

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – VALLEY FORGE—The Winter of Discontent

Grade – 7/8

Length of class period – 45 minutes

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

Describe five (5) hardships endured by the Continental Army that have made the name Valley Forge synonymous with suffering

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

1. Students will gain an appreciation for the horrible conditions the men endured
2. Students will develop an understanding of the extraordinary leadership skills demonstrated by General Washington
3. Students will view the plight of the soldiers through the perspective of a dedicated physician and the medical treatments available at that time

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

“ The Diary of Albigenice Waldo, Surgeon at Valley Forge”. Available on <http://odur.let.rug.nl/%7Eusa/D/1776-1800/war/waldo.htm>

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

1. Students will be divided into five (5) small groups
2. Each student will receive a copy of Dr. Waldo’s diary
3. Each group will be given a specific aspect of the situation to report on (ie. Food, Clothing, Disease, Housing, and Morale)
4. Each group will report their findings from the primary document to the entire class

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

1. Monitoring the work of each of the groups while they do the research
2. Evaluate the presentation of findings to their peers
3. Each student will write a five (5) paragraph response to the activity and choose one item to highlight from each presentation

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

Analyze data in order to see persons and events in their historical context, understand causal factors and appreciate change over time.