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Grade Level: 5th

Time Frame: One 45 minute period

Lesson Description:

Students create an annotated map depicting the battles of the American War for Independence.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Apply geographic tools to construct and interpret maps,
2. Translate geographic data into a map

Connection to the Curriculum:

This lesson is intended to be used in either a 5th grade American History classroom during a unit on American Independence, but it could be easily adapted for a 8th grade classroom by adding more details to the map and having the students perform a more sophisticated map analysis. The lesson assumes that the students have already been introduced to the causes of the war and the events which leading up to the start of the war. A brief background of events is included in the slide presentation, but this can be skipped in favor of a brief oral review of the students' knowledge of these events. This lesson can be used as an introduction to the unit and the map can be used to review at the end of the unit.

TEKS Strand(s) Objective(s):

5th Grade

2. The student understands how conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain led to American Independence. The student is expected to:
 - A. Identify and analyze the causes and effects of events prior to and during the American Revolution, including the French and Indian War and the Boston Tea Party;
6. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The student is expected to:
 - A. apply geographic tools, including grid systems, legends, symbols, scales, and compass roses, to construct and interpret maps;
 - B. translate geographic data into a variety of formats such as raw data to graphs and maps.

Materials:

For Student Use:	
11" x 17" paper	One sheet per student. 8 ½" x 11" can be used, if necessary, but the map is more effective if students have more room to write.
Colored pencils	Students will need a standard package of 8 colors – they can share, but one pack per student is ideal.
For Teacher Use:	
American Independence Annotated Map Power Point	
Computer with projection	

device

References:

Hagist, D. N. (2013, September 17). *Top 10 Battles of the Revolutionary War*. Retrieved December 14, 2014, from Journal of the American Revolution: <http://allthingsliberty.com/2013/09/top-10-battles-revolutionary-war/>

Strategies: During this lesson, students will be creating a sketch map and annotating it as a method for note-taking. For more information on sketch maps as graphic organizers, see the explanation in the module materials for the Spatial Skills and Applications Module

Questions: Below are a few questions you can use throughout this lesson in order to promote higher order thinking among your students. Answers are given in the text of the lesson.

Can you identify a pattern in the locations of the battles?

Explain why the battles occurred in these areas of the American colonies.

Evaluate your map, and explain if there is any information that could be added to your map to make it more meaningful or easier to understand.

Procedures to conduct the lesson:

Starting the Lesson: 10 minutes

Asking Geographic Questions:

What were the major events which occurred during the War for American Independence and where did these events take place? Why were these events so important to the cause of the war?

Begin your slide presentation, introducing your students to the Guiding Question for the lesson and giving them time to draw their sketch map of the American colonies using the directions on the slide.

Note to Instructor: Many students are apprehensive about drawing sketch maps because they feel they do not have the artistic skill necessary to draw a “good” map. Emphasize that all maps are imperfect representations of the earth’s surface – they all contain distortions and errors and model creating your own sketch maps for the students. In addition, if this is the first time your students have created a sketch map, it may take a bit more time. However, try not to give them too much time, or they will try to make their maps too perfect.

The Lesson:

Acquiring & Organizing Geographic Information:

Continue the slide presentation, pausing on each slide long enough for students to record the location on their map and record the annotations. Make sure to remind the students to use the correct icons for each place or event.

Analyzing Geographic Information:

Once the students have completed their notes, give them a few minutes to analyze their maps and consider the day’s guiding question. Ask the students to describe where most of the battles of the Revolution occurred. () Have them explain why most of the battles occurred in

these areas. () Is there any information you do not have on your map that might make it more meaningful or easier to understand? (answers will vary)

End the Lesson:

Answering Geographic Questions:

Once the students have finished looking over their map, have them write a few sentences answering the Guiding Question on the back of their map.

Evaluation/Assessment: Include your assessment product or idea with the lesson plan. Note, you want your assessment to measure your students understanding of the objectives (listed above).

	Not There Yet	Satisfactory	Clearly Outstanding
Content	1 Point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written answer does not adequately address the Guiding Question. Many map features are missing or incorrectly labeled. Annotations are largely missing. Written answer does not utilize appropriate vocabulary. Written answer is difficult to read due to spelling and/or grammar errors. 	2 Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written answer adequately answers the Guiding Question. Most map features are present and correctly labeled. Annotations are present, but may be missing some information. Written answer correctly utilizes appropriate vocabulary. Written answer is generally free from spelling or grammar errors. 	3 Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written answer thoroughly answers the Guiding Question. Map features are all correctly placed and labeled. Annotations are all present and thorough. Written answer demonstrates mastery of appropriate vocabulary. Written answer is largely free from spelling or grammar errors.
Appearance	0.75 Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map features are not clear and are difficult to read. Annotations obscure map features. Map shows minimal effort. 	1.25 Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map features are clear and legible. Annotations are neat and do not obscure map features. Map shows effort and attention to detail. 	2 Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map features are clear, legible and attractively drawn. Annotations are neat and enhance the map presentation. Map shows great effort and attention to detail.