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GEORGE WASHINGTON'S SPY

A Time Travel Adventure

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TEACHING GUIDE

by Elvira Woodruff

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Other Exciting Adventure Stories
by Elvira Woodruff

George Washington's Socks
(prequel to George Washington's Spy)
Fearless
The Ravenmaster's Secret
The Orphan of Ellis Island
The Magnificent Mummy Maker
The Memory Coat (Illustrated by Michael Dooling)

SUMMARY

No wonder the cell phone says: "Out of Range". . .

Ten-year-old Matt Carlton, his little sister Katie, and five friends are accidentally swept back in time—to Boston in 1776! The British now occupy the city, and redcoat guards are everywhere! While the boys are being held captive by a den of Patriot spies, the girls have been taken in by a wealthy Tory family.

The pox is rampant; danger lies around every corner—and there's no hope for returning home to their own time. How will these seven children survive?

Elvira Woodruff takes readers on a gripping time-travel adventure through the homes and battlefields of Colonial America during the Revolution. And she sensitively explores the heart-wrenching realities that tore friends and families apart. Readers will relish the nonstop action and engrossing drama of this riveting sequel to her bestselling novel, *George Washington's Socks*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elvira Woodruff is the author of more than twenty page-turning favorite adventure stories for young readers, including *George Washington's Socks*, *Fearless*, *The Ravenmaster's Secret*, and *The Orphan of Ellis Island*. She lives with her family in Martin's Creek, Pennsylvania.

While much has been written about the Patriots and their sacrifices, Ms. Woodruff wanted to explore the lesser-known plight of the many Loyalists who suffered the greatest loss of all—their homeland. "These were good people, loyal and trusting," says the author. "They followed the rules. But the times were changing and they refused to change with them. And so neighbors fought neighbors, friends fought friends, and families took up arms against one another—all in the name of America."

TEACHING GUIDE

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The Patriots fought long and hard to win the Revolutionary War. Who were the Patriots? Why did they want America to be free from King George's rule?

2. Who were the Loyalists? Why did they refuse to join the Patriot's cause?

3. Imagine you and your family lived during the Revolutionary War. Which side do you think your family would have chosen to be on—Patriots or Loyalists? Which side would you have chosen? Why?

4. Ben Franklin and his son were on separate sides of the war. Imagine what it would be like if your family was divided in two. What kind of arguments might you have had with them?

5. Imagine what it would be like to have to leave a country that you love. Do you think it was fair that the Loyalists were made to leave their country? How difficult would it be for you to lose your home? What might it be like to try and settle into a new country?

6. Who was your favorite character in the book? Who would you want to be—and why?

7. If you lived in Colonial America, what would you miss most about your own time? What kinds of things do you think were better back then? What do you think was worse?

8. How differently did colonial people speak? When Hooter said "cool," what did Benjamin Franklin think he meant? What are some words we use today that were not used in 1776?

9. Who would you rather meet—Benjamin Franklin or George Washington? Why? What questions would you ask them?

10. If the Patriots hadn't won the war, what do you think America would be like today? What would be different?

ACTIVITIES

Put on a play
Choose a scene from a chapter and act it out. Here are some suggestions:

* A Ben Franklin in Every Pocket
* Marshmallows, Catapults, and Redcoats
* Daughters of a Duke
* Ben Franklin's Boots
* Playing Colonial

Have "Colonial Day" in Class
Do research on colonial clothing. Look through your closet and see what pieces of clothing you own that look like colonial dress. Don't be afraid to embellish with tin foil buckles for your shoes, rolled up jeans, knee socks, wigs made of cotton—whatever you can find in your house!

Try to use only the language of colonial times for the day. Stay away from slang and words that refer to modern inventions. Also, do not use electricity. There were no lights, computers, wireless internet, telephones, refrigerators, or cars. Have fun!

A Heated Debate
The class should divide into two groups—with half taking up the side of the Loyalists, and the other half, the Patriots. Debate the different issues your sides represent.

