

Lesson Plan

- Topic:** Map of the Revolutionary battles in the Hudson River Valley
4th Grade Level
- Time Frame:** 1, 30-40 minute period
- State Standard:** 3. Geography
Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live—local, national, and global—including the distribution of people, places and environments over the Earth’s surface.
- Content Area:** Geography/History
- Materials:** 1. Topographical map for each student ([click here](#))
Teacher Note: Children should have previously learned how to read a topographical map.
- Strategy:** cooperative groups/inquiry
- Objective(s):**
1. Students will locate and label major sites related to the Revolutionary War in the Hudson River Valley.
 2. Students will examine the topographical features of each site and list a few of these features.
 3. Students will list two advantages of each military site.
- Procedure:**
- Opening:** 1. Activate prior knowledge relative to topographical features on maps.
- Body:**
1. Working in groups, students will use geographical clues ([click here for clues](#)) to locate and label major American Revolutionary War battle sites and strategic locations of the Hudson River Valley.
If relevant, have students place their own hometown.
 2. After placing the sites on the map, students in groups examine the geographical features of each site and make a list of what they observe from the map.
 3. In groups, students will speculate about and list the possible military advantages of each site.
- Closure:** 1. With the teacher, students can compare their speculations of the military advantages with those of military historians. ([click here for military advantages](#))
- Follow-up: activity**
1. If relevant, have students write their own clues to help others locate their town on the map.
 2. Have each student choose a military site and explain why they would like to defend it.

Clues for the lesson plan activity:

Fortress West Point: The important Fort from the American Revolution that General Washington referred to as “the key to America,” where the United States Military Academy was founded in 1802.

- Located on a point* on the west shore of the Hudson River
- Almost halfway between Albany and Manhattan
- Located on a narrow bend in the River where the Patriots had blocked the River by stretching an iron chain across it.
- Protected by mountains

*point: a small piece of land that sticks out into a body of water

Saratoga: A large battlefield along the upper Hudson River, where two separate battles were fought; often referred to as the “turning point of the American Revolution.”

- North of Albany
- South of Fort George
- Located on the west side of the river, on a low flat plain near a bend in the river

White Plains: A Large battle fought from Harlem Heights to the Village of White Plains. British, and Hessian, forces were victorious, but suffered heavy casualties.

- Located on the east side of the River, about half way between the Hudson River and the Connecticut state border. It is south of the Hudson Highlands and north of the Long Island Sound.

Stony Point: Located at King’s Ferry across from Verplank’s point, it was one of the few ferry crossing on the Hudson River; this was part of a major route for moving troops from one side of the river to the other.

- South of West Point
- A small point located on the west shore of the Hudson River, across from another, larger point on the east shore
- It is at the north end of the widest portion of the river.

Kingston: First capitol of New York, burned by the British in 1777.

- Located on the Hudson River halfway between New York and Albany at the northeastern end of the Shawangunk Ridge, southeast of the Catskills.

Newburgh/New Windsor: Known as the “last Encampment,” George Washington and the Continental Army camped here at the “Northern Gate to the Hudson Highlands” during 1782-1783 in order to observe the British Army in New York City.

- Located immediately North of the Hudson Highlands, on the west shore of the Hudson River

Military Advantages of each Fortification:

Fortress West Point:

Fortress West Point was actually a series of small fortifications on both the eastern and western shores of the Hudson River located on a narrow bend. They were designed in such a way that each one could defend the other and prevent ships from advancing further up the Hudson. The fortifications on the western shore were guarded well from land attack by rough, high mountains to the west and north, and they commanded lowlands to the south due to their position on a bluff top.

Saratoga:

The Battle of Saratoga was fought in two locations: Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights. ???<<<Neither were an intentional fortification as much as a crossroads>>!!!? The Farm provided woods to hide and fight in, and the heights were small hills that provided shelter by positioning troops behind them, as well as an elevated position to fight from that was easily defended.

White Plains:

This battle involved islands, redoubts, forts, batteries, naval fighting....

