



#8940

VALUES IN REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA

Grade Levels: 7-13+

21 minutes

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA 1997

DESCRIPTION

What was prerevolutionary America like? Reenactments help reveal how the values of family life, race and society, religion, and politics formed the unique culture in America that led to its independence. Examines the strong family unit that created a stable, ordered society; the influence of religion in unifying the colonists; and the self-governing structure that helped fuel the break from England.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: United States History

- ◆ Standard: Understands the impact of the American Revolution on politics, economy, and society
 - Benchmark: Understands the social, political, and economic effects of the American revolutionary victory on different groups (e.g., rural farmers, wealthy merchants, enslaved and free African Americans, abolitionists, women who contributed to the war effort)
 - Benchmark: Understands how the ideals of the American Revolution influenced the goals of various groups of people during and after the war (e.g., African Americans, Native Americans, Loyalists, women, young people)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To list the commonly held values of the colonial family.
2. To describe the relationship of the average European colonist to the Native American and to the slave.
3. To define the role of religion in prerevolutionary America.
4. To list the political beliefs of the colonists.
5. To study how all these values created the American revolutionary culture.

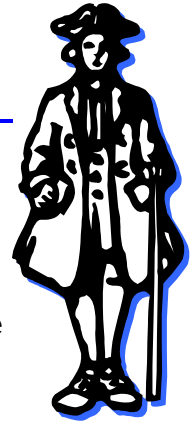
BEFORE SHOWING

1. Define *Puritan* and describe Puritan beliefs on family relationships and discipline of the child.
2. Describe the different beliefs of land ownership held by the Native Americans and by the European settlers.
3. Explain why the slaves were imported.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What was the role of each family member (husband, wife, and child) in the typical colonial family? How were children of the different classes educated? How was career training given or arranged?
2. How were the Native Americans treated by the colonists? How did the different views of land ownership contribute to the hostile relationship that existed between the two groups?
3. What contributions did the slaves make to the colonial economy? Why did the Europeans use these people from Africa rather than the Indians that were native to the area?
4. What were the basic religious beliefs of the colonists? Why was religion seen as important to the people and the era?



Applications and Activities

1. Have students research the apprenticeships, occupations, careers or employment opportunities open to colonists beyond farming.
2. Choose one of the Native American tribes in existence in prerevolutionary America and research its family life, social structure, religious beliefs and governmental or political system.

SUMMARY

Using dramatic reenactments and voice-over narration, this program explains the values held by the colonists in prerevolutionary America. The content is divided into four areas: Family Life, Race and Society, Religion, and Politics. The tenets that created the strong family unit are explored in Family Life; demonstrating how these beliefs helped make a well-ordered, stable society. In Race and Society, the roles of and the attitudes towards the two non-European groups, the Indians and the slaves, are noted. The influence of the Church of England (the Anglican Church) is covered in Religion along with other deeply held and respected religious convictions that helped unify the settlers in America's wilderness. In Politics, the governing structure is examined, including the self-governing principles that helped fuel the break from England. The program concludes that the combination of all these values formed the unique culture in America which led to its independence.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Breaking the Colonial Ties: Declaration of Independence #3014
- Countdown to Independence: Causes of the American Revolution #3114
- Fighting for Independence: The Revolutionary War #3032
- Social Class in Revolutionary America #8905

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE TRIAL OF ANNE HUTCHINSON**

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/kids/civilrights/features_hutchison.html

Hutchinson’s crime was expressing religious beliefs that were different from the colony’s rulers. While she did not succeed in changing the laws of her time, her courageous actions helped set the stage for an America in which religious freedom was a reality.

- **AMERICAN REVOLUTION NAVIGATION TOOLS**

<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/k12/history/aha/arnav.html>

Provides a keyword search, subject search, time line of the American Revolutionary War, and regional maps of American Revolutionary War battles.

- **AMERICA’S FREEDOM DOCUMENTS**

<http://earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/freedom/index.html>

The Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution are shown as they first appeared to the public at that time.

- **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

<http://revolution.h-net.msu.edu/intro.html>

A growing collection of essays, a bibliography, and links to sites, maps, and images complement the PBS *Liberty!* documentary series.

