

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

American Revolution, Grade 4

What is the goal of this unit?

- Your child will read texts about the American Revolution to understand the decisions and choices colonists had to make leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

What topics and skills is your fourth grader learning in this unit?

- American Revolution
- Revolutionary War
- Colonists
- Historical perspective
- Conflict
- Opinion writing
- Debate

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay in response to the question: *Were the colonists justified in declaring their independence and fighting the Revolutionary War?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by debating the following question from the point of view of a Patriot or a Loyalist: *Was the Revolutionary War a war of freedom or a war of treason?*

Your child will read these texts:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution	Kay Moore	Main text of the unit
Katie's Trunk	Ann Turner	Student text
Liberty! How the Revolutionary War Began	Lucille Recht Penner	Student text
Those Rebels, John and Tom	Barbara Kerley	Student text
George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen	Rosalyn Schanzer	Read aloud

from Both Sides		
And Then What Happened, Paul Revere	Jean Fritz	Group text
Paul Revere's Ride	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Student text
Military Perspectives	PBS.org	Read aloud

Ideas for discussing early American history and the American Revolution

- Who were the colonists?
- What issues did they have with England?
- What is a Loyalist?
- Why would some colonists be Loyalists?
- What started the American Revolution?
- What were some of the events that led to the Revolutionary War?
- Have you ever had a conflict with someone because you saw things differently? How did you resolve it?
- What does it mean to "take sides"?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>The Split History of the American Revolution: A Perspectives Flip Book</i>	Michael Burgan
<i>King George: What Was His Problem?</i>	Steve Sheinkin
<i>The New York Colony</i>	Kevin Cunningham
<i>Chains</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson
<i>Phoebe The Spy</i>	Judith Berry Griffin
<i>The Top-Secret Adventure of John Darragh, Revolutionary War Spy</i>	Connie and Peter Roop
<i>Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution</i>	Avi
<i>Colonial Voices</i>	Kay Winters

What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading (weekends and school breaks too!). Before bedtime is a great time to read.
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss your child's reading. Ask questions like:
 - What was that book about?
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading the book?
 - How does this book connect to other books you've read?