In the Stocks!
Why were people put in the stocks back in George Washington's time? Do some research and find out the laws that people had to obey in the 1700s. What were the punishments for breaking those laws? You'll be surprised!

An American Colonial Potluck Lunch
American Colonial people came from European countries that included England, the Netherlands, Scotland, and France. The foods they ate reflected the countries they came from.

The Native Americans who had already lived on the land for thousands of years ate the foods that were native to North America like corn, squash,

beans, and native game and sea foods. Native Americans also had a big influence on what the Colonial people ate.

Using the internet and these helpful cookbooks, find out what foods the people ate and what they drank, and make a colonial potluck lunch. Everyone can bring something from home that they make or buy that might have been eaten at the time. Here are a few suggestions: gingerbread, corn pudding, bread pudding, snickerdoodles, homemade bread, apple cider, corn bread, blueberry cobbler, apple pie. Even hot chocolate was very popular in American Colonial times.

Here are two books of colonial recipes:

> Kerr, Jean, and Spencer Smith. *Union Oyster House Cookbook: Recipes and History from America's Oldest Restaurant*. Kittery Point: Seapoint Books, 2008.
>
> Perl, Lila. *Slumps, Grunts, and Snickerdoodles: What Colonial America Ate and Why*. New York: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, 1979.

And here are two cookie recipes adapted from colonial times:

Hobnails

1 cup light brown sugar
1 egg, beaten
1½ cups sifted flour
1 tsp cinnamon
½ cup raisins
½ cup shortening
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla

Preheat the oven to 375˚. BE SURE TO HAVE AN ADULT HELP YOU. Cream together the sugar and shortening, then add in the beaten egg and vanilla. Sift together the dry ingredients. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet mixture a little at a time, and beat well. Fold in the raisins. Form the dough

into small balls. Place on a greased cookie sheet about three inches apart. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Applejacks

1 cup light brown sugar
1 egg
½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp nutmeg
½ cup shortening
1 1/3 cups sifted flour
½ tsp salt
1 cup chopped, unpeeled apples

Preheat the oven to 375˚. BE SURE TO HAVE AN ADULT HELP YOU. Cream together the sugar and shortening. Beat in the egg. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to the wet mixture, beating until well blended. Stir in the apples. Form the batter into balls and place on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Cat's Cradle, Marbles, and Whirligigs!
The toys that children played with in Colonial times were often handmade and very simple. For example, whirligigs were popular toys in Colonial America, as were Cat's Cradle with yarn, corn husk dolls, hoops, or a game of marbles with clay marbles. Make some Colonial games and toys of your own. Go online and see if you can find some ideas for toys you can put together. Here is an easy way to construct a modern whirligig for yourself and your friends:

Whirligigs
You will need:
A paper plate
A pair of scissors
Crayons, paint, or colored pencils
String or yarn

1. Color the paper plate in any pattern you wish.
2. Then cut the plate into a spiral. Begin at the edge and cut the spiral inwards.
3. With the hole puncher, punch a hole in the center of the plate.
4. Tie a string in the punched hole and your whirligig is complete!

Whirligigs can be hung, or you can run with yours and watch it spin and whirl. Have fun!

You can even make your own marbles by hand. Try this cool homemade recipe for clay marbles. BE SURE TO HAVE AN ADULT NEARBY TO HELP YOU IF NEEDED!

Clay Marbles

You will need:

1 cup white flour (plain)
1 cup salt
1½ cups water
Food coloring (optional for color marbling)
Glitter, paints and brushes, markers, crayons, beads, and glue (optional)
Disposable plastic gloves, or plastic bags
Clear craft lacquer

Preheat the oven to 250˚. Pour the water into a bowl and add a few drops of your desired food coloring. Mix thoroughly until you reach the color tone you prefer. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour and salt. Add the colored water to the dry ingredients, and mix them together until the dough forms.*

Now, prepare your working surface by laying down a protective layer, like parchment or newspaper. This will protect your countertop from the food coloring in the dough. Sprinkle a little flour on your working surface. (If you did not color your dough, only flour on a countertop is necessary.) Next, place the dough onto your working surface and, wearing your gloves or plastic bags to protect your hands from the food coloring, knead the dough for 10 to 20 minutes until it is flexible enough to bend without breaking.

