



## ***Liberty's Kids***

***Liberty's Kids*** is an animated series which offers a fresh and unique perspective on the era of the American Revolution. A series of stories told from the perspective of young people in the colonies during the years between 1773 and 1789, episodes in the popular cartoon series provides viewers with an exciting way to travel through this amazing era. Guided by a young woman named Sarah who has recently arrived from Britain, her politically engaged friend James, a former slave named Moses, and a French boy named Henri, viewers learn about this extraordinary era through the eyes of these eager correspondents.

A lively pair of budding journalists, Sarah and James encounter critical leaders and events on their journey through the streets of the revolutionary colonies. Along the way, they learn about how and why issues with the British crown reached a breaking point, and how the promises of American democracy were born. Through the commentary of Sarah, James and a host of both everyday and famous characters, viewers will be able to gain new insights into the chaos and possibility in the air throughout the colonies as the Revolution and the newly created United States took shape.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS**

***Liberty's Kids*** would be useful for social studies, U.S. history, politics, and civics courses. Geared toward elementary and middle school viewers, high school students and educators will also enjoy this series as a new way to see the core ideas and events of the Revolutionary period come to life. From the Boston Tea Party through the Constitutional Convention, ***Liberty's Kids*** covers many of the key events and people of the American Revolutionary era. This guide can be used as a companion with any of the episodes.

### **OBJECTIVE**

Students will learn about key concepts, events and themes related to the American Revolution and the formation of the United States. They will consider the causes and consequences of the American Revolution and learn about many significant ideas and people from this important era in world history.

## VIEWING ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students to keep a list of important vocabulary words and people as they watch an episode. These identification terms and words will differ based on age group. Examples of terms: colony, parliament, Boston Tea Party, taxation, sedition, Phillis Wheatley, indentured servant
2. Teachers may want to pick a clip from an individual episode as an addition to a lesson plan they've already developed. For example, John Adams defends his decision to defend the British troops who participated in the Boston Massacre in the *United We Stand* episode, saying "The tyranny of the people can be just as brutal as the tyranny of the Crown." This would be an excellent clip to set up discussions of Adams and his complex views.
3. Ask students to write notes as they are watching, writing down any ideas or concepts they do not understand.
4. Keep a classroom timeline of the American Revolutionary era. Before, during or after watching an episode of Liberty's Kids chart where and when the events in the episodes took place.
5. After or during viewing, ask students to complete the "Viewing Chart" included in this guide.

## VIEWING CHARTS

What are some of the key events or individuals in this episode?	Where and When Did They Occur?	How did these event or individual shape the American Revolution?
•  •  •		

Key Vocabulary Words, People, and Places in this Episode	Notable Quotes or Phrases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students to locate a primary source mentioned in an episode or related to an event from American Revolutionary period. These could be letters, newspaper articles, song lyrics, poems, or documents. Ask students read the source and write a short description that they can share with the larger class or group in a short oral presentation. For younger students, teachers may want to choose a basic source to give to students as a way to introduce the concept of primary and secondary sources.
2. Have students write a letter or journal entry from the perspective of one of the characters in an episode of *Liberty's Kids*. Or, they could write a letter from their own perspective to one of the characters, describing the importance and meaning of the American Revolution in their lives today.
3. In small groups, have students create an advertisement for an episode of *Liberty's Kids*. These could be illustrated presentations, PowerPoint presentations, or even animated. Students can also create a tagline or quote to accompany these presentations.
4. Based on their research or additional classroom learning, ask students to write a synopsis or description of a new episode of *Liberty's Kids* related to any event or chapter in the Revolutionary era. Younger students can make a list of other important events or people from the American Revolution that they think would make a great episode of the series.

## **ADDITIONAL BOOKS AND WEBSITES**

**Hakim, Joy. *The Story of Us* (Volumes 2 and 3). Oxford University Press, 1993.**

**Wood, Gordon. *American Revolution: A History*. Random House, 2003.**

**The History Channel American Revolution Website:  
<http://www.history.com/minisites/revolution/>**

**The National Archives Charters of Freedom Website:  
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/>**

**The American Memory Project of the Library of Congress:  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>**