

Name: _____ Date: _____

New York's Importance During the American Revolution

New York's Role in the Revolutionary War

During the Revolutionary War, New York was one of the most important places in America. Its location, waterways, and big city made it a key target. Whoever controlled New York could control trade, colonies. This is why so many major events happened there.

Why Trade Was Important

Controlling trade was a big deal because trade in clothing, weapons, and tools. Farmers sent crops like wheat and corn. Merchants traded goods such as cloth, iron, and gunpowder. Armies needed these supplies to survive and fight. If one side controlled trade routes, the other side could not get what they needed. This could decide who won the war.

New York's Location and Waterways

New York was very important because of where it was located. New England and the southern colonies, so controlling New York was a key waterway. The Hudson River was a key waterway inside of the state and even to Canada. Whoever controlled New York could control trade, colonies. This is why so many major events happened there during the war.

Harbors and British Naval Power

New York also had deep harbors, like the one in New York City, which were perfect for British ships. These harbors allowed big ships to bring soldiers and supplies from England. The British wanted these harbors so they could park their powerful naval ships there. Their navy was one of the strongest in the world, and having safe harbors meant they could attack quickly and control the coast. This made New York City a very valuable place during the war.

Directions: In the table below, list details from the text that fit each category on the left.

Location	- sits between New England and the southern colonies - controlling New York
Waterways	- Hudson River got from New York to Canada - transportation
New York City	- harbors - allowed British to bring soldiers and supplies from England - Center of trade

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Why Trade Was Important

Controlling trade was a big deal because trade meant supplies. Colonies traded things like food, clothing, weapons, and tools. Farmers sent crops like wheat and corn. Merchants traded goods such as cloth, iron, and gunpowder. Armies needed these supplies to survive and fight. If one side controlled trade routes, the other side could not get what they needed. This could decide who won the war.

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Directions: In the table below, list details from the text that fit each category on the left.

Location	
Waterways	
New York City	

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New York: The Battleground State

During the American Revolution, New York was one of the most important places in the fight for independence. About one-third of all the battles in the American Revolution happened in New York. Because of this, New York is called a battleground state.

New York was important because of its rivers, ports, and cities. The Hudson River was like a highway that helped move soldiers and supplies. Both the British and the Patriots wanted control of New York, so many battles were fought there.

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75 at Fort Ticonderoga. This was a major turning point in the war. The Americans won this battle, which gave them control of the Hudson River. This was a major turning point in the war. The Battle of Long Island, which was won by the British, gave them control of New York City. The Battle of Oriskany was a major turning point in the war. The Battle of Saratoga took place in New York, which was a major turning point in the war.

Informational Text with Tagging - Keys Included

stand up to the British army. Later that year, fighting continued at the Battle of White Plains, which was won by the British as they pushed the American army north.

In 1777, battles spread across New York. In central New York, the Battle of Oriskany was a fierce and difficult fight. The British side won the battle, but it weakened British plans in the region because of heavy losses. Later that same year, the Battle of Saratoga took place in northern New York. The Americans won this battle, making it a major turning point in the war.

Later in the war, in 1779, American forces won an important victory at the Battle of Stony Point. This nighttime attack showed how much the Continental Army had improved and boosted American pride.

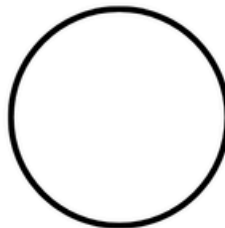
Because so many battles were fought in New York, the state played a huge role in the American Revolution. The courage of soldiers and civilians in New York helped the colonies move closer to independence.

Directions: After reading, go back through the text and tag it as shown in the key below.

Years Battles Took Place: red

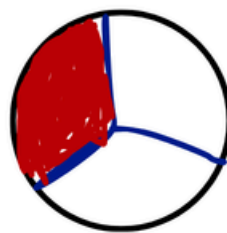
Where Battles Happened: blue

Directions: 1/3 of all battles during the American Revolution took place in New York State. Use the circle below to show 1/3.



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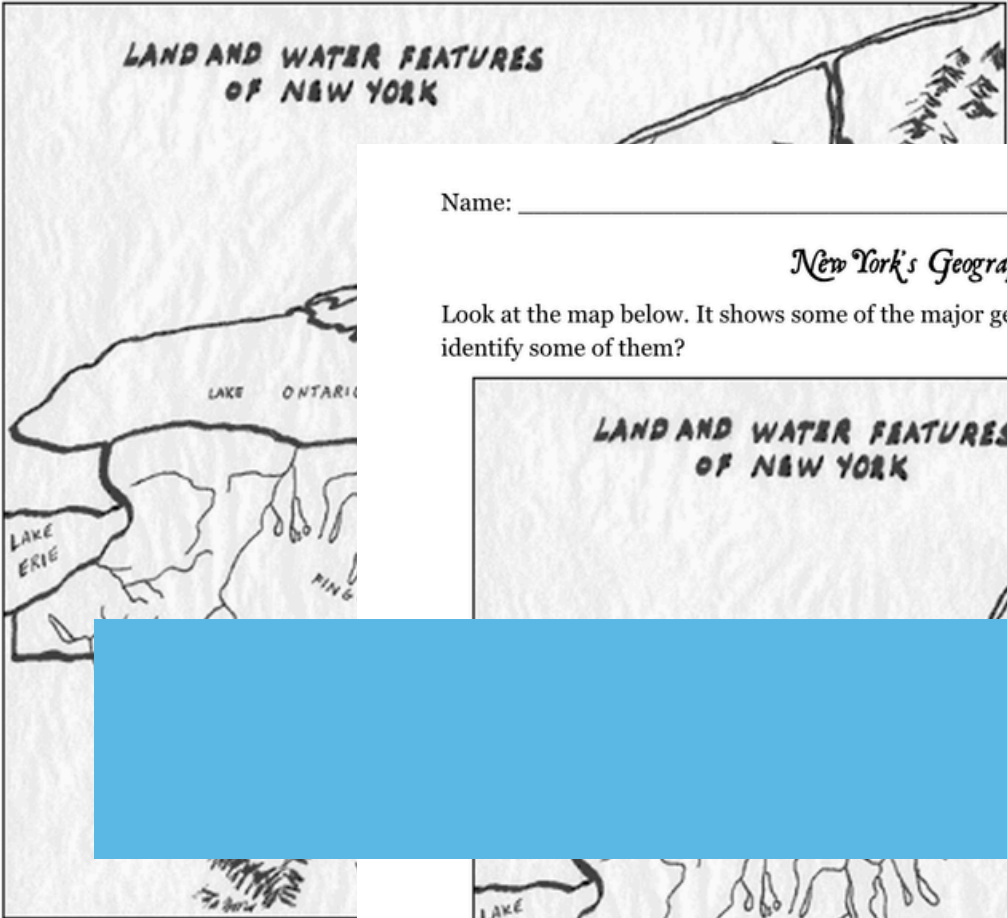


