

# Revolutionary War Traveling Trunk

## Teacher's Manual



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★  
PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

For further information regarding the Traveling Trunk, please visit:  
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/resources/traveling-trunks>

# Using the Traveling Trunk

Thank you for borrowing the American Battlefield Trust's Revolutionary War Traveling Trunk! We are very excited to be able to offer this wonderful, free resource to teachers.

Here are some helpful tips and guidelines for using the trunk:

- **Inventory** – Upon renting the trunk, the American Battlefield Trust sent you an email with the inventory list attached. When you receive the trunk, take an inventory of the items present in the trunk. When you are done using it, take another inventory. Email the completed inventory at the end of the week to [travelingtrunk@battlefields.org](mailto:travelingtrunk@battlefields.org).
- **Be careful** – We fully expect the materials to be used and handled; however, the trunk needs to travel to schools around the country all year, so we want to be sure the next class has a great experience as well! For the paper documents, we recommend making copies of the documents we included, so that the students can write on the copies. If any items are lost or damaged, please let the American Battlefield Trust's Education team know as soon as possible.
- **Have fun** – The items in the trunk can be categorized and placed into stations, passed around the classroom, incorporated into plays and scavenger hunts, and used in conjunction with our online lesson plans; you are welcome to use the objects as you see fit. [Lesson Plans](https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/resources/traveling-trunks/revolutionary-war-traveling-trunk-resources), classroom activities, and other resources can be found on this website: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/resources/traveling-trunks/revolutionary-war-traveling-trunk-resources>
- **Take pictures** – Please send us pictures of your students exploring the trunk. Pictures provide evidence of programs that work, allowing us to promote the program and acquire additional funding to create more resources for teachers and students. You can find the American Battlefield Trust's Media Release form in emails sent regarding the Traveling Trunk, as well as on our website: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/civil-war-traveling-trunk/traveling-trunk-resources>
- **Tell us what you think** – When you email your completed inventory to us, please take some time to tell us what you think worked well and what we can improve for the future.
- **Pass it along** – Be sure to send the trunk to the next person by Friday of your scheduled week! The American Battlefield Trust will email you your pre-paid shipping label before your week is through.

(p) 202-367-1861 and select "School Programs Traveling Trunks" on the phone menu

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:** Education Department  
[travelingtrunk@battlefields.org](mailto:travelingtrunk@battlefields.org)

## Items found on the [Traveling Trunk resources webpage](#):

1. **American Documents** – This file includes documents that are not printed and already in the Traveling Trunk. There is a stamp from the Stamp Act, map of the 13 colonies/states, army and navy enlistment posters and papers, recruiting post, Continental currency, the Culper Spy Code, and coloring pages.
2. **British Documents** – This file includes documents that are not printed and already in the Traveling Trunk. There is a sketch of a British Ship of the Line, map of Fort Ticonderoga, Loyalist recruiting poster, navy recruiting poster, drummer boy's enlistment papers, King George III's signature, and British Coat of Arms from the 1770's.
3. **Flag Guide** – Learn more about the different flags used by the different nations involved in the American Revolution.
4. **An Introduction to Weapons of the Revolutionary War Era** – View images and find links to learn more about the types of weapons carried by British, German, French, and American soldiers.
5. **Language and Penmanship** – Explore some of the differences in writing and even in alphabet letters.
6. **Military Images from the Revolutionary War Era** – This small collection of 18<sup>th</sup> Century images helps to explore how people of that era viewed the events of their day and how they created art and engravings to support their side of the story.
7. **Social/Political Images from the Revolutionary War Era** – This small collection of 18<sup>th</sup> Century images helps to explore how people of that era viewed the daily life and political happenings of their day.
8. **Fife Guide and Finger Chart** – Revving up motivation in the field, musicians rolled along with regiments! Fifes were a defining component of field music during the Civil War. Take a look at the finger chart and fife guide to get a sense of this Civil War instrument.
9. **Reference List for Assorted Replica Documents** (assorted replica documents included in the trunk)
10. **Everyday Life of Revolutionary War Soldiers Lesson Plan** - Students will explore items such as military jackets and hats, shoes, haversack, powder horn, and replica musket balls while learning about the experiences of Revolutionary War soldiers.
11. **The Homefront of the Revolutionary War Lesson Plan** - Students will be able to explain the experiences of civilians and how civilians supported the Revolutionary War effort. Items to explore include a dress, cap, pocket, fan, sample cash crops, and drop spindle.
12. **Music of the Revolutionary War Lesson Plan** – Students will be able to describe the role that music played on the battlefield and in camp. They will also explore the role that children close to their age played in the army.
13. **Revolutionary War Camp Lesson Plan** – Students will discover what camp life was like and can see various items that soldiers would have used, including hardtack, corn, tin cup, playing cards, fife, candle and candle holder.
14. **Famous People of the Revolutionary War Lesson Plan** - Students will learn about some of the decision-makers and courageous men and women of the Revolutionary War era and will be able to explore replica primary sources.

# More About the American Battlefield Trust

Preserve. Educate. Inspire.

## Our Mission

The American Battlefield Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. The American Battlefield Trust preserves America's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters.

## Preservation Method

The American Battlefield Trust preserves land utilizing several well-established conservation strategies. Ultimately, these efforts are guided by our mission to preserve significant battlefield land in perpetuity. For those interested in preserving a property we invite you to contact our real estate department directly.

We work only with willing sellers and each project is unique in its own way. However, in general, there are two types of preservation transactions:

1. Preservation in which the landowner retains ownership  
( i.e. [Conservation Easements](#) )
2. Preservation that transfers ownership  
( i.e. [Fee simple transactions](#) )

American Battlefield Trust members have helped save more than 57,000 acres at battlegrounds like Antietam (the bloodiest single day in American history), Fort Donelson (where a future U.S. president earned his nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant) and Morris Island (where the 54th Massachusetts made the charge immortalized in the movie *Glory*, in addition to dozens of other sites in 24 different states. Chances are the American Battlefield Trust has saved land at every battlefield you're familiar with, and maybe even some you're not! [View our Index of Saved Land »](#)

In addition to preserving historic landscapes, the American Battlefield Trust conducts programs designed to inform the public about America's first century conflicts and the consequences of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. We seek to create a personal connection to the past and foster opportunities for individuals to experience battlefields first hand.