

TODAY *in* GEORGIA HISTORY

December 19, 1776: Thomas Paine Publishes "American Crisis" Daily Activity

Introduction:

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student's ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a "bell ringer" at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

Optional Activities:

Level 1: Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

Level 2: Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day's segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

Level 3: Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.

T O D A Y *in* G E O R G I A H I S T O R Y

Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

Vocabulary Terms

Patriots
Demoralization
Propaganda
Clarion Call
Morale
Deserted
Eloquence
Fortified

Writing Prompts

1. In a five-sentence paragraph explain what Thomas Paine meant by “the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot.”
2. What role did the power of words play in winning the American Revolution? In a five-sentence paragraph talk about the significant role Thomas Paine played in defeating the British.
3. Do you think someone like Thomas Paine is needed to help inspire the citizens of America in our own trying times? Do you think this person would write pamphlets and essays or would they use another method to reach the people? In a five-sentence paragraph describe what a modern-day Thomas Paine would be like.

Related Georgia Performance Standards:

Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:

- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
 - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
 - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
 - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
 - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
 - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
 - Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

T O D A Y *in*
GEORGIA
H I S T O R Y

Grade 8 Georgia Studies

SS8H3 The student will analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolution.

- a. Explain the immediate and long-term causes of the American Revolution and their impact on Georgia; include the French and Indian War (Seven Years War), Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, Intolerable Acts, and the Declaration of Independence.
- b. Analyze the significance of people and events in Georgia on the Revolutionary War; include Loyalists, patriots, Elijah Clarke, Austin Dabney, Nancy Hart, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton, Battle of Kettle Creek, and siege of Savannah.

United States History, 9-12

SSUSH3 The student will explain the primary causes of the American Revolution.

- a. Explain how the end of Anglo-French imperial competition as seen in the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.
- b. Explain colonial response to such British actions as the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence.
- c. Explain the importance of Thomas Paine’s Common Sense to the movement for independence.

Grade 4 United States History to 1860

SS4H4 The student will explain the causes, events, and results of the American Revolution.

- a. Trace the events that shaped the revolutionary movement in America, including the French and Indian War, British Imperial Policy that led to the 1765 Stamp Act, the slogan “no taxation without representation,” the activities of the Sons of Liberty, and the Boston Tea Party.
- b. Explain the writing of the Declaration of Independence; include who wrote it, how it was written, why it was necessary, and how it was a response to tyranny and the abuse of power.
- c. Describe the major events of the American Revolution and explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat; include the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, and Yorktown.
- d. Describe key individuals in the American Revolution with emphasis on King George III, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Benedict Arnold, Patrick Henry, and John Adams.