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Name: _____ KEY _____ Date: _____

New York's Geographical Features

Look at the map below. It shows some of the major geographical features of New York State. Can you identify some of them?

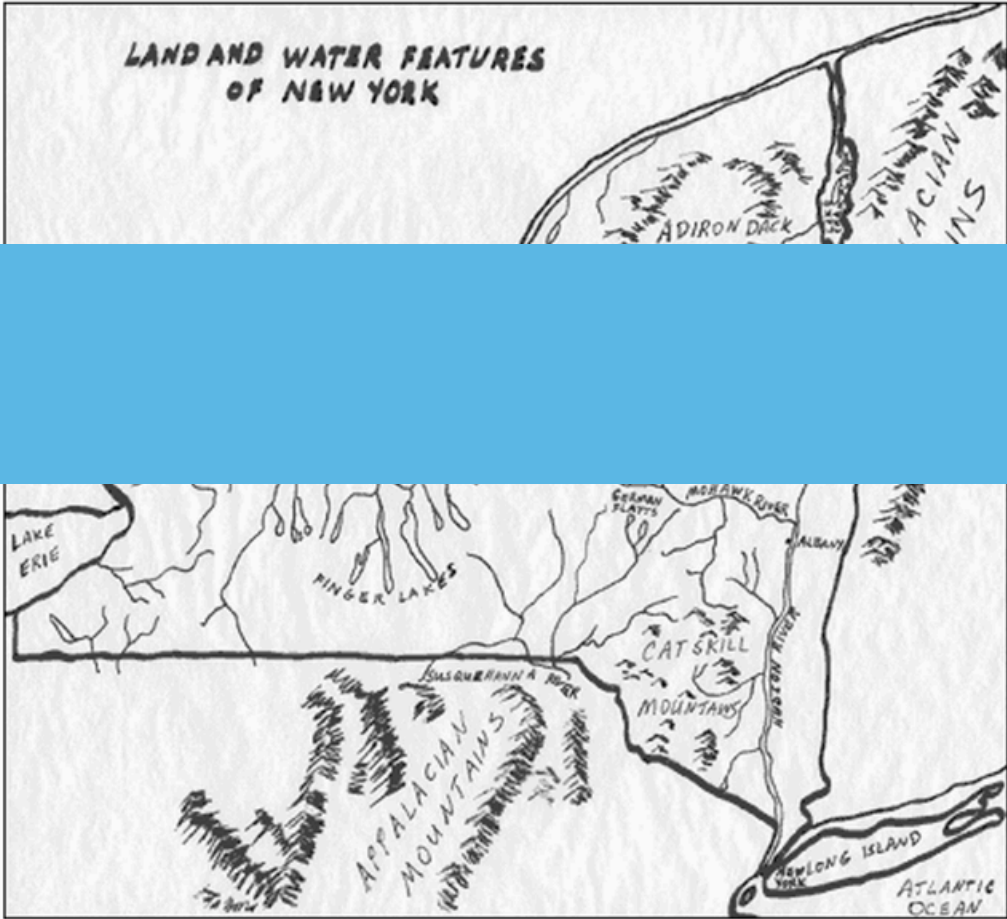


This map shows some of the major lakes and waterways of New York State. Why would the British want control of them during the Revolutionary War?

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Why was New York's Location Important?

Directions:

- 1 Color New York red. Don't forget Long Island!
2. Draw a line along the eastern side of New York. Start at the northern part that is next to what is now Vermont. Draw the line down along New York's border with MA and CT. Continue the line out over the northern part of Long Island.
3. Draw a line along New York's southern border. Start on the western corner near Lake Erie. Draw along our border with PA and NJ. Continue the line out past the south side of Long Island.
4. Color the states to the north and east of New York blue.
5. Color the states to the south of New York blue.
6. Label the colonies.

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What do you notice about New York in relation to the other colonies on this map?

Thinking about New York's location in relation to the other colonies, why do you think New York was important? Why would the British want to control it?

Map Work

KEY



Battles in New York

1775

Fort Ticonderoga. American soldiers

1776

Battle of Long Island, which was a large and important fight early in the war. The British won and took control of New York City.

1776

Battle of White Plains, which was won

1777

Battle of Saratoga took place in northern New York. The Americans won this battle, making it a major turning point in the war.

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KEY



Battles in New York

1775

1776

1777

1777

1779

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Timeline Activity

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The Importance of New York in the American Revolution



On the lines below, explain why New York was important during the American Revolution. Use information from the text, the “Land and Water Features of New York” map and the map of the Thirteen Colonies.

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