White Plains is defined as “the Birthplace of the State of New York” because of its integral role in the Revolutionary War.

VI: History of White Plains

In 1758, the first courthouse was built and members of the Fourth Provincial Congress of New York assembled on July 9th, 1776 to revise the copy sent to them of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 11th, 1776, Judge John Thomas stood on the steps of the courthouse and read the Declaration of Independence to the public for the first time in the State of New York.

Originally White Plains was used as farmland by the Weckquaeskeck tribe.

In 1683, men from Rye, New York purchased the land from the Weckquaeskeck Indians.

In 1721, King George II granted eighteen settlers a patent to White Plains.
VI: History of White Plains

During September and October of 1776, troops were led by General George Washington and took up positions in the hills of the village of White Plains.

General Washington's troops were fiercely pursued by the British under General Sir William Howe, who attacked on October 28th.

The Battle of White Plains took place primarily on Chatterton Hill, and the Bronx River.

The Americans were forced to retreat, but this important battle blocked the British campaign into Westchester County.

In 1790, the population of White Plains was 505.

By 1820, the population number increased to 675.

White Plains was an undeveloped village with two churches, a courthouse, and a small collection of houses.

However, in 1844, the railroad reached White Plains and beyond.

A new courthouse was built on Railroad Avenue in 1856.

By 1870, the population exceeded 2,500.

It was incorporated as a village in 1866, but became a city in 1916.

Since then, White Plains continues its growth everyday.

V: Key Sites… Miller House

Built in 1738

140 Virginia Road

Colonial home of Elijah and Ann Miller

Elijah Miller fought in the French and Indian War in 1757, where he met George Washington. Washington is said to have used as headquarters in October 1776, during the Battle of White Plains.

Mrs. Miller tended to both sick and wounded soldiers at the home throughout the war.

Today it is open to the public as a museum.

V: Key Sites… Jacob Purdy House

The Jacob Purdy House was built around 1721 by early White Plains settler Samuel Horton. In 1730, Samuel Purdy, father of Jacob Purdy, purchased the home.

Jacob, whom his father passed down the house to, served in the Westchester militia from 1775 to the end of the war.

The house has been source-documented as General Washington's headquarters from July 23 to September 16, 1778.

Today the house stands at 60 Park Ave.

V: Key Sites… Monument at White Plains Armory

Address: 65 Mitchell Place and 35 South Broadway

Built to serve as a National Guard armory

Built on the historic site where the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in the State of New York, during the White Plains' nickname, "The Birthplace of the State of New York.

The monument in front of the building, topped with a spread-winged eagle, was constructed in 1910 to memorialize the site.

The monument in lieu was assembled with stones taken from the foundation of the first courthouse.

V: Key Sites… White Plains Courthouse

The White Plains Courthouse has been in effect since the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 11, 1776 by Judge John Thomas Purchase.

While the armory now marks the original site of the reading, today the federal courthouse is located at 300 Quarropas Street.

In 1978, Congress selected White Plains, in commemoration of where patriots fought for independence during the Battle of White Plains in 1776 and the Declaration of Independence was first read in New York, as a place of holding court.
V. Key Sites… Battle of White Plains Park

The White Plains battlefield is a nationally significant historic site for the draw that resulted there between Washington and Howe on October 28, 1776.

Today, the 1.31 acre park marks the historic site of the battle.

The park was built in 1976 and is located at the corner of Whitney Street & Battle Avenue overlooking the city.

Interpretive historical signage, a playground, seating areas, and summer neighborhood night programs are featured at the park.

VII: Wayside Exhibit

The Convention of Representatives of the STATE of New York

The first convention in White Plains was held in 1776. On July 4, 1776 this event marked the Declaration of Independence. The National Congress met in the East Room of the White Plains Armory and adopted a preamble that the citizens of Manhattan to urge the Insurrection. They then the convention adjourned to convene the next day at the College of New York in the Council of Representatives of the U.S. of New York. On July 17, 1776, Judge John Thorne read the report of the convention and the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

North White Plains New York

VIII: Tourism Development

The City of White Plains Website

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

Pinterest

Youtube

The City of White Plains Website, Facebook and YouTube are kept up to date and informative.

Snapchat, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram are not kept up to date and informative.

IX: Bibliography

IX: Bibliography
X: Approaches For Final Case Study

Lesson Plan- Courtney
Guidebook Pages- Meaghan
Itinerary - Bryanna
Wayside Exhibits- Natalie
Highway Markers- Brianna