



American Heritage Discussion Series: Learners with Littles

Study Guide for Session 1, The American Revolution

State Constitutions—Essential Question: How were state constitutions revolutionary?

- Why was it revolutionary that the Americans wrote down their constitutions?
- Why did many state constitutions lead with a bill of rights?
- How did state constitutions separate powers in a way that had not been done before?
- How did state ratifying conventions expand who was involved in the political process? Why was this revolutionary?

Declaration of Independence—Essential Question: What was revolutionary about the ideas in the Declaration of Independence?

- What did the Declaration of Independence do?
- What new ideas became part of the American political tradition because of the Declaration of Independence?
- How was the Declaration used in later generations to lay claim to rights for more Americans?

Abigail and John Adams Set of Letters—Essential Question: How did the exchange between Abigail and John Adams reflect social changes inspired by the American Revolution?

- How did women draw on the ideals of the Revolution in later years to claim their rights to participation in the political process?

General George Washington’s Circular Letter to the States —Essential Question: What ideas did General George Washington promote at the end of the Revolutionary War to preserve American freedom and independence?

- In your opinion, why would Washington emphasize the relationship of citizens to one another in the community as a pillar of independence and national character?
- In your opinion, how are we doing today on Washington’s pillars to maintain the Union?