

The Spy Map and General Washington

It's December, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was signed five months ago and Britain has sent troops to quell the rebellious Colonials. There have been skirmishes, with the British remaining victorious. It is bitterly cold, the colonial troops are hungry, poorly clothed and ill-equipped, unpaid, and ready to return home. General Washington receives timely information from a "very intelligent young gentleman" and formulates a plan. Using the spy's map, accompanying letter, and the official Revolutionary War battle map, discover what General Washington learned and trace his path in this very important battle of the Revolutionary War.

Audience: teachers, curriculum specialists, staff development trainers, media specialists, librarians and university instructors

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Gain skill in analyzing maps as historical evidence;
- Develop an understanding of the battle strategy employed by Gen. Washington in the battles of Trenton and Princeton.

Tasks in brief:

- Analyze a hand-drawn spy map as an artifact, reading for information and inference.
- Analyze a handwritten letter as an artifact, reading for information and inference.
- Analyze an official Revolutionary War battle map, incorporating information gained from the spy map and letter.

Presentation Options:

One-hour interactive session (post-conference review of resource documents encouraged).

Resources:

- *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: [George Washington and the Battle of Princeton: Timeline: The American Revolution, 1777](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/1777.html)*
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/1777.html>
- *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: [George Washington to Continental Congress, January 5, 1777](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060360)))*
[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw060360\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060360)))
- *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: [George Washington to Israel Putnam, January 5, 1777](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060361)))*
[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw060361\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060361)))
- *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: [George Washington to William Heath, January 5, 1777](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060362)))*
[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw060362\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw060362)))

- *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 4. 1697-1799: General Correspondence: [John Cadwalader to George Washington, Dec. 31, 1776](#)*
<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw4&fileName=gwpage039.db&recNum=463>
- *The American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789: [Plan of the operations of General Washington against the King's troops in New Jersey, from the 26th of December 1776 to the 3rd of January 1777](#)*
[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq\(@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g3811s+ct000061\)\)+@field\(COLLID+arm ap\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(g3811s+ct000061))+@field(COLLID+arm ap)))
- *The American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789: [Plan of Princeton, Dec. 31, 1776](#)*
[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq\(@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g3814p+ct000076\)\)+@field\(COLLID+arm ap\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(g3814p+ct000076))+@field(COLLID+arm ap)))