

Uniforms of the American Revolution

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I. Lesson Plan Summary:

- a. This lesson is designed to give students a better understanding of the types of uniforms worn during the American Revolutionary War. In this lesson they will get to put hands on types of clothing worn during the Revolutionary period.
- b. Objectives: Students will be able to compare and contrast uniforms of the Colonial and British Armies
- c. Revolutionary War
- d. Grade: 8
- e. Materials Needed: Overhead projector; Transparencies (15); Period clothing; Venn diagram worksheet (2 per student)
- f. Lesson time: at least 45 minutes (maybe a second class period)

II. Lesson procedures:

1. Explain to students that both armies wore an assortment of uniforms.
2. Tell students they will look at several transparencies of uniforms worn during the Revolutionary war.
3. Pass out a Venn diagram. Have the students label one side colonial and the other British. Have students write down the similarities and differences as you discuss the pictures of the uniforms
4. Look at American 1 and discuss the soldier's uniform. (Ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
5. Look at American 2 and discuss the soldier's uniform (ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
6. Look at American 3 and discuss the soldier's uniform (ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
7. Look at British 1 and discuss the soldier's uniform (ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
8. Look at British 2 and discuss the soldier's uniform (ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
9. Look at British 3 and discuss the soldier's uniform. (Ex. Colors, equipment, and other items)
10. As a class compare and contrast the British and Colonial uniforms.
11. Pass out second Venn diagram. Have students label it modern and Revolutionary War.
12. Look at coat 1 and discuss (Do you think it would be comfortable to wear?)
13. Look at waistcoat and discuss (What kind of material were the clothes made from?)
14. Look at footwear 1 and discuss (Does this look like a good shoe for long marches?)
15. Look at the pants and discuss (Is this a good style and fabric for marching through the woods?)
16. Discuss the differences between uniforms of the Revolution and modern times.
17. Next pass around a regimental coat, waistcoat, hat and pair of period shoes.
18. Tell the students to compare modern clothing to the period articles being passed around the room.

- ### **III. Activity:** After you have finished discussing the types of clothing. Have the students answer the following question in 2 or 3 paragraphs: What would it be like to fight in the typical uniforms of the Revolutionary War. Remind students to recall what

the clothing felt like. Also remind students, soldiers would wear the same uniforms in the winter and summer. (this assignment can be class work or home work)

IV. Assessment: The next class period, have the students fill out a blank Venn diagram on the similarities and differences of British and Colonial uniforms. Also have them fill out a Venn diagram on the similarities and differences of modern and Revolutionary uniforms. They need to be able to fill the Venn diagram out without the help of notes.

V. Resources:

1. <http://www.jarnaginco.com> : great site for period uniforms of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and French and Indian War.
2. <http://www.usmc.mil> : great site for modern uniforms.



American1



American2



American3



British1



British2



British3



coat1

Footwear1





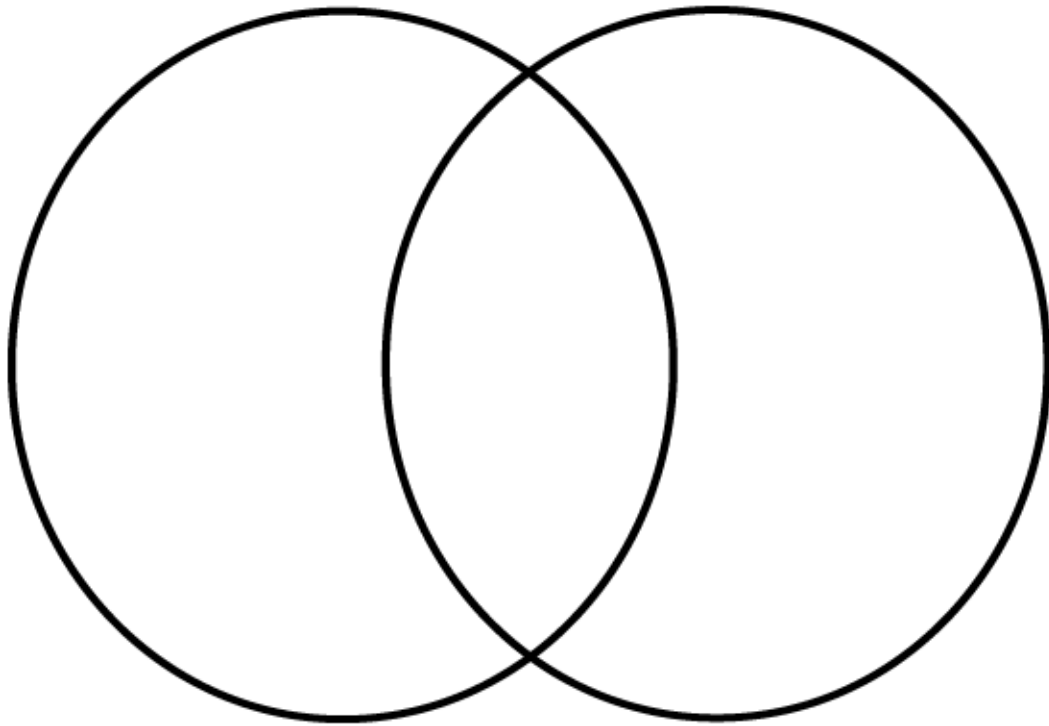
knee breeches



hat



modern



2venn