

# 1776 Book in A Day

**Objective:** Participants will understand the events of the first ½ of the Revolutionary War through the novel “1776” by David McCullough. After reading the book they will create a brief summary and graphic representation of their assigned portion of the book to share with other participants during a pedagogy session on the field seminar. The Book in a day Strategy is based on the research based instructional strategies identified by Robert Marzano, Debra Pickering, and Jane Pollock, including, but not limited to: non-linguistic representation, summarizing and note taking, Cues, Questions, Advance Organizers and collaboration work. The activity is consistent with Common Core standards focused on teaching literacy through Historical content, RH.6-8.1-10.

**Process:**

- 1) To better understand the Revolutionary War read the entire text “1776” by David McCullough.
- 2) Read your assigned portion of the book. Complete the following while reading:
  - a. Write a synopsis (summary) of your chapter 50-75 words. Include who were the key people involved, what happened, where did it happen and why did it happen. When finished with the complete synopsis write a brief (10-15 word) summary that captures the essence of your assigned portion of the text.
  - b. Draw, or create a digital picture, of the chapter illustrating the key events in your reading. Be sure to include artistic details that show what happened throughout the entire chapter, vs. minor details or events. Within the picture include your brief summary.
- 3) During the seminar come prepared to share, both your picture and summary of what occurred in your assigned portion of the text with the other participants (you will be given approximately 3 minutes), you should be prepared to answer the questions that follow regarding your portion of the text.
- 4) Listen carefully while your peers are sharing their pictures and chapter summaries so that you are prepared to participate in the discussion that follows.

Assigned Reading: 1. Pages 1-12

How was George III viewed by his contemporaries? What was George III justification for war? How did George III react to the Olive Branch? What was George III relationship to Parliament? Why Boston, i.e. why were the British in Boston in the first place?

Assigned Reading: 2. Pages 12-19

How did parliamentary debate mirror the later American political system? Who was Nathaniel Greene, what was his pre-war experience? What were the different arguments proposed by Parliament for dealing with the Americans? Lord Fox, called Lord North a “blundering pilot” explain the statement.

Assigned Reading: 3. Pages 20-28

What made Nathaniel Green “no ordinary man”? What were the relative ages of the “Band of Brothers”? How did the Continental Army evolve? What kind of supplies were available to the Continental army? How did Washington keep the British in Boston? Why didn’t the British leave?

Assigned Reading: 4. Pages 28-41

What were the Continental camps like? What was the volunteer army like? How effective was Washington at establishing rules and order in the camps? What was Washington paid? Where did the majority of the men get their supplies? What were the majority of the “privates” like when not soldiering? What was Israel Putnam’s story? Explain the statement “The army was all ages, races and nationalities.”

Assigned Reading: 5. Pages 41-50

What was Washington like physically? Why did that matter? Explain the statement: “Washington believed a leader must look and act the part.” Who was Billy Lee, what was his relationship with Washington? What experiences did Washington have before the war that prepared him for leadership? What was the relationship of Washington and Martha and his role as a step-father? What was Mt. Vernon to Washington?

Assigned Reading: 6. Pages 50-60

In September of 75’ what was George Washington’s two prong military strategy? Why? Who were the key Continental Commanders in and around Boston? What was their story? How did Washington use his war council? What happened with Dr. Benjamin Church, what were the consequences? Who was Henry Knox? What did he propose? What was Washington’s response?

Assigned Reading: 7. Pages 60-70

What did the British in Boston do with the sick? What were the consequences for the Americans? Explain the following statement: “Could I have foreseen what I have experienced, and am likely to experience, no consideration upon earth should have induced me to accept this command”. What role did the American Navy( privateers) play during this first year of the war? In what ways was Washington able to successfully make the best of what was, vs. what he wished things to be? What was the colonists’ reaction to George III, response to the Olive Branch? What was Britain’s response to the first “American” flag?

Assigned Reading: 8. Pages 70-81

Why was it essential to hold the high ground in Boston? Was Washington’s siege of Boston working? Why didn’t the British evacuate Boston? What role did the American Navy (privateers) play during this first year of the war? What was the British of 75’ - 76’ like for the British in Boston? How did it differ for privates and officers? Who were Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne? What experience had they had to prepare them for war? What happened in the Benedict Arnolds campaign to Quebec?

