

**TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT**  
***Lesson Title – Valley Forge from Judith Perkins***

Grade – 5

Length of class period – two 40 minute periods

Inquiry – How did the conditions at Valley Forge affect the soldiers both physically and emotionally?

Objectives

As a result of this lesson students will be able to:

- Compare primary and secondary sources of an event in history
- Infer how people felt in a particular historical situation
- Discuss the impact of difficult physical conditions on a person's emotional state

Materials

- Five numbered images of Valley Forge
- Excerpt from the diary of Albigence Waldo, a surgeon at Valley Forge with vocabulary list
- Valley Forge question list

Activities

Students will have background knowledge of the conditions at Valley Forge from secondary sources (textbook).

Day 1: Discuss/review the differences between primary and secondary sources. Students will be working in small groups. Give each group one of the five numbered images of Valley Forge (introduce them as secondary sources). Students will examine the image with their group members and then respond to questions #1-7 on the Valley Forge question list.

Day 2: Again give each group the same Valley Forge image from the previous day and a copy of the excerpt from the diary of Albigence Waldo (primary source) with accompanying vocabulary list. Students will read together the diary excerpt and use the vocabulary list to facilitate understanding of the diary entries. Students will then respond to question #8 on the Valley Forge question list.

Assessment

- Oral assessment - Each small group will then share with the whole group their interpretation of their secondary source image and the corresponding lines/entries from the primary source diary.
- Written assessment – Teacher will review responses to Valley Forge question list.

#### Connecticut Framework Performance Standards, Grade 5

Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including electronic media (e.g., maps, graphs, images, artifacts, recordings and text.)

Compare and contrast information provided by primary and secondary sources.