

Lesson Plan

Sons of Liberty

Book: *The Battles of Lexington and Concord*

Series: Major Battles in US History

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice consulting several sources to conduct a short research project.

Supplies

- *The Battles of Lexington and Concord*
- *They Made a Revolution: The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution* by Jules Archer
- *American Revolution* by Stuart Murray
- *What Was the Boston Tea Party?* by Kathleen Krull
- Other print and online resources

Before the Activity

Read through *The Battles of Lexington and Concord*, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

Activity

After reading *The Battles of Lexington and Concord*, ask the following questions:

- Who were the Sons of Liberty? (A: A group of men who thought the American colonists should “break free from British rule” [p. 15].)
- What kinds of things did this group do? (A: They had spies in the British military [p. 16], secretly met to plan a rebellion against the British [p. 16], sent messages to colonists about the British plans [p. 17], and helped gather local militiamen [p. 20].)
- Who were some of the Sons of Liberty mentioned in the book? (A: Samuel Adams, William Dawes, John Hancock, Samuel Prescott, Paul Revere, and Joseph Warren.)

Have the students choose one of the Sons of Liberty to learn more about. They should start with the books recommended in the “To Learn More” section on page 32. Encourage the students to also consult other sources as needed. As a result of their research, the students should write a short essay (no more than one page) that answers the following questions:

- Who was this person?
- How was he involved in the American Revolution in general? For example, what actions or ideas did he contribute?

- How did he contribute to the Battles of Lexington and Concord in particular?

Evaluation

Did the students consult at least four books (*The Battles of Lexington and Concord* plus the three outside resources)? Did their essays answer all three questions?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.7).