



• NYS SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK •

4.3d COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD IN NY



WEST POINT & BENEDICT ARNOLD



ELA INTEGRATED
MAIN IDEA



4.3d



PRIMARY
SOURCES



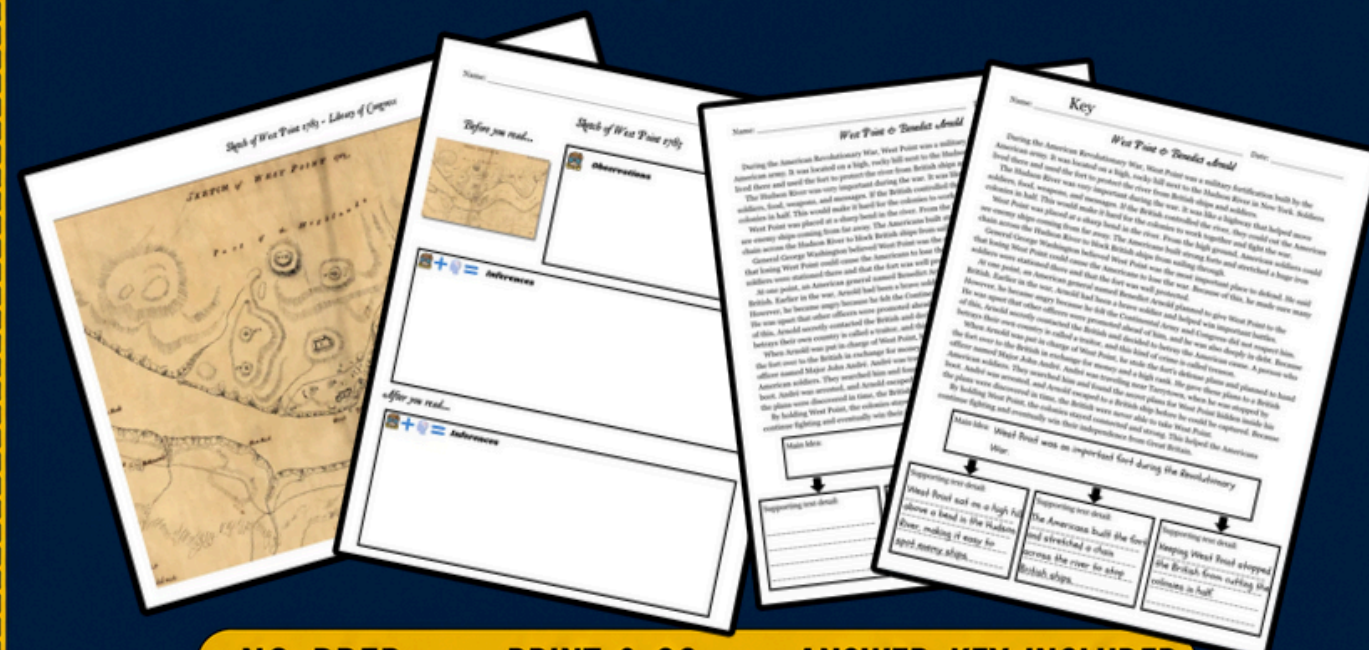
ENGAGING
ACTIVITIES



BUILD CRITICAL
THINKING



MAP ANALYSIS



NO PREP • PRINT & GO • ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

West Point & Benedict Arnold

New York State Social Studies Framework:

4.3d Growing conflicts between England and the 13 colonies over issues of political and economic rights led to the American Revolution. New York played a significant role during the Revolution, in part due to its geographic location.

New York State Next Gen ELA Standards:

- 4R1 Locate and refer to relevant details and explicitly/implicitly and make logical inferences
- 4R3 In informational texts, explain events, what happened and why, based on specific evidence
- 4R5 In informational texts, identify the overall meaning, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution

Vocabulary:

- traitor – a person who betrays his country
- treason – the act of betraying one's country
- fort – a fortified place occupied only by troops, including rampart, redoubts and parapet
- fortified – made stronger or more secure

Lesson:

Anticipatory Set: Either project, have students navigate to or hand out a paper copy of the “Sketch of West Point 1783” from the Library of Congress. Students will first record observations only on the “Sketch of West Point 1783” student recording sheet. They might observe things like:

- the map title
- a river titled “North River”
- the compass rose
- markings on the land
- letters and numbers on some of the markings on the land
- labels on the map - i.e. West Point, Constitution Island, etc.

Next ask students to make inferences - take what they already know and what they see on the map.

Standards aligned, detailed lesson plan.

Sketch of West Point 1783 from the Library of Congress
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Liberty's Kids Connection: Episode 32 “Benedict Arnold”
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- West Point is on the west side of the river.
- West Point is built where there is a bend in the river.

Have students share their observations and inferences with a partner or in a small group, then set aside their recording sheets and maps until later in the lesson.

Body: Read “West Point and Benedict Arnold” informational text and discuss it. Complete the main idea and supporting detail organizer at the bottom of the page.

Closure: Go back to the Sketch of West Point 1783” from the Library of Congress and the student recording sheet. Students will make new inferences based on their new knowledge from the text in the box labeled “After you read...”. Have students share these out and talk about how the text helped them understand the map more fully.

Note: The Liberty's Kids episode is great for giving more detail on Benedict Arnold.

