

South Carolinians Divided (4th Grade)

Objective: Students will research an Upcountry Revolutionary War participant and fill out a Revolutionary Resume sheet.

Essential Question: *Who were some of the Upcountry participants during the Revolutionary War?*

SC Social Studies Standards

- 4-3.1 Explain the political and economic factors leading to the American Revolution, including the French and Indian War; British colonial policies such as the Stamp Act, the Tea Act, and the so-called Intolerable Acts; and the American colonists' early resistance through boycotts, congresses, and petitions
- 4-3.2 Summarize the roles of principal American, British, and European leaders involved in the conflict, including King George III, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, and the Marquis de Lafayette.
- 4-3.4 Summarize the events and key battles of the Revolutionary War, including Lexington and Concord, Bunker (Breed's) Hill, Charleston, Saratoga, Cowpens and Yorktown
- 4-3.6 Compare the daily life and roles taken by women and African Americans such as Martha Washington, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley (Molly Pitcher), Abigail Adams, Crispus Attucks, and Peter Salem

Background Information

From the Museum:

South Carolina's First Civil War

A group of Backcountry vigilantes called the "Regulators" attempted to bring order to a lawless frontier and clashed with a neglectful Charlestown government. Outlaw bands roamed the frontier and harassed residents during the mid-1700s. Taxpaying Backcountry residents wanted action and protection from Charlestown, but they had no representation in Lowcountry government to plead their case. A group of Backcountry men formed an association to fight the outlaws in 1767. Charlestown newspapers called them the "Regulators". The Regulators took their cause to Charlestown and demanded Backcountry courts, jails, and governmental representation. South Carolina Governor Montague deputized two Regulator companies to ride against the outlaws. As the Regulators brought order to the Backcountry, they gained power. A fearful Charlestown government sent militiamen to crush the association. The two sides reached a compromise in 1768. That same year, the General Assembly brought law into the Backcountry by passing the Circuit Court Act.

American Revolution

Lowcountry merchants and planters favored independence as the American colonies headed towards revolution. The Backcountry hesitated, seeing revolution as a war for Lowcountry economic gain. When British taxes threatened profits, wealthy Lowcountry aristocrats joined the Patriot movement. The Backcountry, however, saw no advantage in rising against Britain. Distrustful Backcountry settlers resisted Patriot recruiters in 1775. Then the Patriots decided to rid the Backcountry of British supporters. That December, Patriot Colonel Richard Richardson rounded up British Loyalists and marched them to Charleston as fifteen inches of snow fell. The British depended on Backcountry support. When their troops encountered hesitation among the remaining Backcountry population, soldiers began abusing residents and pressing men into military service. Angry Backcountry inhabitants quickly became Patriots. The loss of the anticipated Backcountry support weakened Britain's position. In South Carolina the Patriots turned the tide of the Revolution with victories at Kings Mountain and Cowpens. The defeated British left the province in December of 1782.

A Constitution for all Carolinians?

Delegates from the 13 states wrote a new federal Constitution in 1787. Debate in South Carolina over its ratification emphasized a growing division between the Upcountry and Lowcountry. Delegates gathered in Philadelphia during the year 1787 to write a Constitution for a new nation. South Carolina sent four Lowcountry aristocrats to the Convention. As the delegates worked, South Carolina's representatives advanced Lowcountry economic interests. No South Carolinian voiced the Upcountry's concern regarding a distant, central government. Debate raged across South Carolina when the time came for each state to ratify the Constitution. Lowcountry delegates favored the document, but most Upcountry residents opposed it. These Backcountry citizens remembered the slow response of Charleston's Lowcountry-dominated government during the Regulator era. They feared the new United States government might also be out of touch and unresponsive to their needs. Despite the Upcountry's protests, South Carolina delegates voted with the national majority and ratified the Constitution on May 23, 1788.

A Battle for Recognition

The Backcountry demanded a larger political voice in state government, but the region did not receive adequate representation until the Backcountry and Lowcountry united under a plantation economy. Backcountry residents had tamed the frontier through hard work and determination. Its growing population demanded a more active political role in the late 1700s, but the Lowcountry-dominated government resisted. Backcountry inhabitants regarded Lowcountry dwellers as pampered aristocrats who lived off slave labor. If the region gained political power, the Lowcountry feared the Backcountry would abolish slavery. The 1793 invention of the cotton gin helped heal South Carolina's political divisions. Plantation agriculture reached the state's northern region – now called the “Upcountry.” Many areas of the Lower Piedmont embraced slavery along with plantation agriculture. The Lowcountry no longer believed the Upcountry would abolish slavery, so the two regions reached a compromise. In 1808 the Upcountry gained

political representation and the Lowcountry saw the state united under its system of plantation agriculture.

The “Tariff of Abominations”

Nullifiers believed that states had the right to decide which federal laws were or were not constitutional. In 1828, South Carolina called a convention to nullify, or void, a federal tax. In 1828, Congressmen from the northern states enacted a law that drastically raised fees on imported manufactured goods. This tariff, or tax, protected emerging industry in the North, but in the South the “Tariff of Abominations” inflated prices of manufactured goods purchased by the South. South Carolina’s leaders charged that the tariff was both unfair and unconstitutional. Vice President John C. Calhoun of Abbeville secretly published a pamphlet that justified Nullification. His actions led South Carolina Nullifiers to call for a state rejection of the tariff and he resigned as vice president. In the fall of 1832, a special state convention voided the tariff. An angry President Andrew Jackson faced off against South Carolina Nullifiers including his former vice president John C. Calhoun. As war threatened in 1833, the two parties compromised, and both sides claimed victories.

