

Springfield Armory National Historic Site

Grade 5-9

Topic- Shays' Rebellion

Background:

This lesson can be used as an introduction to Shays' Rebellion and post-Revolutionary War American history. This three-touch model is designed for educators to use in the classroom pre and post visit to Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

Massachusetts History Standards:

- HSS.5.T2.08 – Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781, the weakness of the Articles as a plan for government and the reasons for their failure.
- HSS.5.T2.09 - Analyze the causes of Shays' Rebellion of 1786-1787 and explain why it was one of the crucial events leading to the Constitutional Convention.
- HSS.8.T2.02 - Analyze the weaknesses of the national government under the Articles of Confederation; and describe the crucial events (e.g., Shays' Rebellion) leading to the Constitutional Convention.
- HSS.8.T4.12 – Examine the role of political protest in a democracy.
- HSS.USI.T1.07 - Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781 and evaluate the weaknesses of the Articles as a plan for government, the reasons for their failure and how events such as Shays' Rebellion of 1786-1787 led to the Constitutional Convention.

National History Standard:

Era 3 Revolution and the New Nation Standard 3: Explain the institutions and practices of government created during the Revolution and how they were revised between 1787 and 1815 to create the foundation of the American political system based on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Objective (SWBAT):

- Recall the main figures that took part in Shays' Rebellion
- Summarize the main events that led to Shays' Rebellion
- Interpret the meaning of a historic image.
- Role-play as historical figures involved with Shays' Rebellion.
- Judge the motives and actions of the parties that took part in Shays' Rebellion.
- Analyze the factors involved with the calling of the Constitutional Convention.

Pre & Post-visit Classroom Activities for Teacher

Time:

20-30 minutes

Teacher Background:

Complete this activity prior to a ranger visit or field trip to Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

Materials:

- Pre-Visit Student Handout
- Post-Trial Questions Handout

Prior Knowledge/Words to Know:

- Merchant – A buyer, seller, or trader of commodities for profit.
- Credit – Financial or commercial trustworthiness.
- Debt – Something owed or a state of owing.
- Tax – A charge, usually of money, imposed by authority on persons or property for public purposes.
- Militia – A body of citizens organized for military services.
- Pardon – A release from the legal penalties of an offense.
- Delegate – A representative to a convention or conference.

Pre-Visit Directions:

1. Pass out Springfield Armory Student Handout.
2. Allow students time to complete the handout independently.
3. As students finish up, facilitate a “Turn and Talk” for students to share what they thought with their classmates.
4. Ask for volunteers to share with the class, teachers may foster discussion on any interesting student observations.
5. Have students read aloud the Shays’ Rebellion History on the back of their handout.
6. Discuss with students the events that led to Shays’ Rebellion to check for understanding.
7. Possible discussion topic: Was there ever a time when you felt something was unfair and you tried to fix it and got in trouble for that?

Post-Visit Directions:

1. Pass out Post-Trial Questions Handout
2. Discuss student responses or evaluate to check for comprehension.