

# Navigating the American Revolution

Location: Begin at Varnum's Quarters, stop 8 on the Encampment Tour

***\*\*Does require walking along mowed trails through the meadows, maybe difficult with strollers\*\****

GPS has made getting from one location to another fairly simple. Just type in a location on a phone, computer, or even a car and a magic voice tells you turn by turn how to proceed. But what did people do before GPS?

How would you know how to get from one location to another without using a GPS, Google Maps or similar program?

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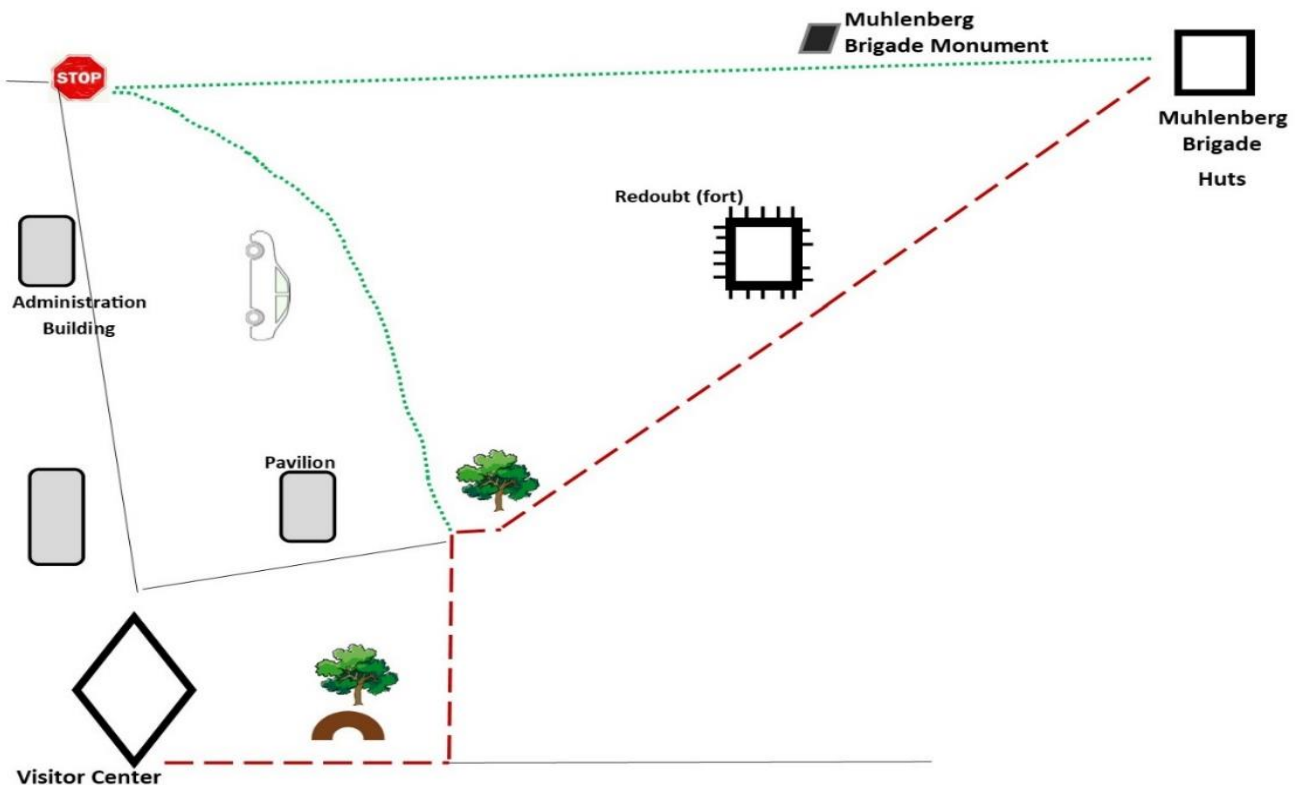
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During the time of the America Revolution, maps were very important. Both the British and American armies traveled hundreds of miles often over unfamiliar land. Both sides relied on existing maps or ones made by those in service of the army.

Cartography is the science or art of map making. For this activity you will become a cartographer or map maker! The goal is to draw a map with enough landmarks to show a person how to navigate through the meadows from General Varnum's Quarters to Conway's Brigade to Maurice Stephens' house. Pretend that there are no signs directing you through the meadows, only a series of paths to get you from one location to the next. Describe or draw what a person would pass along the way.

Below is an example of one way to draw this type of map. Notice the beginning and end points are marked. While your map doesn't have to have two routes, this one has 2 potential routes- the red dashed or green dotted lines. Buildings, significant trees, redoubts, historical markers, and other landmarks that could be a visual guide for other people are marked on the map.



In the meadow, look for buildings, structures, clumps of tree, sink holes, waysides (informational signs), or any other object that you think could help a person travel between the locations. Use the next page as the template for your map. **Remember you are navigating from General Varnum's Quarters to the Conway's Brigade to the Maurice Stephens' house. Be a good caretaker and please stay on existing trails only.**



When finished drawing your map, please answer the following questions. What were challenges you faced while creating your map?

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Give your map to someone else in your group. Do they think they could follow it to get from one location to the next?

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Why do think having an accurate map with lots of details may be important for an army during the American Revolution?

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**Draw your map here.**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a map. It occupies the majority of the page area below the instruction text.