

NATIVE SON

A Study Guide to the Historical Events, Persons, and Issues

Native Son includes many references to the causes, events, and persons involved in the Revolution. These questions are designed to assist you in more intensive study of the period. Many resources and links are provided in the Resources page at www.jmhochstetler.com. Additional resources may be found through a Web search or at your local library.

1. In chapter 1, George Washington takes command of the newly formed Continental Army. What body commissioned him to do so? When and where did he take command? Why were the Northern officers less than overjoyed to be placed under his command?
2. Research the life of Dr. Benjamin Church. How was he initially regarded by the Patriots? How was he exposed, and what was his eventual fate?
3. In chapter 2, Carleton refers to the ambush of General Braddock's detachment by the Indians during the French and Indian War. Research this battle. What was Washington's part in this battle?
4. Describe the relationship between the four British generals, Thomas Gage, William Howe, Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne. Why were there tensions between them? Why was Gage removed from command, and who replaced him?
5. The issue of slavery had already begun to cause problems during the colonial period. Many of our Founders owned slaves, yet they fought England for freedom for themselves. What did they acknowledge in the Declaration of Independence about the status and rights of all human beings? What was the ultimate result of this tension between the ideals they believed in and the reality of slavery?
6. Research the role of African Americans in the Revolution. When he first took command, what was Washington's position on allowing African Americans to join

the army? By the end of the war, approximately what percentage of the American army and navy was African American.

7. Many black slaves fought on the side of the British. Why did they do so? In general, what was British policy toward escaped slaves?

8. Research the Native American tribes that became involved in the Revolution either willingly or unwillingly. Which tribes supported the British? Which tribes supported the Americans? Which tribes tried to stay neutral? What ultimate impact did the Revolution have on all of them?

9. Why did the Native Americans try to keep white settlers out of their homeland? Who do you think was right in this conflict, and why?

10. Research the Iroquois League. List the tribes that made up the League and where they were located.