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North Andover Middle School, North Andover, MA
Grade level: grade 8 US History I
Time needed for lesson: 2 class periods- 100 minutes

The Deerfield Raid of 1704 Critical Thinking Activity

Note: this is one of 4 activities used during a unit on the French and Indian War.

After completing this lesson, students will understand that

- Who owns history is a huge area of importance when looking at historical events. It is important that students take different perspectives into consideration when looking at historical events.
- British colonists repeatedly requested resources from the British government to protect them from Native American and French attacks.
- Letters, deeds, wills, and other primary sources can be used to tell stories about historical places and events.

CONNECTIONS TO MASSACHUSETTS STATE SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORKS:

- British colonies in the New World (Massachusetts Bay Colony)
- Colonial governments structures including the roles of royal government, British parliament, colonial assemblies and town meeting
- The causes of the French and Indian War and conflict between the British, French and Native Americans

CONNECTIONS TO THE SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY COMMON CORE:

- Analysis of primary and secondary sources
- Reading comprehension skills
- Writing in the persuasive, narrative, and expository forms
- Researching historical events using multiple forms of resources including primary and secondary sources, and online resources.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVITY ONE:

Please read the *Petition Excerpts* handed out in class and answer the following questions. You will eventually be making connections from this to the Deerfield raid of 1704 and the French and Indian War.

1. Why are these excerpts examples of primary sources? How are they different from an article written in modern times, or from a textbook on social studies?

2. Please skim the reading and underline/highlight any words or phrases that are confusing or that you have questions about. Please list them and then define using a dictionary. We will make a class list for all of us to use as we move on to read and comprehend the passage.

LIST OF VOLCABULARY WORDS/PHRASES:

WORD/PHRASE

DEFINITION

After reading the following passage, please answer the following questions.

3. Please identify and explain **TWO MAIN IDEAS** from the primary source passage.

MAIN IDEA ONE:

MAIN IDEA TWO:

4. Where were these passages taken from? Please be specific.

5. What problems were the colonists of Deerfield experiencing?

6. How are these problems impacting the people of Deerfield in the early 1700s?

7. What do they want from the colonial government and the mother country of Great Britain? Please be specific.

ACTIVITY TWO: Application of Knowledge (Role Play)

Directions:

Please apply what you learned from analyzing these passages to one of the two following activities.

CHOICE A:

Role-play that you are the colonial governor of Massachusetts and write a letter back to the people of Deerfield responding to their requests and concerns. Remember that while you want to reassure the colonists that they will be safe, you also have pressure from the king and parliament to save money and limit the costs of running the North American colonies.

OR

CHOICE B:

Role-play that the leaders of Deerfield asked you, a colonial teenager to write a letter to the governor pleading for help dealing with the many problems that plague your home. The idea behind the letter is to gain sympathy from the perspective of a child living in Deerfield, which would be difficult to shut down and reject.

Petition Excerpts

The following excerpts are from *The History of Deerfield, Vol. I*; written by George Sheldon in 1895. They have been transcribed for easier comprehension.

Pgs. 283 & 284

"At a legal Town meeting in Deerfield, June 26, 1702: Ensign John Sheldon, moderator:

That the Town fort shall forthwith be Righted up Voted affirmatively That every man shall for the present Right up his proportion of the fort that was last laid out to him Voted affirmatively.

That a petition be sent to the Governor for help and Relief in our present distress occasion by a prospect of war..."

"In the Council July 2d 1702.

Upon a representation made by the inhabitants of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire, the most westerly frontier of the Province, that a considerable part of the Line of Fortification about their Plantation is decayed and fallen down, praying for some assistance in rebuilding and setting up the same, for that they are apprehensive of some evil designs forming by the Indians..."

Pgs. 288 & 289

"To his Excellency, Joseph Dudley, Esq. Capt General and Governor over this Province of the Massachusetts Bay & to the Counsell & Representatives in General Court assembled this 27 Oct. 1703.

The Town of Deerfield who lie much exposed to the present enemy, which obstructe them much in their occasions, their Lives hanging in doubt everywhere when they goe out. Also they are now forced to rebuild their fortifications at much disadvantage to them, & it being 320 rod or upwards, will fall very heavy to do it all upon their own charge, were verry earnest with me when lately there, to plead with this Court for some allowance towards the doing of it out of their public Rates now to be collected there; as also, that they might be Quitted of Rates to the public for the time being of this present war, which is so distressing upon them.

Saml Partridge."

"Deerf. October 21, 1703.

May it please your Excellency:

As I am bound in duty I would thankfully acknowledge your care and concernment for our safety in the seasonable provision to get the fortification made up, & in the care to have a supply of souldiers with us, so I am emboldened to lay before your Excellency our distressed state & condition, knowing your forwardness to commiserate & encourage frontiers, that you may stir up your Council & the Assembly to an encouraging of them....

we have been driven from our houses & home lots into the fort, (there are but 10 house lots in the fort). Some a mile some 2 miles, whereby we have suffered much loss, we have in the alarms several times been wholly taken off from any business, the whole town kept in, our children of 12 or 13 years and under we have been afraid to improve in the field for fear of the enemy, (our town plat & meadows all lay exposed to the view of an enemy if they come at any time on the mountains). We have been crowded together into houses to the preventing of indoor affairs being carried on to any advantage.....

Strangers tell us they would not live where we do for twenty times as much as we do, the enemy having such an advantage of the river to come down upon us, several say they would freely leave all they have & go away were it not that it would be disobedience to authority & a discouraging their brethren: The frontier difficulties of a place so remote from others & so exposed as ours, are more than be known, if not felt."

Note: 1 rod= 5.5 yards