Society's website:

<http://www.masshist.org/database/467>

In the spring of 1775, British soldiers marched from occupied Boston into rural Massachusetts Bay attempting to snuff out the growing rebellion that was taking place in that part of the colony. As the British regulars headed into the countryside, the provincials were notified using a series of signals. At dawn on April 19th, a handful of men stood on Lexington Green and met the Red Coats. Shots were fired. Several men on both sides fell. The British moved on to Concord – their ultimate goal – and were stopped at North Bridge by a larger group of Minutemen who had come from the surrounding communities to join the Concordians. A *Bloody Butchery* was first printed in a newspaper and was then reproduced as a broadside. Its simplicity in design was effective and its intent was to influence, remind, and inspire other Americans of the actions of the men who were killed and wounded in what became known as the “shot heard round the world”.

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. Define propaganda. How can propaganda be used in warfare?
2. In what ways could this retelling of April 19th, 1775, be considered a piece of propaganda? Consider each part of this broadside.
3. How could this broadside inspire unity and encourage others to join the rebellion?
4. How does this piece of propaganda demonstrate reactions Provincials had in the aftermath of the Battles of Lexington & Concord
5. Modernize your groups' excerpt in 3-6 sentences. Before you write it on chart paper, check it with the instructor.

Final Assessment:

Option 1: (See the next page for a lesson on creating the broadside)

Students may create a broadside that takes the Patriot perspective of the events of April 19th, 1775. The broadside must have the following:

- a) An illustration that evokes emotion from the reader
- b) A brief summary of the events of April 19th – be sure to be biased!
- c) Some sort of poem or eulogy

Option 2:

Students may create a journal entry of a young boy or girl living in Concord during April 1775. The journal should detail what the character saw as 700+ British soldiers marched through town center. You may use the Doolittle illustrations to get a sense of what Concord looked like in the 18th century. Your journal could also be written from the perspective of an individual at or around Hartwell Tavern as the British quickly retreated back to Boston after their defeat at North Bridge.

Option 3:

Students may create an artist's rendition of British soldiers escaping Concord and retreating back to Boston from the perspective of an individual at Hartwell Tavern. Use the Doolittle drawings for inspiration and refer back to the events near Hartwell Tavern for specifics. Your drawing should demonstrate an understanding of the events by portraying British soldiers in retreat and local Massachusetts militia & minutemen harassing and attacking them. The numbers of individuals involved should be accurate and the portrayal of the Concord countryside needs to be geographically accurate.

Photographs of Concord



Figure 1: Concord Today



Figure 2: Concord Cemetery



Figure 3: Concord Cemetery



Figure 4: Bay Road



Figure 5: Hartwell Tavern Sign



Figure 6: Hartwell Tavern Barn



Figure 7: Outside Hartwell Tavern