

America's First Democracy

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. How did the tribes' geographical closeness play a role in their fighting?
 - (A) They had to compete for hunting and fishing grounds.
 - (B) They were confused about who belonged to which tribe.
 - (C) The tribes could easily avoid each other if they wanted to.
 - (D) Tribe leaders were unaware that other tribes existed.

 2. What detail made Hiawatha's plan for peace successful?
 - (A) Elder women would make up the Great Council.
 - (B) The Iroquois would be known as the "League of Nations."
 - (C) All of the tribe leaders had equal power.
 - (D) There would be more hunting and fishing grounds.

 3. How did tribe members who weren't chiefs contribute to the Great Council?
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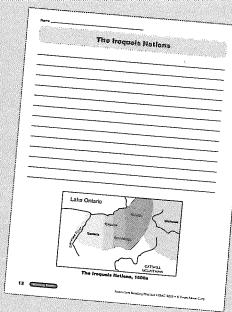
4. How does the author support the fact that the Iroquois government was democratic?
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5. Why would the U.S. Constitution's writers use ideas from the Iroquois constitution?
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Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Explain why the Iroquois government is known to some people as America's first democracy. Use details from the text.



Women in the American Revolution

Level 1 ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Women's Roles

Colonial American fought in the American Revolution to win their independence from the British. Many people know that George Washington, State Troops, and other men made up the main forces that fought in the war for American independence, but women did too.

Working in Army Camps

Many women worked, and mostly stayed outside the army camps. Some followed because they wanted to help their family survive without the men. Others followed because they wanted to be close to the men. In fact, some women even joined the army! They were nurses who wanted to help the men who were fighting and were missing. Nurses made sure the men had clean water to drink, and they also helped treat the sick and wounded soldiers. They fed the men, washed their clothes, cleaned medical supplies, and kept the camp clean. Some nurses even became mothers to the men. Many nurses died due to illness or disease.

Other women were seamstresses, cooks, and nurses. They made clothes, sewed, washed, mended, baked, and cooked meals. Before the war, many women did not work outside the home. Women really performed these roles.

Espionage

If you can think of an effective way to gather information in the war, Women who worked as cooks and nurses usually wore very tight pants. They could secretly insert needles and thread through military plans, supply routes, and locations of troops. These plans informed British leaders who could use it to make the enemy weaker. In the Revolution, spying was almost as important as having an army.

Fighting and Defending

Women were asked to be soldiers, but few did. Some women took up arms in battle. These women usually did not fight in battles, but instead, they came out, cut the hair off of their heads, and dressed like men. Some women even formed an all-female unit called the Daughters of Liberty. These women had to defend the British and Native American homes from the British who were attacking them.

When we think of the people who played a role in the American Revolution, it is important to remember the contributions women made.

Words to Know
Women's Roles

- colonial
- wounds
- surrender
- mentored
- advantage
- adopted
- masculine
- contribution

Women in the American Revolution

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Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Level 3

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Women in the American Revolution, page 21
 - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
 - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
 - Writing Form: Women in the American Revolution, page 22

Introduce the Topic

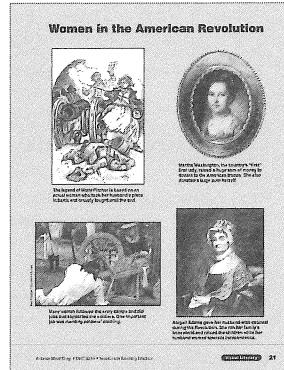
Read aloud and discuss the Women in the American Revolution text, portraits, and photographs. Tell students that the photo of the woman mending was taken at a Revolutionary War reenactment. Explain that there were many ways that women contributed to the war.

Read and Respond

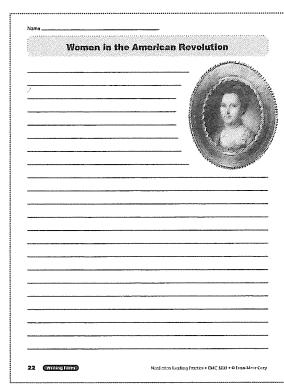
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



Visual Literacy



Writing Form

Women in the American Revolution



The legend of Molly Pitcher is based on an actual woman who took her husband's place in battle and bravely fought until the end.



