



## ***Teacher's Guide***

### **Kosciuszko, Von Steuben & the Revolutionary War** **Drive Thru History/American History**

**Grade Levels:**

7-12

**Subject Areas:**

U.S. History

U.S. Geography & Cultures

**Synopsis:**

Dave begins this journey at the home of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish engineer who was a compatriot of Benjamin Franklin and became head engineer of the Continental Army. Leaving land and goods to the benefit of released American slaves, Thaddeus ultimately returned to Poland to participate in a revolution in his native country. At Germantown, Dave visits the house that General Howe successfully defended and tells the little-known story of George Washington returning General Howe's dog after the conflict. At Valley Forge, Dave recalls the harsh winters of 1777 and 1778, when General Von Steuben transformed the beleaguered Revolutionary army into an 18<sup>th</sup> century fighting force.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will:

- Explain why Thaddeus Kosciuszko was a Revolutionary hero
- Describe General Van Steuben's remarkable transformation of Washington's fighting force
- Describe how American troops distinguished themselves during the Bombardment of Fort Mifflin
- Understand that the American Revolutionary Army was guided not only by Americans, but also by military leaders trained in Europe

**Vocabulary:**

nemesis, iron horses, Valley Forge, Fort Mifflin, Benjamin Chew House

**Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

In 1777, how were Washington's troops doing in the conflict with the British?

Where did Washington winter his troops in 1777 and 1778?

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How would you describe the living conditions at Valley Forge?

What other indications were there that the Revolutionary War was not going well for the Americans?

**Post-Viewing Discussion:**

Who inspired Thaddeus Kosciuszko to participate in the American Revolutionary War? How do you know that this Polish engineer was well respected by the Founding Fathers? What legacy did he leave American society when he returned to Poland?

Why are the soldiers who fought at Fort Mifflin considered heroes when they were ultimately defeated by General Howe's troops?

How do you know that Washington was a gentleman and a man of honor?

How did Washington take advantage of the winter spent at Valley Forge?

**Further Activities:**

To understand why they were successful in their endeavors, further investigate the training of Von Steuben or Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

Find out what Benjamin Franklin was doing when he met Thaddeus Kosciuszko in France. Also learn about the personal characteristics that made Benjamin Franklin a successful diplomat.

Find a sketch of the plan of Fort Mifflin, including the structure of underground bunkers used to store armaments.

Discover more information about the armaments used during the Revolutionary War.

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

Ben Franklin: Man of Firsts

Washington at Valley Forge