

FINAL Classroom Ready Women in the American Revolution EBAS

Introduction

A student is researching the American Revolution. The compelling question is this:

What motivated women to support the American Revolution?

The student has found the following sources. Use the sources and sourcing information to answer the questions.

Background Information

After the Proclamation of 1763, the British government taxed its American colonies to pay for the costs of protecting them. Colonial men and women resisted these taxes in many ways, including boycotts and protests. After a decade of increasing tensions, the colonists declared their independence from Great Britain and formally started the revolution in 1776. The American Revolution lasted from 1765 – 1783.

Source A

Source Information: In late May 1780, General George Washington announced his soldiers were exhausted and had a serious shortage of food and clothing. Esther Reed, the wife of Pennsylvania Governor Joseph Reed, rallied fellow women of Philadelphia to raise money in support of the patriot troops. This letter was written by Washington on July 14, 1780 from his headquarters in New Jersey to Reed who was living in Philadelphia.

Head Qrs [Quarters] in Bergen Cty., July 14, 1780

Madam:

I have received with much pleasure . . . the amount of the subscriptions [money] already collected for the use of the American Soldiery. This fresh mark of the patriotism of the Ladies entitles them to the highest applause of their Country. It is impossible for the Army, not to feel a superior gratitude, on such an instance of goodness.

. . . I would propose the purchasing of course Linnen [cotton cloth], to be made into Shirts, with the whole amount of their subscription [money]. A Shirt extraordinary to the Soldier will be of more service, and do more to preserve his health than any other thing that could be procured him. . . .

Source B

Source Information: The *Boston Evening Post*, a patriot newspaper, published the following article on January 31, 1770. The article reported that over 300 Boston women had signed it. The actions were taken in response to the Revenue Acts, which taxed the colonies.

At a time when our . . . Rights and Privileges are attacked in an unconstitutional and most alarming Manner, . . . we join with the very respectable Body of Merchants and other Inhabitants of this Town . . . in their Resolutions, totally to abstain [stop] from the Use of Tea. . . . This Agreement we cheerfully come into, as we believe the very distressed Situation of our Country requires it, and we do hereby oblige ourselves religiously to observe it. . . .

Source C

Source Information: Reaction to the new taxes became violent in Boston, Massachusetts. To restore order, Great Britain sent troops to the city. People were forced to either leave their homes or stay and live under military rule. Hannah Winthrop lived just outside Boston. In August 1775 she wrote this letter to a female friend Mercy Otis Warren.

Dear Mrs. Warren, the Friend and Sister of my Heart, —

. . . But my heart Bleeds for the people of Boston, my Blood boils with resentment at the Treatment they have met with from Gage [British General]. Can anything equal his Barbarity [cruelty]. Turning the poor out of Town without any Support, those persons who were possessed of any means of Support stopped and Searched, not suffered to carry anything with them. Can anything equal the distress of parents Separated from their Children, the tender husband detained in Cruel Captivity from the Wife. . . .

Source D

Source Information: The image comes from a series of books on American History which became popular in the United States. The books were published in 1875 to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The image is from the chapter called "Patriotism of American Women." It shows a woman spinning her own thread so that she will not have to purchase British cloth.



Revised Questions for Paper Version

Question 1/Source A:

Consider the source information provided for Source A.

What information raises concerns about Source A's usefulness as evidence of what motivated women to support the American Revolution?

Question 2/Source A and B

Do Source A and B offer similar or different reasons about what motivated women to support the American Revolution? Place a check mark next to your response:

Similar Different

Briefly support your answer with information about **BOTH** sources.

Question 3/Source C

Hannah Winthrop is angry about the British troops in Boston.

Support this statement with evidence from Source C.

Question 4/Source D

Source Information: The image comes from a series of books on American History which became popular in the United States. The books were published in 1875 to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The image is from the chapter called “Patriotism of American Women.” It shows a woman spinning her own thread so that she will not have to purchase British cloth.

Underline **one detail** in the Source Information above that raises concerns about the usefulness of Source D as evidence.

Explain why this detail raises concerns about using it as evidence for what motivated women to support the American Revolution.