Assigned Reading: 9. Pages 82-91

How was Knox able to successfully bring the cannons from Ticonderoga to Boston? Was he found out? Explain the following statement: Knox’s guns had the potential to dramatically change the stalemate? Were Washington’s officers fully aware of the state of the Army? Explain your answer. What did Washington’s war council suggest he do regarding ending the stalemate in Boston? What was the plan to take the Heights? How was it to be accomplished? What was the plan of the amphibious attack of Boston? What was significant about this date?

Assigned Reading: 10. Pages 91-99

Why did the plan to take Dorchester Heights begin with a bombardment of Boston? Why was the night “perfect” for taking the Heights? What was Howe’s reaction when he saw the Americans above the city? Did Howe want to fight or flee? Why did he choose to flee? Why could it be said that the British assault was stopped by “the hand of Providence.” Explain the statement: “Howe and his army were outsmarted by the ‘rabble in arms’.” What did the British do to Boston on their retreat?

Assigned Reading: 11. Pages 100-112

Who were some of the Loyalists forced to retreat from Boston? What was their story? How many troops, loyalists evacuated? How did the British “reinforce” Bunker Hill? Where did the British go? Where did Washington think they were going? What was the reaction of the colonists when they heard the British had retreated? How did Boston prove, Washington was the best man for the job?

Assigned Reading: 12. Pages 115-126

Approximately how long did it take for Washington and the Continental army to march to New York? What are the five advantages David McCullough identifies that the British had in New York? (*Washington did not know where the enemy was, did not know who they were, what was needed to contain them, British controlled the water, British determined the time and place of battle, large loyalist pop.*) Why was New York so crucial? (*control Hudson & the interior, control NY and control the sea –encircled by deep navigable waters*) Where did loyalists hide when Washington and his men arrived in New York? What did they do? What role did regional animosity play in the Continental Army? How did Washington feel about New York City? Why?

Assigned Reading: 13. Pages 126-140

What was Lee’s plan to take New York? Why were barricades thrown up in New York by the Cont. army? Why were Knox and Green such a great help to Washington? Why did Washington believe a Declaration of Independence was crucial? How many men were available to Washington? How many to the British? What was the fate of Loyalists in NYC when a plot to assassinate Washington was discovered? Why were the British gunships so important? Explain the following statement: “It was no longer a civil war, it was now a war for independence.” In what ways did Washington share the Dec. of Ind. with the troops? How did the British “show their force” when arriving in Long Island?

Assigned Reading: 14. Pages 140-154

How did the British treat the loyalists? What are some ways the British alienated the undecided and/or their Loyalist allies? What was ironic about Howe’s role? (*peace & war maker*) In what way(s) were the Howe brothers different? How did Washington respond to Admiral Howe’s suit for peace? Approximately how many British ships arrived in New York? What was the condition of the Cont. troops in NYC? Explain the following statement.. in NYC, the troops were commanded to “hurry up and wait”

Assigned Reading: 15. Pages 155-171

What surprised both the British and Hessian troops about the way of life of Long Islanders? How did the Continental army comport itself when attacked by the British? What were some of the key mistakes made by Washington at the battle for Long Island? Why did they ignore Jamaica Pass? What are some specific ways the British soldiers were “better”? (*trained, disciplined, equipped, paid, health, sanitation, 5-6 experience in army, proud & loyal to regiment*) How did the British view the Continental Army? How did the British successfully approach Jamaica pass, without the Americans knowing?

Assigned Reading: 16. Pages 171-182

What was Grant’s purpose at Gowanus Pass? Did Sullivan’s continental soldiers hold their own against Grant’s British soldiers? What surprises were awaiting Sullivan from Howe? What stopped the British fleet from successfully destroying all of Washington’s forces? Why could it be said Lord Sterling is an American hero? What did he do? What were the odds he and his men (Marylanders & Pennsylvanians) faced? (*250 vs. 7000*) What was the fate of many who escaped into Gowanus swamp? Who won the Battle of Long Island? What were American and British losses? What was the fate of many Continentals who surrendered? How were Continental prisoners of war kept?

