

The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge Lesson #1 of the 1776 Perspectives Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge encourage Americans to seek independence?

OVERVIEW

The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge was fought between Patriot and Loyalist forces in North Carolina on February 27, 1776. Loyalist forces, anticipating support from a British army, rallied and marched toward the coast. Patriot militia blocked the Loyalists at Moores Creek Bridge and a brief fight occurred. The Patriots achieved a victory that solidified their control of North Carolina and encouraged North Carolina delegates to vote for independence. Additionally, the victory served as a major deterrent for Loyalist support until the opening of the Southern Campaign four years later.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
 - Briefly explain the outcome of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and describe what some eyewitnesses or participants experienced.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Examine multiple primary sources to gain perspectives on the battle and its outcomes.
3. Evaluation
 - Discuss findings from primary sources and how the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge influenced the American Revolution.

ACTIVITIES

1. Use the [Lesson's PowerPoint](#) to explore the context and history; the PowerPoint introduces context and foundational knowledge of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge.
2. The primary sources for this perspectives lesson plan offer multiple perspectives from different people who fought or observed the battle; students can be divided into groups to read and fill out the worksheet.

Loyalist (British)	<i>1776: A Proclamation by Governor Martin</i>
Loyalist (British)	<i>1776: "There Are Troublesome Times Ahead"</i>

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST: 1776 PERSPECTIVES – MOORES CREEK BRIDGE LESSON PLAN TEACHING GUIDE

Loyalist (British)	<i>1776: Narrative of the Proceedings of a Body of Loyalists in North Carolina</i>
Whig (Patriot)	<i>1776: "Freemen Contending for their Dearest Privileges"</i>
Whig (Patriot)	<i>1776: "Doing Credit to their Country"</i>
After the Battle	<i>1776: "Taken Prisoner at the Battle near Moores Creek Bridge"</i>
After the Battle	<i>1857: "Address Delivered at the Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge"</i>

3. Distribute the [lesson's worksheet](#).
4. Students will read a primary source and fill out the worksheet which will guide them through exploring the document.
5. Encourage a class discussion from the worksheet, draw group conclusions, answering the questions:
 - Who won the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge? Depending on who wrote a particular document, what reasons were given for the outcome of the battle?
 - What were some reactions to the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge in these primary sources?
 - What did people think would happen next after the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge?
 - What have you heard about the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge? Do you think it should be a better-known event from the American Revolution? Why or why not?

STANDARDS

Please visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) and select the "Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies" to view the details.

RESOURCES

Visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, and biographies.

Quick Links

- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Primary Source Worksheet](#)
- [Battle of Moores Creek Bridge Map](#)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Scottish Highlanders

Many of the Loyalists who fought at Moores Creek Bridge were Scottish Highlanders. The battle is remembered in military history as the last broadsword charge of the Highlanders. Learn more about the Scottish communities in North Carolina and some of their leaders in 1776.

- [From Culloden to the Colonies: Revolutionary Scots](#)
- [Donald MacDonald](#)
- [Flora MacDonald](#)
- [Alexander McLean](#)
- [1776: "There Are Troublesome Times Ahead"](#)
- [1776: "Taken Prisoner at the Battle near Moores Creek Bridge"](#)

Brainstorm a list of material culture artifacts relating to the Scots at Moores Creek Bridge (like broadsword, dirk, musket, clothing items, tartan patterns, portraits or primary sources). Have students research an object and collectively create a museum display using artifact photos and descriptions to tell this unique story.

Option 2: Create a Timeline

The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge was a small fight with larger impact. Using these articles and timeline create a comprehensive timeline to place Moores Creek Bridge in the larger scene of early 1776. Explore how this Patriot victory ties into the other events and defeats/victories or long sieges happening at the same time.

- [Early Years of the American Revolution in North Carolina](#)
- [Early American Victories in the South during the American Revolution](#)
- [American Revolution Timeline](#)