Many women followed the army camps and did jobs that supported the soldiers. One important job was mending soldiers' clothing.



Martha Washington, the country's "first" first lady, raised a huge sum of money to donate to the American troops. She also donated a large sum herself.



Abigail Adams gave her husband wise counsel during the Revolution. She ran her family's household and raised the children while her husband worked towards independence.

Women in the American Revolution



Words to Know

Women's Roles

colonial
wards
seamstresses
mended
advantage
adopted
masculine
contributions

Words to Know

Different Roles, Different Women

contribute
scout
militia
advancing
patriotism
loyalist
peddler
eavesdropped

Words to Know

Women on Both Sides

patriots
loyalists
behalf
consequences
majority
donations
mending
counsel
bankruptcy
pension
humiliated
espionage
possessions
mobs

**Women in the
American Revolution** ■ ■

**Women in the
American Revolution** ■ ■ ■

**Women in the
American Revolution** ■ ■ ■



Women's Roles

Colonial Americans fought in the American Revolution to win their independence from the British. Many people know that George Washington, the first U.S. president, and other male leaders played key roles that led to American independence. But women also helped win the war.

Working in Army Camps

Many wives, daughters, and mothers of soldiers followed the army camps. Some followed because they felt that they couldn't survive without the men. However, many of them worked in the camps. In fact, the American army hired women to follow the camps and work. A common job for women was nursing. Nurses assisted male surgeons, caring for sick and wounded soldiers. They fed and bathed patients, cleaned medical wards, and kept patients comfortable. Nursing could be dangerous, as many patients and caregivers died due to illness.

Other women were seamstresses, cooks, and maids. These women did laundry, got fresh water, mended uniforms, and cooked meals. Before the Revolution, male soldiers usually performed these roles.



Galina Dreyzina / Shutterstock.com

Spying

Spying was an effective way to gain an advantage in the war. Women who worked as cooks and maids in military camps were great spies. They could secretly listen in on conversations about military plans, supply shortages, deliveries, and the location of troops. They passed information to people who could use it to make the enemy weaker. In the Revolution, spying was almost as important as battle victories.

Fighting and Defending

Women were not allowed to be soldiers, but some secretly fought beside the men in battle. These women usually disguised themselves. They adopted male names, cut their hair, and dressed in masculine clothing. Other women stayed at home to maintain farms or businesses until their husbands returned home. Often, these women had to defend their land against British and Native American troops.

When we think of the people who played a role in the American Revolution, it is important to recognize the contributions women made.

Women's Roles

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. The women who followed the army camps but didn't work probably _____.
 A were a burden on the soldiers' resources
 B were pleased to leave their homes
 C became spies after a few years
 D had an interest in watching the battles
 2. The American army probably hired women to do camp jobs _____.
 A because otherwise the women would be alone at home
 B so that male soldiers could focus on the war
 C so the women would get to see what battle looks like
 D because it was impossible for male soldiers to do the jobs
 3. Why do you think the nurses were so important to the war effort?
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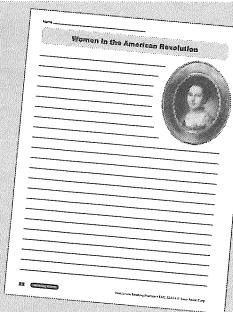
4. Why do you think spying was almost as important as battle victories?
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5. How does the author support the fact that women fought and defended during the war?
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Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Explain how women affected the outcome of the American Revolution. Use details from the text in your response.



Different Roles, Different Women

During the American Revolution, there were many women who wanted to contribute to getting a victory for their side, whether British or American. Each of these women used traits such as patience, devotion, or persistence to play a role in the war.