Assigned Reading: 17. Pages 182-191

When the American army was trapped in Brooklyn what stopped the British from finishing off the army, and thus ending the war? How did Washington behave when among his men, when they were trapped in Brooklyn? Why? Why did Washington choose to once again retreat from Brooklyn? (*wet ammunition, discouraged troops advancing enemy, looming navy*) What was the continental army told they were preparing to do in Brooklyn? Who was sent first during the retreat? Who manned the retreat boats? Explain the following statement: "Few men ever had so much riding on their skills or were under such pressure and performed so superbly!" How did the Mifflin and the rear guard hide the retreat from the British? Explain the following statement: "Without the hand of Providence the retreating Continental army would have been unable to escape the British".

Assigned Reading: 18. Pages 191-197

What was the reaction of the British when they discovered the Americans had evacuated? Explain the following statement: "with the exception of the retreat, Washington had performed badly at the Battle of Long Island?" What is to blame for the failure of the Americans at Long Island? (*Washington ignored sea, all ignored Jamaica Pass, Green sick, odds to heavily stacked*)

Assigned Reading: 19. Pages 201-210

Did Washington have the necessary intelligence required to get adequate information in New York? What did Green suggest Washington should do in New York and why? (*2/3 Tories, burn the city-didn't, spread out easy to split in half, not enough food to support troops*) What happened with Lord Howe, Adams, Rutledge & Franklin? What was planned at Kips Bay?

Assigned Reading: 20. Pages 210-220

Explain the statement: "At Kips Bay the Americans turned tail and ran". Why did the British play the "Fox Hunt", on their bugles when chasing the Americans?

Assigned Reading: 21. Pages 220-234

What were the consequences of the burning of New York? Why was Nathaniel Hale in New York? What was his fate? What was the state of the Continental Army as they fled New York? Explain the following statement: "The American army was so democratic, it was ineffectual." What did Washington hope to do to improve the army? Who won the Battle of White Plains? (*draw*)

Assigned Reading: 22. Pages 234-246

What were the odds at Fort Mifflin? (*8000 B 2000 A*) How many Americans were surrendered in the Battles for New York? (*4000*) What was the fate of many of the prisoners of war? How did Lee and Washington deal differently with their failure at New York?

Assigned Reading: 23. Pages 247-257

Approximately how many men remained in the Continental army after fleeing New York? (*3000*) How did Washington react to Reed's betrayal? Were Reed and Mifflin successful recruiting soldiers in Philadelphia? How were rebel pirates able to help the cause? Were the British aware of what was happening to the Continental army? What were the two different philosophies espoused by the British to end the war? (*Take W & the army, Take NJ & RI end rebellion in hearts of people*) Who replaced Clinton in NY? What evidence is there that Washington was very much alone? What happened to 2000/3000 2/3 of the remaining soldiers?

Assigned Reading: 24. Pages 257-267

What did Howe offer those who had rebelled if they would stop fighting? What did the British do that were following the fleeing Continental army in New Jersey? What did Lee do after being taken captive? During the winter of '76 did Howe move into capture Philadelphia? Was there anything stop him? Where did Howe and his army stay during the winter of '76?

Assigned Reading: 25. Pages 268-278

How was Washington getting information on the whereabouts of Howe and his army? Explain the following statement: "Out of adversity Washington seemed to draw greater energy and determination". What was the plan for taking Trenton? What was the significance of the password for Trenton? Who organized the crossing of the Delaware? How was the weather both a blessing and curse?

Assigned Reading: 26. Pages 278-290

How long did the fighting go on in Trenton? (*45 min*) What is so remarkable about the fighting of the Continental soldiers at Trenton? What was the fate of the Hessian commander at Trenton? How many Americans died at Trenton? How many Hessians taken, wounded, escaped at Trenton? (*900, 100, 500*) What was the effect of the Battle of Trenton on the colonies? What was Dr. Benjamin Rushes experience at Princeton? Who won the Battle of Princeton?

Assigned Reading: 27. Pages 290-294

Explain the following statement: "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effect upon the history of the world." Who proved to be the most brilliant commander of the war in the South? (Greene) Explain the following statement by Joseph Ellis: "The brilliance of Washington is that he understood as long as the Continental army remained intact the British would eventually lose the war".