

Lesson Plan Format

Title: Star Fort

Overview: This lesson will present information on the Siege of Ninety Six and the importance this siege had on the American Revolution. The lesson will also focus on the relationships between the citizens of the S.C. Backcountry and the struggle between the loyalists and the patriots.

Goal: This lesson will provide insight on the importance of Ninety Six NHS and the town of Ninety Six on the American Revolution.

Objectives:

1. The student will be able to summarize the importance of Ninety Six NHS.
2. The student will be able to summarize the geographical importance Ninety Six provided the Backcountry of SC.
3. The student will be able to compare the military strategy of the Patriots outside of the Star Fort and the loyalists' strategy inside the Star Fort.

Essential Questions: Why was the siege of Star Fort and Ninety Six so important during the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution? What was the outcome of the Siege of Ninety Six in May-June of 1781?

Standards Addressed: 8-2.3

Summarize the course and key conflicts of the American Revolution in South Carolina and its effects on the state, including the attacks on Charleston; the Battle of Camden; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; the Battle of Cowpens; and the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Materials Used: Map of the Siege of Ninety Six, SC Textbook, promethean board, pencils, and markers

Procedures: The lesson will be taught over the course of two days, in which the students will summarize the Siege of Ninety Six and the strategies used by both the loyalists and patriots. The students will create graphic organizers of the siege, use the map of the Siege of Ninety Six, and keep notes on the important aspects of the siege.

Evaluation: Once the students become familiar with the battle, they will demonstrate their understanding by writing a one page essay on the battle. This essay will be "Time Machine" writing, where the student will write an historical fiction account of the battle as either a SC loyalist militiaman, SC patriot militiaman, Royal Provincial, or a Continental soldier. Key topics to be covered will be the strategies, the outcome of the battle, and the aftermath of the battle.

