The American Revolution
Activity Suggestion Sheets

Music in Battle

- View the painting “The Hour of Victory” by Edward Percy Morgan (1914). What do you see? What do you wonder? Locate the drummers in the painting. Listen to music from the Revolution, and make a Venn Diagram comparing music today to music then.

- Watch and listen to different drum commands of the American Revolution. Learn the commands, and see if you can recognize (and perform!) them around the classroom.

Music was an important tool in the American Revolution. Fifes and drums gave commands that soldiers could hear from across the battlefield. Drummers also told soldiers when to sleep, when to rise, and other daily commands.

People of the Revolution

- Watch an Ask Mount Vernon Video about the American Revolution, and in groups, generate questions that you all might have. Choose a question to research and answer as a group. Then, work together to create a “Ask Mount Vernon” type video as an answer to that question.

- Create a timeline on Washington's role in the Revolution, choosing five to six major events between 1775 and 1783 to highlight.

- Learn about the Battle of Yorktown. Then, using this mapping activity to trace where the Continental Army went, and how far they traveled.

American Spies

- Learn about spies of the American Revolution, and choose one to research. Create a list of people they may have interacted with as spies for the Americans.

- Make invisible ink. Then, write a letter to a friend, explaining why invisible ink was important for spies to use in the American Revolution.

- View the Culper Code Book and create a message using the code.

Friendship in War

- View a picture of the Bastille Key and a lock of hair - or, print out pictures of the objects, so you can see the actual size and shape. Read about the stories behind the objects. Then, choose two of your own objects that show friendship in your life. Explain how these objects do so, and why they are significant.

- Watch a video on Washington’s friends. Choose one of the friends mentioned - George Fairfax, James Craig, the Marquis de Lafayette, Alexander Hamilton, or Elizabeth Powel - and create a biography on their life, explaining their experience with the Revolutionary War.