

How Would You Defend Fort Ticonderoga in 1777?

OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

In this lesson students will examine a battle site to determine possible defenses using geographic information. Students will use a topographic map to determine where they would place their redoubts at Fort Ticonderoga in 1777. They will compare their plan to the actual American defenses. Using this information and background information, students will analyze the effectiveness of the defenses.

Students will be able to...

- Identify TODALSS on a map.
- Analyze a historic map and a topographical map.
- Explain site selection of redoubts based on geographic factors.
- Predict defense of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777.

GRADE

5th

TIME

1 Class Period

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- ✓ Computer Projector
- ✓ Copies of online USGS map, "Ticonderoga, New York Topographic Map"
- ✓ Pocket wipe-off boards (optional)

MINNESOTA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS & BENCHMARKS

Standard 1. People use geographic representations and geospatial technologies to acquire, process and report information within a spatial context.

5.3.1.1.1 Create and use various kinds of maps, including overlaying thematic maps, of places in the North American colonies: incorporate the "TODALS" map basics, as well as points, lines, and colored areas to display spatial information.

Standard 3. Places have physical characteristics (such as climate, topography and vegetation) and human characteristics (such as culture, population, political and economic systems).

5.3.2.3.1 Locate and identify the physical and human characteristics of places in the North American colonies.

Standard 4 The divergence of colonial interests from those of England led to an independence movement that resulted in the American Revolution and the foundation of a new nation based on the ideals of self-government and liberty. (Revolution and a New Nation: 1754-1800)

5.4.4.17.3 Identify the major events of the American Revolution culminating in the creation of a new and independent nation. (Revolution and a New Nation: 1754-1800)

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

Opening

Introduce students to the map, "A Plan of the town and Fort of Carillon and Ticonderoga", which may be projected for the class, viewed online, or printed as a handout. Discuss the map using the Observe, Reflect, and Question strategy in which students describe what they see by identifying details, reflect on why the map was made by hypothesizing about the source, and question by asking who, what, where, when, and why, which leads to more observations. The discussion should also include analysis of TODALSS used on the map.

Review what students have learned about Fort Carillon (later named Fort Ticonderoga) during the French and Indian War using “The Battle of Ticonderoga 1777”, which links to 1758. Remind students that the French blew up Fort Carillon when they evacuated the fort and the British took possession of the ruins.

Development

Almost thirty years have passed and the British have done little to repair the fort. Working in groups of 2-4, students will imagine they are General St. Claire and the American military engineers during the winter of 1776–1777. It is their job to build the American defenses in preparation for a possible attack. Show students a map of Lake Champlain, “Burgoyne’s Campaign: June-October 1777”, which identifies Ticonderoga and the direction the British will be approaching from Canada. Next, introduce students to the topographical map of Ticonderoga, reviewing map features as needed. Each group of students should have a copy of the “Ticonderoga, New York Topographic Map.

Briefly explain a “redoubt” using one of the websites provided. Students will then have 15 minutes to choose the locations for their defenses. They may place up to six redoubts or other reinforced positions, indicated by quarter-inch squares, on their map. Alternatively, the redoubts may be drawn directly on the maps or the maps can be placed in pocket wipe-off boards to allow for changes in the locations of the defenses. In their notebooks, students must describe where they placed their defenses and give reasons for choosing those sites.

When completed, have the groups share their plans and justifications. Next, introduce the Wintersmith map, “Plan of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, including Mount Hope...” Discuss the information provided on the map, including TODALSS, and compare the placement of the redoubts on the Wintersmith map to where the groups placed their redoubts.

Closing

Show students the map, “The Battle of Ticonderoga 1777”, and explain the American withdrawal from Fort Ticonderoga. [Note: Sugar [Loaf] Hill and Mt. Defiance refer to the same landform.] The contemporary map, “Lake Champlain, 1777: Capture of Fort Ticonderoga”, may also be useful. Students should answer the following questions in their notebooks:

1. Why were the Americans forced to abandon Fort Ticonderoga?
2. If the Americans had placed their fortifications according to your group’s plan, would the outcome have been different? Explain your reasoning.

Students will complete the Think-Pair-Share by discussing their responses with a partner and then sharing them with the class.

Assessment

- Site justification
- Answers to Closing questions

Website Resources

“A plan of the town and Fort of Carillon at Ticonderoga...” at Norman B. Leventhal Map Center
<http://maps.bpl.org/id/10859>

This link provides a 1758 historical map of the British attack

“Analyzing Maps” at Library of Congress

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/resources/Analyzing_Maps.pdf

This website explains the Observe, Reflect, Question strategy for analyzing maps

“The Battle of Ticonderoga 1777” at BritishBattles.com

<http://www.britishbattles.com/battle-ticonderoga-1777.htm>

This website provides background information and battle map

“Burgoyne’s Campaign: June-October 1777” at National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/1777-campaign.htm>

This link has a contemporary map of Burgoyne’s 1777 Campaign including Lake Champlain

“Ticonderoga, New York Topographic Map” at TopoQuest

https://www.topoquest.com/map-detail.php?usgs_cell_id=45074

This link has a USGS topographical map of Fort Ticonderoga

“Building and Attacking Redoubts” at Journal of the American Revolution

<http://allthingsliberty.com/2015/06/building-and-attacking-redoubts/>

This website explains redoubts

“Yorktown Redoubt No. 10” at U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/trail/Redoubt10/>

This link provides images of redoubts

“Plan of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, including Mount Hope...” at John Carter Brown Library

<http://jcb.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/detail/JCBMAPS~1~1~2703~101233:Plan-of-Ticonderoga-and-Mount-Indep>

Charles Wintersmith map of Fort Ticonderoga, 1777

“Lake Champlain, 1777: Capture of Fort Ticonderoga” at Emerson Kent

http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/ticonderoga_1777.htm

This is a contemporary map of the 1777 battle for Fort Ticonderoga

Additional Website Resources

“Plan du Fort Carillon” at National Archives of Canada

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/libmap/coordinates/seriesa/no1/ticonderoga.htm>

This is a 1758 historical map of the battle for Fort Ticonderoga

“A Map of Ticonderoga with the old and new lines and batteries” at Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/item/78692736/>

This is a 1777 historical map of the battle for Fort Ticonderoga

“Plan of Carillon ou [sic] Ticonderoga” at Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/item/00557013/>

This is a 1777 historical map of the battle for Fort Ticonderoga

“The Capture of Fort Ticonderoga” at The History Channel

<http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/capture-of-fort-ticonderoga>

This link summarizes briefly the history of Fort Ticonderoga

“British Recapture Ticonderoga 1777” at History Central
<http://www.historycentral.com/Revolt/Bticonderoga.html>
A map and text provide information about Fort Ticonderoga

“American Revolution: Fort Ticonderoga” at Ducksters
http://www.ducksters.com/history/american_revolution/fort_ticonderoga.php
This link provides a summary of information about Fort Ticonderoga as well as a map and quiz