Stony Point:

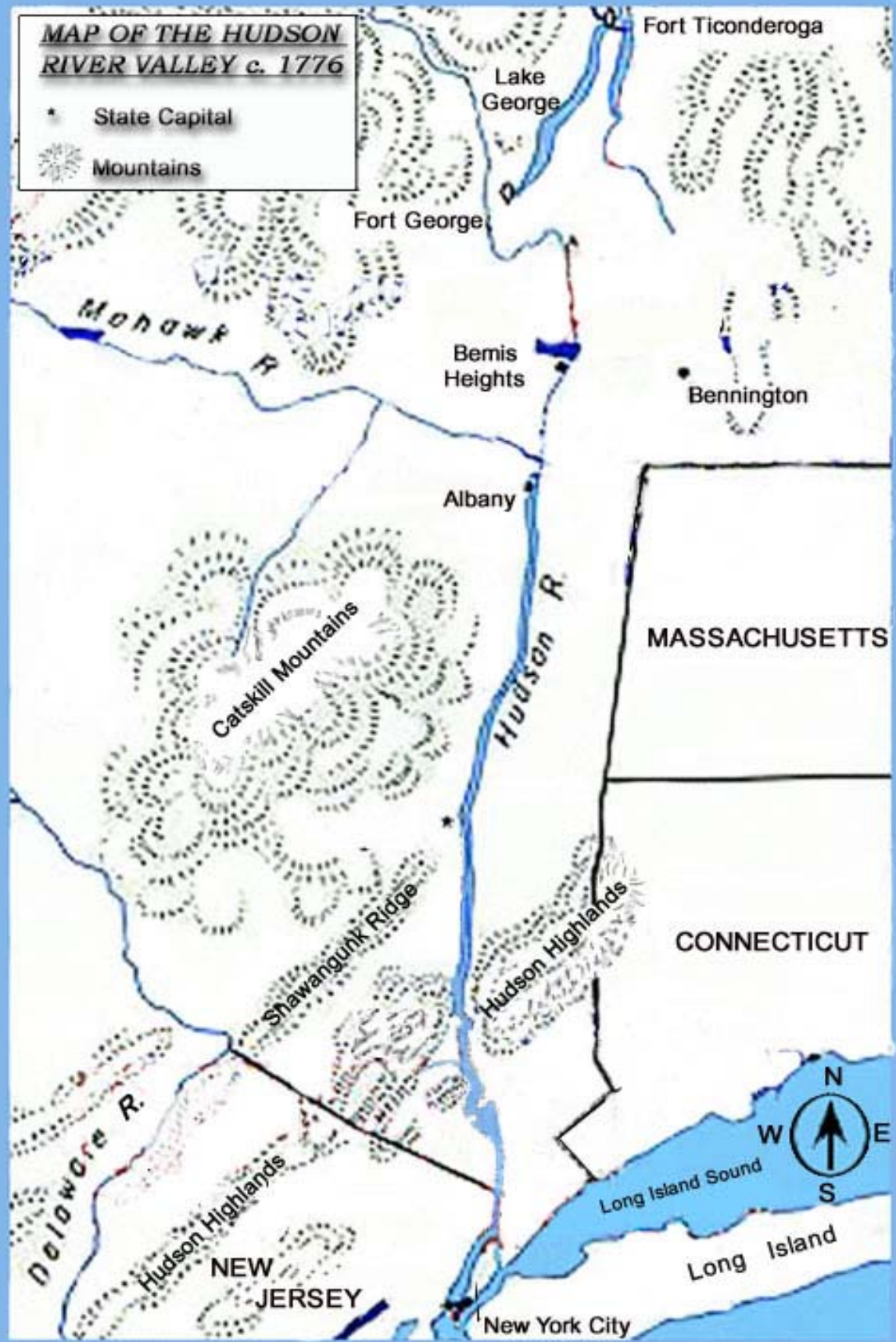
Stony Point was fortified in an effort to protect King's Ferry and Verplank's point, an important ferry crossing on the Hudson River. At the time of the Revolution, this "point" was nearly an island. Fortifications were established on top of the hill overlooking the ferry landing, and were surrounded by fallen trees with sharpened branches facing outward called *abatis*.

Kingston:

Kingston was originally settled as a stockade, or walled village, by Dutch explorers before the British took control of the New World. By the time of the Revolution, it was a sprawling town and not a military fortification. However, the Patriot forces did fortify a small knoll on the Hudson River that was connected to the mainland by a corduroy road of wooden planks across a swamp. Columbus Point took advantage of natural high ground and its nearness to the channel as well as beaches where the British would come ashore. This was one of the only fortifications built in time to defend the Town against the British forces who quickly over-ran it and then marched through Kingston burning Patriots' houses.

MAP OF THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY c. 1776

- * State Capital
- ☼ Mountains



**MAP OF THE HUDSON
RIVER VALLEY C. 1776**

Worksheet Key