A Duel to the Death

The Nullification movement divided South Carolina. In Greenville, a war of words led to a duel of honor that left a promising young editor mortally wounded. In Greenville Nullifiers squared off against Unionists. Benjamin Perry swayed the town with his pro-Union editorials in his newspaper, Greenville Mountaineer. Waddy Thompson, his political rival backed a nullification newspaper to counteract the Mountaineer. Turner Bynum became editor of the Nullifiers’ paper *Southern Sentinel*. In the summer of 1832, Bynum attacked Perry, “...they are left to such teachers as you, who cry, “Peace, peace—all’s well! – while the robber is plundering them before their eyes...” His honor insulted by Bynum’s “scurrilous and abusive” words, Perry called for a duel. On August 16, the two met on an island in the Tugaloo River. Both men got shots off. Perry hit Bynum in the hip. The young editor died the next day from his injuries.

Other detailed background information about these topics can be found in:

Scott Foresman, Social Studies, Building a Nation (4th Grade text)
Chapters 8 and 9

The History of South Carolina in the Building of the Nation by Archie Vernon Huff, Jr
Chapters 10 and 11

Greenville The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont by Archie Vernon Huff pp. 20-29

Traditions and History of Anderson County by Louise Ayer Vandiver, pps. 64-79

The South Carolina Encyclopedia

Partisans and Redcoats by Walter Edgar

Books by Idella Bodie

Touring South Carolina's Revolutionary War Sites by Daniel W. Barefoot

Various books in the South Carolina Room at the Greenville Library

Primary Activity:

Materials

- Printout of blank Revolutionary Resume' (attached)
- List of Upcountry People of the Revolution (attached)

Procedure

1. Print out the blank Revolutionary Resume' sheet (one per student)
2. Print out the list of Upcountry People of the Revolution (one per student).
3. Have students research one person on the list.
4. Have students fill in the blank Revolutionary Resume' for the person they researched.

Assessment

A rubric can be used to assess this project:

Student engages in research – 5 points

Student accurately fills in the resume' -5 points

Cross-Curricular Activities

Social Studies

* Timeline of Upcountry Battles - There were 130 Revolutionary War battles or conflicts in South Carolina and many took place in the Upcountry. Below is a list of researchable battles or conflicts that occurred in the Upcountry and the date they occurred.

Blackstock's Plantation,

Ninety-Six. Nov. 19-21, 1775

Great Cane Brake Dec. 22, 1775

Battle of Huck's Defeat July 12, 1780

Cedar Springs July 13, 1780

Rocky Mount Aug 1, 1780

Hanging Rock Aug. 1, 1780, Aug. 6, 1780

Fishing Creek Aug. 18, 1780

Musgrove's Mill Aug. 18 or 19, 1780

King's Mountain Oct. 7, 1780

Fishdam Ford Nov. 9, 1780

Cowpens Jan. 16, 1781

Ninety –Six May 12-Jun 19, 1781

Write a paragraph summarizing information about one of the battles. An excellent resource for this is at SCIway.net under SC Revolutionary War overviews.

* Who were the Regulators and how did they fit into the timeline leading up to the Revolutionary War?

* Divide the classroom into two groups. One group represents the citizens from the Upcountry and the other represents the citizens from the Lowcountry. Debate reasons why they do or do not want to enter into this war with Britain.

*Ask a member of a local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter to visit your classroom to explain the nature and history of the organization.

Writing

* There is a strong interest in family genealogy – tracing your ancestors back through history – some even to major wars including the American Revolution. Interview family members to construct a family tree naming your ancestors as far back as you can.

* Write an autobiography about yourself now, as a young person, for future generations of your family.

Upcountry People of the Revolution

Andrew Pickens

Nathaniel Greene

Dacey Langston Springfield

Jane Thomas

Anne Kennedy

Mary Patton

Grace and Rachel Martin

Nancy Morgan Hart

Richard Richardson

Daniel Morgan

Anthony Hampton

William Bratton

Martha Bratton

William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham

Edward Lacey

Joseph Kerr

Watt

Revolutionary Resume'

Name, Age and Address:

Objective:

Experience:

Timeframe:

Duties:

Education:

Personal Information:

References:

Revolutionary Resume'

(example)

Name, age and Address: Laodicia (Dicey) Langston Springfield
Aka "Daring Dicey"
16 years old
Laurens District and Traveler's Rest Area, SC

Objective: To support the Patriots and thwart the Loyalists!

Experience:

Timeframe: off and on throughout the war

Duties:

- walking miles during the night and forging the Enoree River to warn my brother James and his friends of impending attack by Bloody Bill Cunningham at Elder Settlement, cooking them some food and returning home in time to cook breakfast for my father.
- throwing my body in front of my father saving him from being shot by one of the Blood Scouts, impressing the scout, who then spared our lives
- various other acts of spying, relaying information, and bravery for the cause

Education: no formal education known

Personal Information:

- Daughter of Solomon Langston of Laurens District
- Wife of Thomas Springfield
- Mother of 22 children

References:

the Bloody Scouts
my family and neighbors in the Backcountry
the monument to my service located in Traveler's Rest
Book: The Patriot Wore Petticoats by my 4th great granddaughter
Marnie Pehrson