

Mapping The Battle of Cowpens

A Webquest for Elementary Students

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TRT 2016, Cowpens National Battlefield

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Introduction

If I wasn't for the Battle of Cowpens, we would probably all still be British citizens. Unfortunately, many Americans don't know much about this battle that happened right in our back yard. They will likely never have a chance to visit and walk on the battlefield that was nothing more than a cattle pasture before January 17, 1781. But we all know that Gen. Daniel Morgan led the Patriots in this battle that was a turning point in the Revolution.

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You have been hired by the National Park Service to create an interactive map of the Battle of Cowpens. This map will show where all of the Patriot troops were lined up for the battle, who all of the different types of troops were, and who the leaders of each group were. The NPS has asked you to create this map to help Americans who will never get to come to Cowpens to have an idea of what happened in this key battle.

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o Step One – Research

- o Learn about the actual battle. Be sure to pay attention to how the different types of troops worked together.
- o Learn about the different troops – militia, Continentals, and dragoons or cavalry. How were they all different?
- o Learn about the leaders of each group
 - o Gen. Daniel Morgan – commander of all troops
 - o Andrew Pickens – commander of the militia
 - o John Eager Howard – commander of the Continentals
 - o William Washington – commander of the dragoons

o Step Two – Create an interactive map

- o Be sure to include information about the different troops and their leaders where they lined up on the battlefield.

Resources

o About the Battle of Cowpens

- o From the [National Park Service](#) – Be sure to pay attention to the glossary at the bottom of the page
- o [Another account](#) including a listing of all of the troops present
- o One more [account](#) of the battle
- o A [brief account](#) of the battle
- o A [map of the battlefield](#) from the NPS – This is a good one to use for your final project.

More Resources

- o About the troops
 - o Continentals
 - o Video of Continental Re-enactor
 - o Militia
 - o Dragoons or Cavalry
 - o Weapons used in the Battle
- o The Leaders
 - o Gen. Daniel Morgan
 - o Andrew Pickens
 - o Lt. Col. John Eager Howard
 - o Lt. Col. William Washington

Technical Support

- o Tips for making Power Point presentations interactive.
- o Tips for making Keynote presentations interactive (on Mac).
- o Tips for making Keynote presentations interactive (on iPad).

Evaluation

This rubric will be used to score the final presentations.

| | 5 points | 3 points | 1 point |
|---|--|--|---|
| Map accuracy | All troops are placed accurately on the map. | Some troops are placed accurately on the map. | No troops are placed accurately on the map. |
| Information about troops Continental, militia, cavalry | At least 4 accurate facts are given about each kind of troop. | At least 2 accurate facts are given about each kind of troop. | Less than 2 accurate facts are given about each kind of troop. |
| Information about leaders Morgan, Pickens, Washington, Howard | At least 3 accurate facts are given about each of 4 leaders. | At least 2 accurate facts are given about each of 3 leaders. | Less than 2 accurate facts are given about 3 or less of the leaders. |
| Grammar | Grammar usage shows mastery of grade level standards. | Grammar usage shows some grasp of grade level standards. | Grammar usage may interfere with meaning. |
| Overall Presentation | Overall presentation is easy to read – all links work correctly. | Overall presentation is somewhat easy to read – most links work correctly. | Overall presentation may not be easy to read. Many links do not work. |

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Conclusion

- o Now that you have learned about the Battle of Cowpens, here are some questions to consider:
 - o How did the different troops work together to help win the battle?
 - o How did the outcome of this battle affect the outcome of the Revolutionary War as a whole?
 - o If you were alive in the time of the Revolutionary War, which kind of troop would you like to serve in? Why?

Teacher's Notes

- o You will likely want your students to work in groups on this project as the readings are at various levels.
- o If you are short on time, you could assign each group one part of the troops to research.
- o For extension activities:
 - o Cowpens Junior Ranger Program
 - o Add in stories of African Americans at Cowpens
- o You may wish to add points for working as a team and/or presentation skills to the rubric.

SC Standards Addressed

- o 3-3.2 Compare the perspectives of South Carolinians during the American Revolution, including Patriots, Loyalists, women, enslaved and free Africans, and Native Americans.
- o 3-3.3 Summarize the course of the American Revolution in South Carolina, including the role of William Jasper and Fort Moultrie; the occupation of Charles Town by the British; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; and the battles of Cowpens, Kings Mountain, and Eutaw Springs.
- o 4-3.3 Summarize the importance of the key battles of the Revolutionary War and the reasons for American victories including Lexington and Concord, Bunker (Breed's) Hill, Charleston, Saratoga, Cowpens, and Yorktown.
- o 8-2.5 Summarize the role of South Carolinians in the course of the American Revolution, including the use of partisan warfare and the battles of Charleston, Camden, Cowpens, Kings Mountain and Eutaw Springs.