



## American Heritage Discussion Series: Learners with Littles

### Study Guide for February 6, 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?