

Daily Activity  
October 9, 2011: Casimir Pulaski (1779)

**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.

## Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

### Vocabulary Terms

Granted  
Honorary  
Aristocrat  
Legion  
Cohesive  
Liberate  
Fortified  
Entrenchments  
Mortally  
Grapeshot  
Disputed  
Exhumed  
Inconclusive

### Writing Prompts

1. What does freedom mean to you? What do you think freedom meant to Casimir Pulaski? In a five sentence paragraph give your definition of freedom and explain why you think Casimir Pulaski was willing to help American's win their freedom from the British.
2. Why do you think we memorialize people and events from history? In a five sentence paragraph explain what the city of Savannah did to memorialize Casimir Pulaski, and explain why you think they went to such great effort to do so.
3. Why do you think Washington sent Casimir Pulaski and his highly trained unit to Savannah? Using your knowledge of Georgia during the Revolutionary War and what you learned from this video, write a five sentence paragraph that examines why Georgia Washington sent Casimir Pulaski to defend Savannah.

## 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.

## 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.