

Name: _____ Date: _____

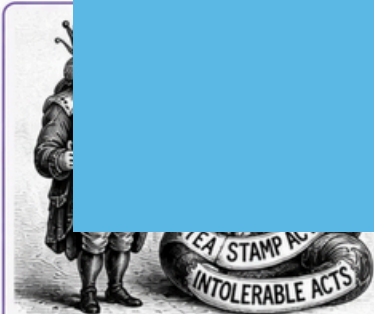
Art and the American Revolution

When we learn about history, we often look at paintings, drawings, and other works of art. Art can help us imagine what people, places, and events looked like long ago. However, it is important to remember that historical art is not always a perfect record of what happened. Many famous paintings of the American Revolution were created years or even decades after the events took place. Most artists were not present at the battles, meetings, or important moments they painted. Instead, they used stories, letters, and other sources to create their artwork. Sometimes they also used their imagination to fill in missing details.



Artists make choices about what to include in a painting. They decide who will appear, what people will be doing, and how the scene will look. Because of these choices, a painting can show a particular point of view.

The artist's story is important, not just the story of the event.



strongly making people not pre



This does not mean historical art is not useful. Paintings and political cartoons can teach us about how people remembered the past and what they believed was important. Historians study art along with letters, diaries, maps, and other primary sources to learn more about history.

★ By thinking carefully about both the artwork and the history it represents.

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Another type of art from the Revolutionary era is the **political cartoon**. Political cartoons use pictures and symbols to share opinions about important issues. Unlike paintings that try to show what happened, political cartoons are often created to persuade people to support a certain idea or side. During the American Revolution, artists used political cartoons to encourage colonists to unite, criticize British policies, or support independence. These cartoons often exaggerated people or events to make a point.

Because political cartoons are designed to persuade, they usually show a strong point of view. The artist may make one side look wise and powerful while making the other side look foolish or unfair. This can help us understand what people were thinking and feeling at the time, but it also means the cartoons may not present both sides equally.



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★ WHEN VIEWING ARTWORK ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK QUESTIONS.

- ✓ Was the artist there when the event happened?
- ✓ When was the artwork created?
- ✓ What was the artist trying to communicate?
- ✓ Whose point of view does it show?



★ By thinking carefully about these questions, we can better understand both the artwork and the history it represents. ★

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★ Ticket to Leave: Art and the American Revolution ★

1. Circle the best answer.

Many paintings of the American Revolution were created:

- ☐ During the event by people who were there
- ☐ Years after the event happened
- ☐ By British soldiers



Ticket to Leave

3. Think about one piece of artwork from today's gallery walk.

Title or Description of Artwork: _____

What point of view do you think the artist was showing?



4. Complete the sentence.

One thing I learned today about using art as a historical source is:



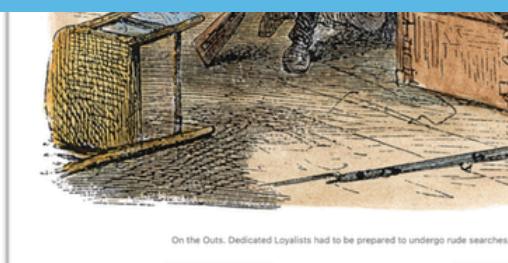
Artwork #1



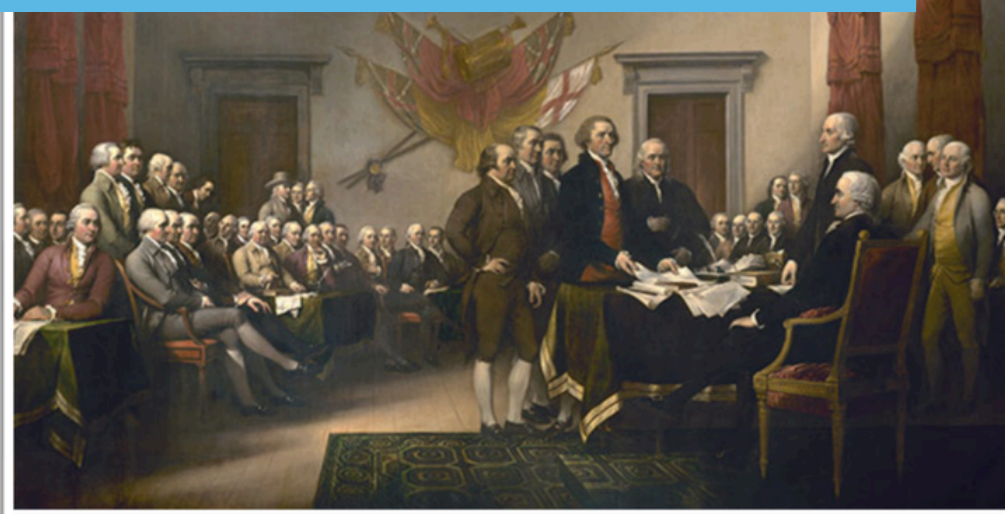
Artwork #2



Artwork #3

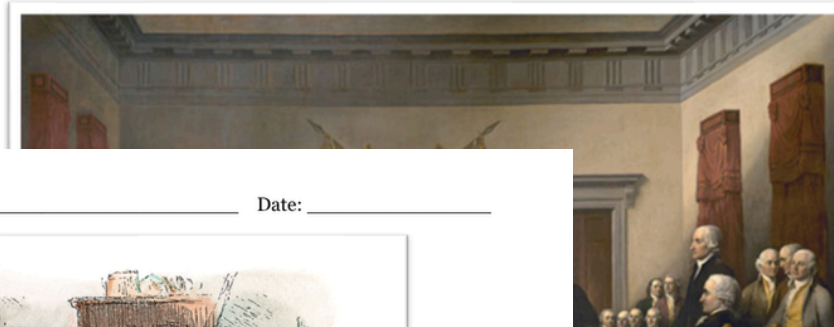


On the Outs. Dedicated Loyalists had to be prepared to undergo rude searches.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Artwork #4



Name: _____ Date: _____

Artwork #3



Name: _____ Date: _____

Artwork #2



Name: _____ Date: _____

Artwork #1



Four Revolutionary War Art Pieces for Gallery Walk

2 Paintings, 2 Political Cartoons

Student Recording Sheets

Title	
Creator/Publisher/Date	
Point of View	
What's Going On	