Now, break off pieces and roll them into balls. Place each ball onto a cookie sheet and bake in the oven for an hour. Check them every 20 to 30 minutes

thereafter until they feel dry and hard to the touch, then remove and let them cool. Finally, decorate your marbles with your paints, glitter, and so on. Let your decorations dry, then place one coat of lacquer on your marbles. Allow enough time for the lacquer to dry, then you're ready to play with your homemade marbles. Enjoy!

*Note: If you would like your marbles to have two or more swirling colors, simply split your ingredients equally in two or three parts before combining the dry and wet ingredients. Into each of your water bowls, drip different food dye colors. This will make two or three different colored doughs. Knead and prepare separately as before, then roll out "snakes" of each color. Twist your two or three different colored "snakes" together into a multicolored twist. Then, cut off small amounts and roll them gently into a ball. Place on your baking sheet and bake until dry. You should now have *marbled* clay marbles to play with and decorate!

Recreate Colonial Boston in your classroom
Research Boston's colonial history. Turn your classroom into a Boston street scene with shops, stocks, bell ringers, shipbuilders, sailmakers, fish sellers, coachmen, women spinning wool, children playing games, children doing chores, soldiers, and so on. Invite another class to come for a walk through your city.

Let's Do Some Chores
Research chores that children in colonial times had to do. Find as many as you can and then write each one on a separate piece of paper. Fold each paper and place it into a box or jar. Everyone in the class can then take one chore from the box. When everyone has their chore, you can either write a report or give an oral presentation about it. You can even bring in props for your presentation. (If there aren't enough different chores, you can team up with different classmates.)

Make a Board Game
Using the characters and events in the book, invent a board game.

Put on a musical
Act out a scene from the book and make up songs to go with it. Use the kinds of instruments that early Americans would have used, such as a penny whistle

and a drum. The scenes and music can either be written in advance, or they can be done as improvisations—on the spot.

Research all of the instruments of the day, such as the harpsichord, the harp, or the pennywhistle. Use the internet to listen to popular songs of the time.

Here are two examples:

"Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier"
http://www.banjohangout.org/myhangout/music.asp?id=21440&musicid=13067

"Yankee Doodle"
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwHvyqNDUvE
http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/yankee.htm

Make a video of your musical and show it on parents' night.

Invisible Spy Ink!
George Washington used his spies to win the Revolutionary War. Do some research and find out all you can about early American spies. What kinds of tactics did they use? Try making up a spy code of your own, using homemade invisible ink.

You can make invisible ink with lemon juice and a regular standard 100 watt light bulb. Using a toothpick or cotton ear swab, write a message in lemon juice on a piece of paper. When it dries, hold it over a hot light bulb, approximately four inches away, and the lemon juice message will appear as the "invisible ink" turns brown.

Warning—to prevent burns, do not do this without adult supervision. DO NOT USE A HALOGEN LAMP FOR THIS EXERCIZE AS THERE IS A DANGER OF STARTING A FIRE.

And here is a good book about Revolutionary War spies:
Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2004.

ART ACTIVITIES

Create a Colonial Scene
Paint a street in Boston in 1776. Be sure to add details that reflect everyday life, like animals and cobblestones.

Paint a Portrait!
Portraits were very popular in Colonial America. Paint a portrait of yourself using a mirror or paint one of a friend.

Shadow portraits were also very popular. Create your own by darkening the room and setting up a bright light to shine against a blank wall. Stand sideways before the bright light so your shadow appears in profile on the corresponding wall. Another classmate can hold a piece of paper against the shadow along the wall and trace your shadow profile. Afterwards, you can color it black so it looks like you in shadow!

