

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (7)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3: Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



“The horse America, throwing his master,” 1779

<https://www.loc.gov/item/97514739/>

Topic Background:

Despite a secret French loan and discussions of a full alliance, French assistance to the new United States was limited at the outset. Vergennes (French Foreign Minister) finally decided in favor of an alliance when news of the British surrender at the Battle of Saratoga reached him in December 1777. Between 1778 and 1782 the French provided supplies, arms and ammunition, uniforms, and, most importantly, troops and naval support to the beleaguered Continental Army. The French navy transported reinforcements, fought off a British fleet, and protected Washington’s forces in Virginia. French assistance was crucial in securing the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781.

Excerpted from: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1776-1783/french-alliance>

Source(s) Used:

A horse snorting violently, its head down and hind legs in the air; his rider, George III, has lost his seat and is about to fall head downwards. In his hand is a scourge to each lash of which is attached either a sword, sabre, bayonet, scalping-knife, or axe; he wears the ribbon and star of the Garter. Behind (r.), a French officer walks (r. to left.) towards the horse, carrying a large fleur-de-lys flag over his right shoulder. *Originally published in London, August 1, 1779.

Excerpted from:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=144917&partId=1&people=86879&peoA=86879-1-7&page=1

Answer Key:

Question 1: C

Question2: A

“The horse America, throwing his master,” 1779

Created as part of the Assessing with Primary Sources Project
Teaching with Primary Sources @ Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL



Questions:

- 1) How does the horse represent America breaking away from Great Britain? (CCSS-RI7.3)
 - a. A French man is coming towards America, the horse.
 - b. The horse is carrying a rider, King George III of Great Britain.
 - c. The horse is trying to toss off King George III of Great Britain.
 - d. King George III of Great Britain is carrying weapons as he sits on the horse.

- 2) Which of the following best describes the relationship of America as “Horse” and King George III, or Great Britain, as “Master”? (CCSS-RI7.4)
 - a. America, the colony, declared independence from Great Britain, the colonizer.
 - b. Great Britain, the colony, declared independence from America, the colonizer.
 - c. America, the colonizer, declared independence from Great Britain, the colony.
 - d. Great Britain, the colonizer, declared independence from America, the colony.