Social Studies Unit 3 – American Revolution and Gunpowder Theft

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| Expedition:  St George’s  Mitchell House, Gunpowder Magazine and Tobacco Bay | |  | Social Studies  Bermuda Five Centuries Chapter 7: Wars and Defence | |
| Date: October 1st,2nd,3rd | | SEL Focus: Social Competence (teamwork) | |
| Key topics:  When America’s 13 colonies went to war with Britain, they stopped trading with the other British colonies, and this resulted in serious food shortages in Bermuda.  In August 1775 group of Bermudian rebels broke into the magazine and delivered barrels of gunpowder to American ships anchored offshore.  **Students will know**:  The 1780s was a time of wars and revolution (French revolution in 1789 and American revolutionary war 1775 -1783) Bermuda relied on the American colonies for trade and food.  **Students will understand:** In a revolution citizens overthrow their ruler and power changes hands. Many Bermudians sympathised with the Americans and but still remained loyal to England. | | | | |
| George Washington wrote a letter promising food and friendship in return for gunpowder.  Read aloud: simplified version of George Washington’s letter to Bermuda, 1775  Taxes- Students will be given pennies at the start of the expedition. Help them understand the demands the Gov. put on hardworking Bermudians. | | | | | |
| Activities Outline: | Activities:  Start at Tucker’s House- Greet students.   1. Letter- read and opened by students 2. Taxes: pennies given to each group. Trying to keep pennies to the end. *“Taxation without representation.”* 3. *Hand out compasses.*   *Explicit Teaching: Rewind to the summer of 1775: the American colonies are in revolt and Bermuda is divided. While much of the island’s populace remains loyal to the English Crown, there are many who sympathize with the Continental Congress’ fight for independence – including one of Bermuda’s most powerful merchants, Colonel Henry Tucker, a resident of the*[*Town of St. George*](https://www.gotobermuda.com/profile/town-st-george/3102)*.*   1. Welcome to the Mitchell House   What do we THINK we know about the American Revolution? Who were Benjamin Franklin and George Washington? Who was Colonel Henry Tucker? What happened in the Boston Tea party? How did the English react?  Why do we think that some Bermudians were not English loyalists?  What would happen to someone found guilty of treason?   1. Walk from Mitchell House to Tobacco Bay | | | Timings (approx.)/  15 minutes    35 minutes |
| Language: | Key Vocabulary:  Revolution and Magazine are MIM words (many interesting meanings)  What are two meanings? (semantics)  Use it in a sentence (syntax)  Sympathy is a MIC word (many interesting connections)  *Why did Bermudians sympathise with Americans?*  We can turn words from nouns to verbs by adding the suffix –ize  What about the suffix -ary  Find synonyms for:  Liberties, (freedom)  Provisions, (supplies) brethren (brothers).  Arms (weapons)  Descendants (demonstrate descend with your body)  Do a 180-degree revolution, do a 360-degree revolution | | | Explode, explosive  independence  Revolution, revolutionary  Revolutionise  Sympathy  Sympathise  Tyrant  Merchant  Cannons  Feeble  Magazine  Descend, descendant |
| Activity and evaluation:  *Ensure students review learning and discuss progress and challenges in the day* | **Re-enactment of the Gunpowder theft.**  Students will be divided into 3 or 4 groups (depending on teacher: student ratio)  Mitchell House and Gunpowder fort. (Walking)  *Explicit teaching: Night falls on St. George’s on August 15, 1775. Under the cover of darkness, Colonel Tucker, a small party of trusted Bermudians and incognito American sailors gather in a cobblestone alley. Few words are spoken as the band heads to the magazine where the barrels of precious gunpowder are stored. The plotters are in luck: just one unarmed sentry guards the magazine, and he is easily overcome. But now comes the challenge: how do you get 100 barrels of gunpowder from St. George’s to*[*Tobacco Bay*](https://www.gotobermuda.com/profile/tobacco-bay-beach/3107)*, where two American sloops, the*Lady Catherine*and the*Packet*, are anchored?*  Students will collect different coloured “Barrels” (balloons) from three stations along Government Hill Road and must carry them in pairs using one hand each.  Can you get your barrels safely to Tobacco Bay without letting them pop or blow away? TEAMWORK is the key.  **At Tobacco Bay**  Collect the balloons. Get into “boats” and practice | | | **5 mins briefing**  **15 mins**  **20 mins**  **15 Mins** |
|  | Questions:   1. What was the Boston Tea Party? 2. Can you turn 180 degrees? Can you turn 360 degrees? You just did a revolution   3. Importance of the relationship between Bermuda and US?  4. Why did the GPP take place?  Taxation without representation  The colonists were cheesed off. They were vexed.  **At School Reflection:**  Write a letter to a friend about today’s expedition Describing the Gunpowder Plot and why it took place. (BEN Binder)  **Contacts:**  Peter Frith - St George’s Foundation 2978043  Jeannie Olander - Historical Society (St. George’s) 3318089 | | |  |