

The American Revolution and American Peoples: A Comparative Inquiry
The Geo-Politics of the Revolution
January 5, 2002

Responses

1. Tell us two or three things you learned today.

- I didn't realize that Jefferson's first draft included the abolition of slavery! Great practical approaches to teaching and a more complex understanding of the dynamics of the revolution.
- The importance of the Caribbean in all of this, that slavery was on the table and taken off in the Declaration of Independence. I have a much greater sense of the incredible tension this country springs from and continues to operate under.
- The small percentage of Colonists actually actively engages in the revolution. 40% of all slaves enters the colonies through S.C.
- The ratio of slave to white populations in colonies; rebellions of whites mainly over land; the breadth of the impact the revolution on the wide variety of peoples.
- Importance of the concept of a broader Atlantic community rather than just the 13 colonies. Concept that powerless minorities played an important role in the revolution.
- The notion I held before today's class was that not all Americans supported the armed rebellion against the British rule. What I learned today was who those "Americans" were. My knowledge base grew to encompass a better understanding of the demographics of colonial and postcolonial America.
- Using object to generate historical "stories". New information about the settlement patterns of the colonists. New emphasis on picture books at all levels of education.
- The maps showing population density were very interesting for blacks and the reminder that Native Americans were still in most of the area.
- The story of the South Carolina Indians; African American slave migration; use of objects as a tool in learning.
- About the objects; comparing maps; the level of interaction between groups.
- Indigo not natural to North America. Map resources.

2. What did you like the most about today's session?

- I really like Barry O'Connell's teaching style-I've been impressed since taking a *** 5 college course. Marge Bruchac is an inspirational educator and resource. (While I'm mentioning positive role models- I really appreciate Rosemary's contributions too. Especially the great book recommendations.
- The tag team approach-its great to have 2, 3 presenters adding things here and there.
- Not to slight anyone in the first session, but this session "Rocks". Not one single moment of wasted time.
- Lecture and map presentation.
- I learned a lot from the object lesson.
- The artifact activity.
- Meeting with other teachers; seeing maps and getting information about the population of the colonies that I was unaware of.
- Barry is a very knowledgeable easy to listen to presenter. I would enjoy having him for more workshops.
- The teachers and readings.
- Children's book information.
- I enjoyed the whole day.

3. Any ideas for how to use information from today's session in the classroom?

- I plan to apply objects lesson immediately. I'm going to look for children's books to use.
- Develop a depository for finding some/all of the resources, props, etc. used today.
- Show maps in class. Use informational anecdotes to add to text in class.
- I will use the tables and maps.
- To give my students a better understanding of the "big picture" of the American Revolution.
- More use of visuals and objects in the classroom.
- Not specifically.... but thinking...
- Great background.
- Quotes; object study; read children's books.

- Working on it.

4. Any constructive feedback for the presenters and/or planners?

- It would be great to have the maps available. Thank you.
- Excellent
- Discussion is fun but direct instruction is also welcomed.
- Very Interesting; I enjoyed the group work with the objects relating to the colonial era.
- Today was a great day. Time passed very quickly. That says it all.
- Yes-more classes- I can't get enough.
- Great job.

5. Other comments

- It's a pleasure to work with such thoughtful educators throughout.
- Time went fast, it was a rewarding session.
- Fantastic day.