Catherine Moore Barry

Volunteering to be a scout for the American side, Catherine was a skilled horsewoman who was familiar with trails and shortcuts. She is remembered for warning the local militia that British troops were advancing before the Battle of Cowpens. The battle was a complete victory for the Americans.

Mary Ludwig Hays McCauly

Mary tirelessly carried pitchers of water to soldiers during battle. Her husband was seriously wounded while firing the cannon. When he fell, Mary took up his position and fought the rest of the battle. She continued to fight, even after a cannonball almost hit her. Mary earned the nickname "Molly Pitcher," and she became well known for her bravery in battle. It's believed the nickname stemmed from soldiers' cries, "Molly! Pitcher!" when they were thirsty during battle.



Esther De Berdt Reed

Esther showed her patriotism by establishing "The Ladies of Philadelphia," an organization that raised money for the American troops. She worked with Martha Washington, General Washington's wife, and took the general's suggestion for how the money should be spent. Most of it was spent on cloth and linens for the soldiers.

Nancy Hart

Nancy fearlessly took a stand against a group of British soldiers who entered her cabin without permission. As they got comfortable and made demands, Hart quickly (and secretly) sent her daughter to alert the neighbors. In the meantime, Nancy took away the soldiers' weapons. When they realized this, they rushed her. She shot one of them dead and wounded another. She became well known for this event.

Ann Bates

Ann was a loyalist spy for the British. She was a teacher in Philadelphia, but would disguise herself as a peddler. As she roamed through the American camps selling things, she eavesdropped and picked up information. She passed the information to the British Army.

Different Roles, Different Women

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. Nancy Hart's actions could be categorized as _____.
 (A) spying on the enemy
 (B) fighting in battle
 (C) defending herself and her land
 (D) influencing others
2. Most of the women in the text were _____.
 (A) British loyalists
 (B) influential writers
 (C) in organizations
 (D) American patriots
3. Which of the women would you interview and why?

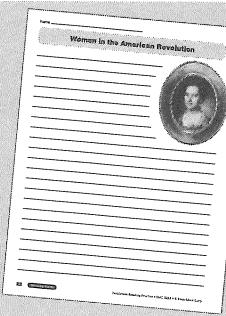
4. What actions did Mary demonstrate that would cause you to think she was brave?

5. What was Ann Bates's motive for acting the way she did during the war?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

What traits can you infer about the women from their roles in the war? Compare three of them using details from the text.



Women on Both Sides

The Revolutionary War was won against the British in 1783. Women on both sides supported their causes, but they also experienced struggles.

Wives Had to Make a Decision

At the start of the Revolution, people had to decide whether they would be patriots and fight for American independence or whether they would be loyalists and fight on behalf of British colonization in America. For wives, making the decision to support their husbands had possible consequences. If a woman opposed her husband, she risked him getting arrested or ending her marriage.

Wives of Patriots

The majority of people wanted independence. Many patriot wives helped win independence. Some of them collected money donations for the army. Others followed army camps and did jobs such as nursing, cooking, cleaning, and mending. Women in high positions, such as Abigail Adams, gave counsel and donated money to the cause. Many women ran their households so the men would return to a home rather than to bankruptcy. Some patriot women were spies, and some even fought in battle. Patriot widows were often given a lifelong pension.



Abigail Adams was a patriot and the wife of President John Adams.

Wives of Loyalists

Vocal loyalists were sometimes publicly humiliated in their communities. Loyalist women collected information for the British, often participating in espionage. Many women took care of their households. Some loyalist women hid their husbands to help them avoid arrest under colonial law. Women also hid paperwork and money. Overall, loyalist women faced many difficulties. Many wives were forced to leave their properties and join their husbands at camp. They often had to give up their possessions and pay high prices for safe passage. They had little freedom. Widows faced the anger of mobs and whole communities. A major concern for loyalists was safety in British territories. The British would invite families under their protection, then abandon the territories without much notice. After the war, thousands of loyalists were required to leave the U.S., the only home they'd ever known. Loyalist women had little support from neighbors or friends.