Story Writing: The Siege of Ninety Six

Teacher Name: **Mr. Leopard**

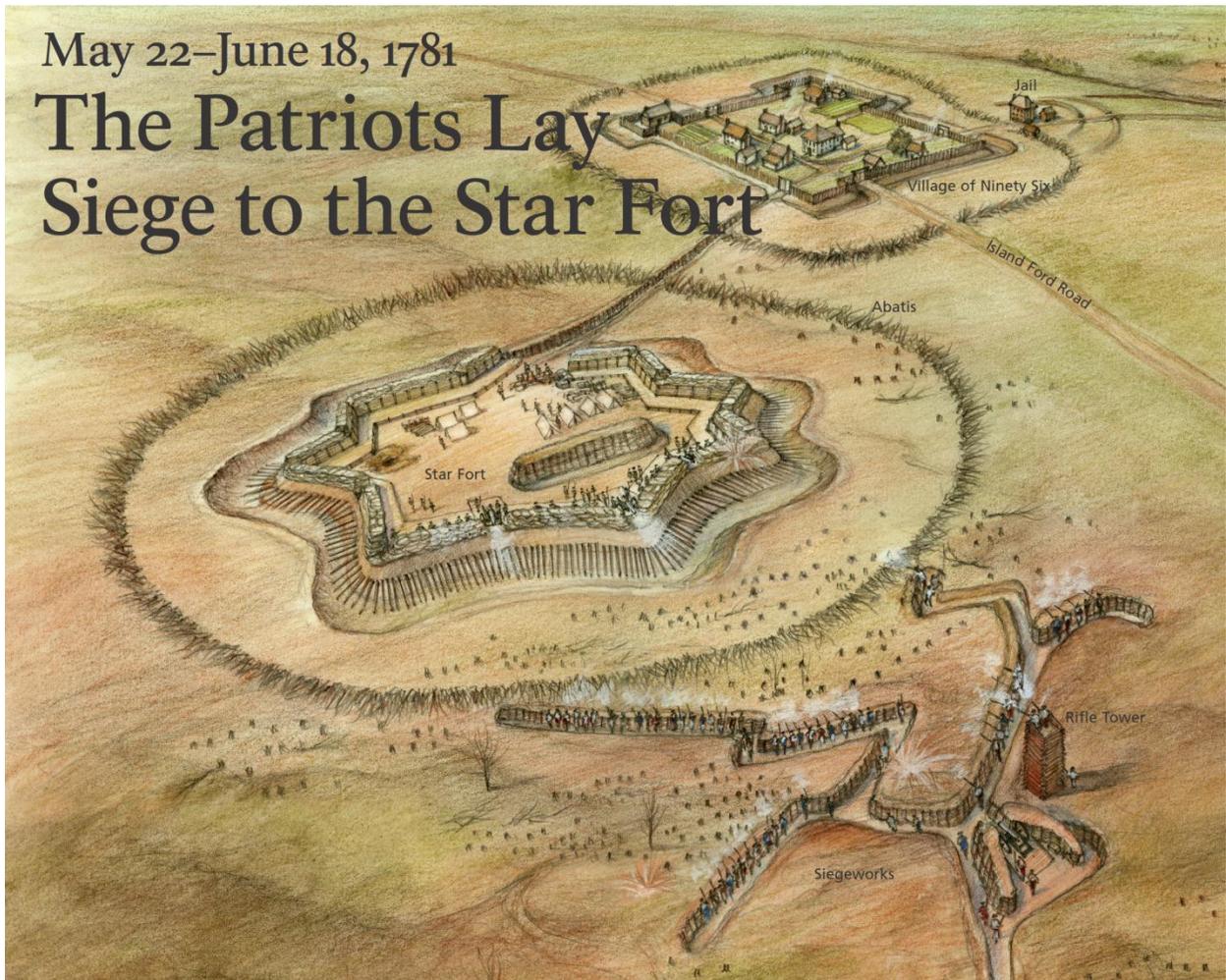
Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction	First paragraph has a "grabber" or catchy beginning.	First paragraph has a weak "grabber".	A catchy beginning was attempted but was confusing rather than catchy.	No attempt was made to catch the reader's attention in the first paragraph.
Spelling and Punctuation	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Character and place names that the author invented are spelled consistently throughout	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft.	There are 2-3 spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft.	The final draft has more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors.
Accuracy of Facts	All facts presented in the story are accurate.	Almost all facts presented in the story are accurate.	Most facts presented in the story are accurate (at least 70%).	There are several factual errors in the story.
Requirements	All of the written requirements (# of pages, # of graphics, type of graphics, etc.) were met.	Almost all (about 90%) of the written requirements were met.	Most (about 75%) of the written requirements were met, but several were not.	Many requirements were not met.

*Modified version of Mr. Leopard's RubiStar rubric.

May 22–June 18, 1781

The Patriots Lay Siege to the Star Fort



“Our success is very doubtful.”

—General Nathanael Greene
May 23, 1781

General Greene entrusted Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko with the task of creating siegeworks—a system of trenches—that would allow his men to approach and capture the Star Fort. The Continental Army engineer, a 35-year-old native of Poland, had received his military education in Warsaw and Paris. The Revolutionary War trench lines before you provide a picture of how Kosciuszko conducted the siege against the Star Fort according to traditional rules of warfare in the 1700s.

A series of parallels or earthen trenches were dug, providing cover for troops and allowing them to move artillery close to their target. Angled approach trenches connected the parallels, forming a “Z” pattern leading up to the fort. The trenches you see here are partially reconstructed. Archeological investigations revealed their original locations, but they have not been fully excavated.

The Star Fort posed a formidable challenge to Greene’s troops. Its eight-pointed design allowed soldiers inside to direct their gaze—and their guns—in many angles and over a wide area. Standing here in 1781, you would have noticed a wide ditch encircling the perimeter of the fort and glimpsed dirt walls thick enough—perhaps 10 to 15 feet wide—to stop musket and cannon balls. The walls rose 14 feet high from the bottom of the ditch. You might have flinched at the menacing ring of abatis—sharpened tree branches—around the fort, which were intended to hinder the enemy’s approach.