



Choosing Sides: The Role of Native Americans in the American Revolution

Grade level: 4-5

Time required: 1 class period

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did different Native American Nations respond to the conflict of the American Revolution?

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn about the Native American Nations that allied themselves with the British and the Patriots during the Revolutionary War.
2. Students will learn about the motivations of Native American Nations for choosing a side.
3. Students will compare the motivations and involvement of Native American Nations to other underrepresented groups.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *Choosing Sides* Google Slides lesson
2. Sheets of blank paper and drawing materials for activity

ACTIVITY

1. Ask students if they know which side of the American Revolution Native Americans fought on. Ask if they think all the different Native American Nations fought on the same side.
2. Take the students through the slide presentation. There are questions for discussion in the margins of some slides. When discussing the different Native American people who assisted on both sides of the war, be sure to encourage the

students to empathize with these people and their choice between two sets of people who had colonized their homeland.

3. When you reach the slide with *Questions to Consider*, allow the students to read over the questions or listen as they are read aloud. Give the students time to discuss their answers either as a class or in smaller groups.
4. On the slide *Going Further*, hand out the blank pieces of paper and drawing materials. Allow the students to choose one of the Native American figures they just learned about. (Thayendanegea/Joseph Brant, Konwatsi'tsiaienni/Molly Deganwadonti, Polly Cooper, Nanyehi/Nancy Ward, Koquethagechton/White Eyes, or Akiatonharónkwen)
5. Give the students time to write or draw the story of their chosen person. Encourage them to focus on the part of this person's story that they found most important or most interesting. This may also be assigned as homework.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

1. New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards
 - 4SL1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners, expressing ideas clearly, and building on those of others.
2. New York Social Studies Framework:
 - Gathering, Interpreting, and Using Evidence
3. New York State Social Studies Standards:
 - 1.4.3- Students view historic events through the eyes of those who were there, as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.