

Lesson Plan

Revolutionary Vocabulary

Book: *The American Revolution*

Series: Foundations of Our Nation

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice distinguishing differences between related words (including synonyms and antonyms) and using dictionaries, glossaries, or context clues to clarify word meanings.

Supplies

- *The American Revolution*
- Revolutionary Vocabulary worksheet (attached)
- Merriam-Webster online dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com>

Before the Activity

Read *The American Revolution*, or assign it to students to read on their own. Split the students up into pairs. Print enough copies of the Revolutionary Vocabulary worksheet so that each pair can have one.

Activity

Give each pair of students a Revolutionary Vocabulary worksheet. This worksheet has 13 groups of words—one for each of the colonies that would become a US state. Students can use the glossary in *The American Revolution* or another dictionary, such as Merriam-Webster, to determine the meaning of each word in a group. Then they should write a complete sentence that describes how the two words in each group are related. Students should also write their names at the top of the worksheet. Collect the worksheets at the end of the activity.

Evaluation

Using the attached answer key, give each pair of students one point for each correct answer.

Note: Answers for the third question (“How are these words related?”) may vary from the provided answer. As long as students’ answers are reasonable based on the definitions that they have provided for each word, give them the point for this answer.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ language standards, grades 3 and 4 (L 3.4; L 3.5; L 4.4; L 4.5).

Revolutionary Vocabulary

Look up the meanings of the following words. Then write a sentence explaining how the two words in each group are related.

Group I.

What does *economy* mean? What does *goods* mean? How are these words related?

Group II.

What does *loyalists* mean? What does *patriots* mean? How are these words related?

Group III.

What does *protests* mean? What does *boycott* mean? How are these words related?

Group IV.

What does *colonists* mean? What does *settlers* mean? How are these words related?

Group V.

What does *representatives* mean? What does *republic* mean? How are these words related?

Group VI.

What does *colonies* mean? What does *territory* mean? How are these words related?

Group VII.

What does *document* mean? What does *treaty* mean? How are these words related?

Group VIII.

What does *allies* mean? What does *nation* mean? How are these words related?

Group IX.

What does *troops* mean? What does *militias* mean? How are these words related?

Group X.

What does *massacre* mean? What does *mob* mean? How are these words related?

Group XI.

What does *independence* mean? What does *revolutionary* mean? How are these words related?

Group XII.

What does *taxes* mean? What does *parliament* mean? How are these words related?

Group XIII.

What does *enforce* mean? What does *surrender* mean? How are these words related?

Revolutionary Vocabulary ANSWER KEY

Look up the meanings of the following words. Then write a sentence explaining how the two words in each group are related.

Group I.

1. What does *economy* mean?

A system of goods, services, money, and jobs.

2. What does *goods* mean?

Objects that people buy and sell.

3. How are these words related?

Goods are bought and sold as part of a country's economy.

Group II.

1. What does *loyalists* mean?

Colonists who supported Great Britain.

2. What does *patriots* mean?

Colonists who supported independence.

3. How are these words related?

They are antonyms—these two groups of people supported different sides during the war.

Group III.

1. What does *protests* mean?

Public expressions of disapproval or disagreement.

2. What does *boycott* mean?

To refuse to buy certain goods as a form of protest.

3. How are these words related?

A boycott is a kind of protest.

Group IV.

1. What does *colonists* mean?

People who live in an area that is controlled by a country that is far away.

2. What does *settlers* mean?

People who move to a new place, often a place where there are few or no people.

3. How are these words related?

Both describe people who have gone to a new area, but settlers do not necessarily move to a different country.

Group V.

1. What does *representatives* mean?

People who speak on behalf of a larger group.

2. What does *republic* mean?

A form of government in which power is held by people and their elected representatives.

3. How are these words related?

The word *republic* describes the type of government, while *representatives* describes the people who are elected to be part of the government.

Group VI.

1. What does *colonies* mean?

Areas controlled by a country that is far away.

2. What does *territory* mean?

An area of land, often one owned by a country that is outside the country's borders.

3. How are these words related?

Both can describe areas of land outside a country's borders, but *territory* can also just mean an area of land.

Group VII.

1. What does *document* mean?

A piece of paper that contains official information.

2. What does *treaty* mean?

An official agreement between groups or nations.

3. How are these words related?

A treaty is a particular kind of document.

Group VIII.

1. What does *allies* mean?

Nations or people that are on the same side during a war.

2. What does *nation* mean?

A country whose people have the same government and share the same language and culture.

3. How are these words related?

Nations can be allies.

Group IX.

1. What does *troops* mean?

Organized groups of soldiers.

2. What does *militias* mean?

Military forces formed by ordinary people trained to fight.

3. How are these words related?

***Militias* describes a particular kind of troops (one formed by civilians), while *troops* can**

refer to other groups of soldiers (such as professionals).

Group X.

1. What does *massacre* mean?

When many people are killed violently at one time.

2. What does *mob* mean?

A large crowd of people, especially people who are angry and violent.

3. How are these words related?

Both describe violence, but a massacre is a violent event, while a mob is a group of people.

Group XI.

1. What does *independence* mean?

The ability to make decisions without being controlled by another government.

2. What does *revolutionary* mean?

Having to do with a complete change in government.

3. How are these words related?

Something that is revolutionary could result in independence—but it could also result in a different kind of change in government.

Group XII.

1. What does *taxes* mean?

Money that people pay to the government.

2. What does *parliament* mean?

A group of people elected to make laws.

3. How are these words related?

In countries such as Great Britain, parliament makes the laws about taxes.

Group XIII.

1. What does *enforce* mean?

To make sure people follow a rule.

2. What does *surrender* mean?

To give up and stop fighting or hand something over.

3. How are these words related?

These words are almost opposites—*enforce* means to keep working at something, but *surrender* means to give up.