

Slavery and Liberty 1775-1776 (Roots, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence)

Expectations for Learning (from the NEW State Social Studies Curriculum):

1. Analyze primary and secondary sources to describe the different perspectives on an issue relating to a historical event in U.S. History and to present and defend a position.
2. Connect the ideas of the Enlightenment and dissatisfaction with colonial rule to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the launching of the American Revolution.
3. Explain how the practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies.
4. Describe the contributions of enslaved and free Africans to cultural and economic development in different regions of the American colonies.
5. Explain how cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as-a-whole.

Guiding Questions-

1. What advantages and disadvantages did the 13 Colonies and Great Britain have heading into America's War for Independence? On paper, who would you have expected to win?
2. What caused colonists to become Patriots, to declare themselves Loyalists, or to remain Neutral after the battles of Lexington and Concord? What about after Bunker Hill? The Olive Branch Petition? King George III's Proclamation of Rebellion? The Invasion of Canada? The Siege of Boston and the British Evacuation? Upon Reading Common Sense? Upon News of the British Invasion Fleet enroute to New York City? **Which position do you think you would have taken in June 1776?**
3. What roles did African Americans play in the key events of 1763-1776? (Also see #7*)
4. What roles did women play in the key events of 1763-1776?
5. What ideals of the Enlightenment were included in the Declaration of Independence to justify America's break from British rule? What compromises on those ideals were made in the Declaration for the sake of Colonial unity? How do the grievances listed match up with specific historic events along the Road to Revolution Timeline from 1763-1776?
6. Based on primary and secondary source information and evidence (choose 1):
 - A. Given your reading of The Olive Branch Petition, and George III's Proclamation of Rebellion, was a negotiated peace possible after Lexington and Concord?
 - B. What were the basic arguments for independence in Thomas Paine's Common Sense?
 - C. How does the Declaration of Independence summarize the key principles of the Enlightenment and apply them to revolutionary America?
 - D. What did the founders mean with the phrase, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...?"
7. ***Roots and Lives Bound Together Project** specific questions will be provided separately.