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A&HW 4036

12/17/03

Unit: Colonial America and the American Revolution.

Lesson: The Battle of Saratoga to the Paris Peace Treaty.

AIM: Why was the American victory at the Saratoga Campaign important for the American Revolution?

Goals/Objectives:

1. Given factual data about the Battle of Saratoga and the Battle of Yorktown, students will be able to describe the particular events of the battles and how the Americans were able to win each battle.
2. Students will be able to recognize and explain why the battles were significant in the context of the entire war. (For example, the Battle of Saratoga indirectly leads to French assistance.)
3. Students will be able to read and interpret a key political document, The Paris peace Treaty of 1783.
4. Students will investigate key turning points in US history and explain why these events are significant. Students will be able to make arguments as to why these two battles were turning points in American history. (NYS 1.4)
5. Given the information, students will understand their historical roots and be able to reconstruct the past. Students will be able to realize how victory in these battles enabled the Paris Peace Treaty to come about. (NCSS II)

Main Ideas:

- The campaign consists of three major conflicts. 1) The Battle of Freeman's farm. 2) Battle of Bennington. 3) Battle of Bemis Heights.
- Battle of Bennington took place on Aug. 16-17th, 1777. Burgoyne sent out Baum to take American stores at Bennington. General Stark won.
- Freeman's farm was on Sept. 19, 1777. It was the second major conflict of the campaign. Ended in British "victory". Burgoyne defeats Gates.

- Battle of Bemis Heights. October 7, 1777. British are defeated by brave actions of Benedict Arnold.
- British surrender to Gates on October 17, 1777.
- The Saratoga campaign was important because it helped American cause gain recognition in France.
- France eventually decides to lend military support to the American cause in 1778.

Instructional Procedures:

Opening (5-10 minutes): “Do Now” activity. Students should read, “The Paris Peace Treaty of 1783”, alone and quickly complete the document analysis ditto. Students should then be made aware that the remainder of the revolutionary war will be covered in this lesson.

Teaching and Learning Activities (25-30 minutes): The teaching activity for this lesson will be lecture. A five minute video clip from “Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor” will be shown in regards to the Saratoga Campaign. The following are the lecture notes:

- I. The Saratoga Campaign:
 - A. Three major Conflicts comprise the Saratoga Campaign.
 - B. They are the Battle of Bennington, the Battle of Freeman’s Farm, and the Battle of Bemis Heights.

- II. The Battle of Bennington
 - A. British General John Burgoyne dispatches the “Hessian” Colonel Friedrich Baum to raid American storehouse at Bennington, VT.
 - B. The Colonial Militia is alerted to the incoming British troops.
 - C. Under the command of General John Stark, the militia engaged the British on August 16th through the 17th, 1777.
 - D. The British are soundly defeated by the superior American force at Bennington. Baum is killed.
 - E. Burgoyne loses men and supplies when Baum is defeated.

- III. The Battle of Freeman’s Farm
 - A. Occurred at Saratoga, NY.
 - B. General Gates and his Continentals engaged General Burgoyne the British on September 19, 1777.
 - C. British technically win the day. They maintain possession of the field of battle. They are, however, severely low on supplies and men.

- IV. The Battle of Bemis Heights

- A. General Benedict Arnold figures prominently in the battle. Encourages the men to fight harder, although he is supposed to be under house arrest. He is wounded in the leg but survives.
- B. Battle occurred on October 8, 1777.
- C. British are beaten badly and are forced to retreat.
- D. British are forced to surrender on October 17, 1777.

V. Significance of the Campaign

- A. Americans finally win a major campaign against the British.
- B. The French are now impressed with the American cause and their determination.
- C. The French enter the War of Independence on the American side in 1778.
- D. The British give up hope of winning in the North and focus on the Southern theater of the war.

VI. The End of Conflict

- A. The French begin to help out the American cause. This is done primarily through the use of the Navy and through sending supplies.
- B. The Battle of Yorktown begins in late September and continues through the middle of October, 1781. Cornwallis is forced to recognize certain defeat.
- C. He was cornered at Yorktown and besieged by the French and General George Washington's forces. Help never comes. Forced to surrender.
- D. Minor conflicts continue on into 1783.

VII. The Paris Peace Treaty

- A. The King of England finally concedes that America is lost.
- B. On September 3, 1783, a treaty is signed by both parties signaling that the colonies are now officially free of British control.
- C. Inhabitants are now called Americans and not colonists. They are free to choose their own government.

Assignments: Students should be reminded that the final project will be due shortly. Their homework will be to work on their projects.

Closure (5 minutes): Prompt the students to discuss the importance of the Saratoga campaign and its effect on the rest of the Revolution. "Would the Americans have done so well without French support?" , "What did the Paris Peace Treaty mean for Americans?" The teacher should help to make discussion and sum-up the lesson.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated in their responses to questions asked during the lecture and discussions held during that time.

Materials:

1. Document analysis ditto.
2. Paris Peace Treaty of 1783.
3. VHS of "Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor" (An A&E TV movie)

Sources:

Richard D. Brown. *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000): 201.

The Battle of Saratoga. www.saratoga.org/battle1777/history.html

The Battle of Bennington. www.virtualvermont.com/history/benbattle.html

Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor. An A&E TV movie.