

Revolutionary War

Teacher manual synopsis

This trunk tells the story of the events of the American Revolution during a nine month period from 1777-1778 focusing on Chester County and the surrounding area. The trunk is organized around 5 lessons (“Setting the Stage-August and September 1777”, “Preparing for Battle and Taking a Stand: September, 1777”, “The Battle of the Brandywine: September 11, 1777”, “War Wages On: September 16-20, 1777”, “Winter Encampments: 1777-1778” which use artifacts and documents within each Revolutionary War symbolic storage case (Civilian basket, British portmanteau, Patriot trunk) to tell the story of Chester County and the Revolutionary War. Introductory lesson on the use of primary objects and/or documents to inform historical knowledge is provided in the introductory section (pages 8-9).

Use of Perspective: “Setting the Stage” Different viewpoints about the coming conflict are held by people from Chester County: Quakers, patriots, loyalists. Why could this war be considered a Civil War?

Use of Primary Sources: Artifacts and Documents: Each of the five lessons uses reproduction artifacts and/or documents from three Revolutionary War conflict perspectives (British, Civilian, Patriot). Students can experience the Revolutionary War in a more personal way using artifacts to help them visualize events. Especially effective in understanding Soldier’s Life. See also section on “Artifact and Document Description”.

Use of Primary Source Quotes: Each lesson has a collection in three-ring form of quotes by famous people. Helps students appreciate the universality of feelings about a crisis across the generations.

Activities: In each of the lessons, essential questions challenge students to think deeper about the information. There are suggestions for extension activities for students for enrichment and deeper probing of issues for enduring understanding. See also the section on “Who’s Who in Chester County?”