

Introduction to the Activity

It has been quite a long day for you and your team of historians. You all have been working diligently when you're approached by a woman named Sarah who says she is in need your of help. Sarah is a curious individual seeking to unearth the truth about her ancestor, Harry Washington. Armed with a collection of aged documents and a heart full of questions, she turns to you for help. As a team of keen historians, you'll delve into the historical puzzle surrounding Harry's life.

Remember, you're not just solving a mystery; you're breathing life into the past. Your dedication to preserving history's threads will reveal the tale of Harry Washington and shed light on the significance of historical research.

Prepare to uncover secrets, question assumptions, and ultimately discover the intricate tapestry of the past. The journey begins, historians. Will you rise to the challenge and unveil the ancestral secrets that await?

Goal of the Activity

Using Primary Documents: While the documents you have been given have been updated to be more legible, the phrasings have not been altered and learning how to read more old fashioned writing is a historical and language arts skill!

Discussions: You are encouraged to discuss each lead with your team to analyze what was said and what happened to Harry.

The Timeline and Guided Note worksheet: You are provided with a guided note worksheet in which your students should be able to follow the various documents and understand what they are looking for. The timeline will /help give them a visual of Harry Washington's timeline throughout his life.

End of the Activity

Questions: At the end of your research, you will write an email to Sarah, Harry's descendant, explaining what happened to Harry during his lifetime. Consider using the following questions and your worksheet to guide your email.

1. Approximately when was Harry born?
2. What did Harry do during the Revolutionary War?
3. What happened to Harry at the end of the Revolutionary War? Where did he go? How did he get there?