Make a diorama or shadowbox depicting your favorite scene in the book.

Draw a character from the book
Try drawing a fun image from the book, like Hooter in Ben's shoes, Ben in Hooter's sneakers, Lily in the coach looking out at Colonial Boston, Emma painting Katie's face with 'the pox', and so on. You can even add details of the characters that weren't described in the book. Talk with each other about why you picked certain characters or scenes.

Money as Art
Study early American money online and at your school library. Just like Hooter, you can make some of your own money as a class! Try making oversized bills, switching the portraits on the bills to people you know, or changing the color of the currency. Also, if you act out scenes from the book as a class, such as a colonial era market, you can use the money you make together in the scene!

Make a Mural
As a class, make a mural of the taking of Dorchester Heights. Be sure to include General Washington on his horse, the patriot soldiers and the fortifications they built, Henry Knox and his cannon, General Howe and the

British in Boston, the British fleet in the port, and of course Matt and his crew.

This can be painted on paper and hung on a bulletin board or drawn in colored chalk or erasable pens on a chalk or white board.

Calculations

There are math problems all around us—in school, in nature, and at home. Here are two fun calculations that came directly from the book. See if you can solve them:

1.

How many students are in your class?

If Hooter gave everyone in your class a "Ben Franklin" bill, how much money would your class have altogether?

How much money would the class have if Hooter had given everyone "Lincoln" bills?

How much would the class have if he had given everyone a "George Washington" bill?

How much money would the class have if he had given out "Alexander Hamilton" bills?

How much money would the class have if he had given out "Andrew Jackson" bills?

Bonus problem: How much would the class have if Hooter had given each student in your class one of each kind of bill?

What other presidents are on our U.S. currency? Can you figure out the class totals for any others you find? Look on the internet and see what you can find out about the money in colonial times. Can you find pictures of colonial money? Create your own currency for your classroom and use it to buy goods and services in the classroom. Discuss what in your classroom could be bought or sold. Talk about money and its value inside and outside of the classroom.

2.
What is the distance between Essex, England, and Boston, Massachusetts? How long would it take your students to travel that distance today (by ship or airplane), and how long would it have taken Emma, Lily, and Katie if, in fact, they had come to Boston from Essex in 1776? (This will require some research on travel of the colonial time period.)

Now, try to come up with your own math problem based on the book for your classmates to solve!

WRITING ACTIVITIES

A Colonial diary
Choose a character from the book and write your own diary entries for them.

Write a different ending for *George Washington's Spy*
Think about what would have happened to the kids in this book if the ending of the story went differently. Here are some examples of alternative endings you could write about:

*Matt was caught as a spy.
*George Washington and his men were defeated at Dorchester and went on to lose the war.
*Katie caught the pox.
*The children lost the boat and never got home.
*The twins and Katie must settle into life in Canada with the Hewson girls.
*The boys go home without the girls.
*Hooter comes home with Ben Franklin's shoes.
**Or, think up one of your own!*

Take a time travel trip!
What would happen if you and your friends found a time travel boat? Write a story about your adventures. Where would you go? What would happen?

Write a Good-bye letter
Imagine you are a Loyalist in 1776. You are about to leave the only country you have ever called home. Write a good-bye letter to a friend who is a Patriot and will be remaining in the colonies.

Pen Pals
Have your teacher create a sister school in Canada that you can write to as a class. Perhaps you can find a place, such as Halifax, that American Tories fled to during the Revolution. Find out about their local history and what their lives are like today. Compare your life to theirs. Find out if there is anyone on either side with ancestors who fled to Canada during the Revolution.

A Time Travel Interview

If you could meet anyone during the American Revolution, who would it be? What kinds of questions would you ask them? Write a story about the day you met your own Revolutionary War hero.

FURTHER READING

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