Name: _____ Date: _____

West Point & Benedict Arnold

During the American Revolutionary War, West Point was a military fortification built by the American army. It was located on a high, rocky hill next to the Hudson River in New York. Soldiers lived there and used the fort to protect the river from British ships and soldiers.

The Hudson River was very important during the war. It was like a highway that helped move soldiers, food, weapons, and messages. If the British controlled the river, they could cut the American colonies in half. This would make it hard for the colonies to work together and fight the war.

West Point was placed at a sharp bend in the river. From the high ground, American soldiers could see enemy ships coming from far away. The Americans built strong forts and stretched a huge iron chain across the Hudson River to block British ships from sailing through.

General George Washington believed West Point was the most important place to defend. He said that losing West Point could cause the Americans to lose the war. Because of this, he made sure many soldiers were stationed there and that the fort was well protected.

At one point, an American general named Benedict Arnold planned to give West Point to the British. Earlier in the war, he had been a hero, but he became angry. He was upset that other officers were getting more credit than he was. Of this, Arnold secretly convinced the British to betray their own country.

When Arnold was put in charge of the fort, he decided to give it over to the British. He told an officer named Major John André about the plan. André was arrested, and the plans were discovered. By holding West Point, the British could continue fighting and even take over the whole country.

Main Idea:



Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

Supporting text detail:

above a bend in the Hudson River, making it easy to spot enemy ships.

and stretched a chain across the river to stop British ships.

the British from cutting the colonies in half.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sketch of West Point 1783

Before you read...



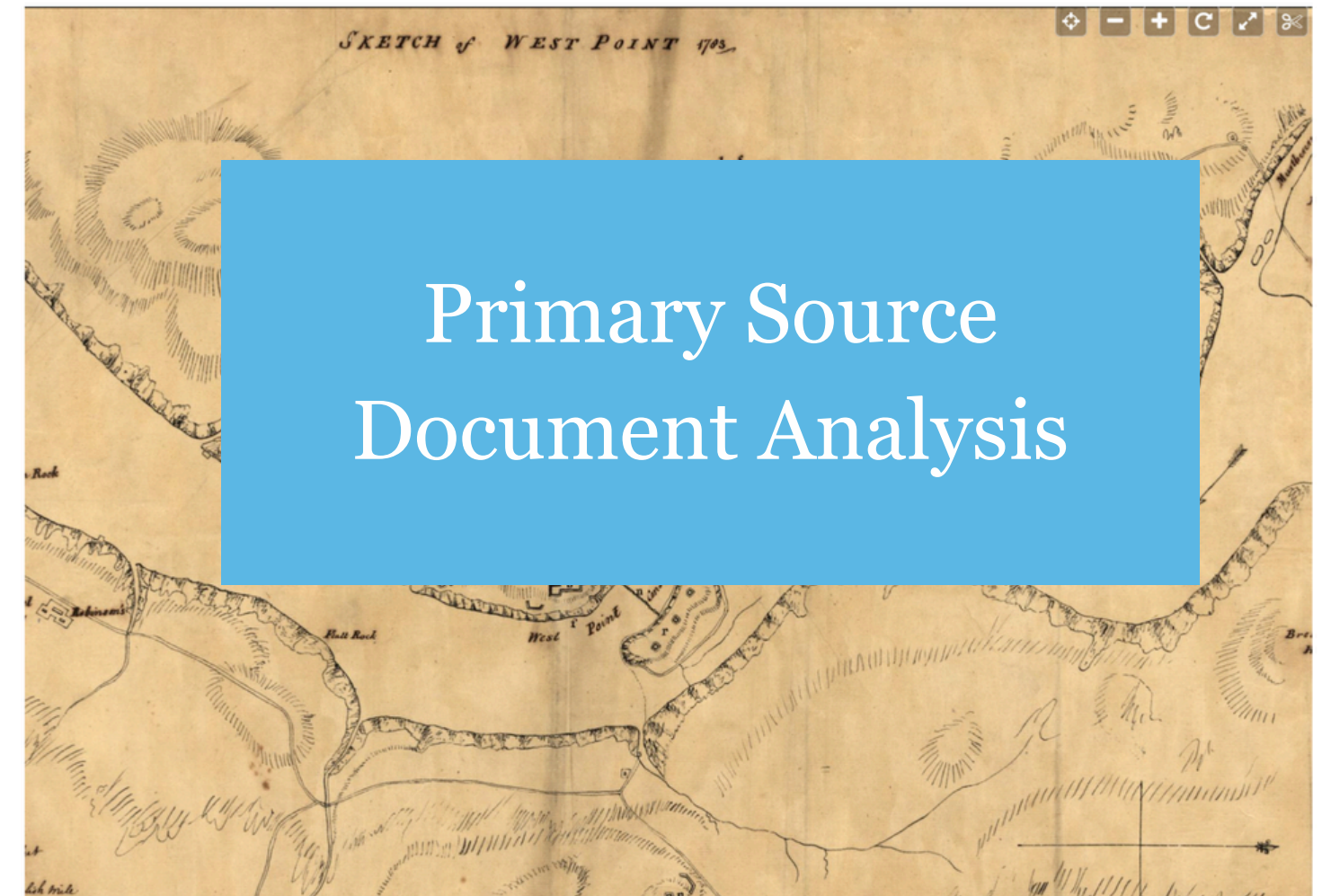
Observations

+ = Inferences

After you read...

+ = Inferences

Sketch of West Point 1783 - Library of Congress



Primary Source Document Analysis