Finding the Founding Fathers

WebQuest Description: This webquest provides an introduction to the American founding fathers, specifically focusing on their contributions to the American Revolution.

Grade Level: 3-5
Curriculum: Social Studies
Keywords: American Revolution, Revolutionary War, 1776
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Introduction

Top secret! You have been chosen by the British Government to spy on the key players in the American Revolution. Your mission is to track down the so called "Founding Fathers" and find out as much as you can about who they are and what part they have played in causing the colonies to revolt and form a new nation.

Tasks

Your secret mission is to track down at least two of these so called "Founding Fathers" using books and internet sources to find out who they are, where they're from, how they came to be involved in the American Revolution, what part they played in the war, and what sacrifices they made for the cause of American independence. Your report to the British government on each man should be at least one half page in length. You may choose to spy on two or more of the following: Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Hancock, Benjamin Rush, Thomas Paine.

Step 1: Choose two of the Founding Fathers and review the corresponding links below:
- Patrick Henry: http://www.history.org/Almanack/people/bios/biohen.cfm
- Samuel Adams: http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/adams_s.htm
- John Adams: http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/johnadams
- Thomas Jefferson: http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/thomasjefferson
- Benjamin Franklin: http://americanrevwar.homestead.com/files/franklin.htm
- James Madison: http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/jamesmadison
- Benjamin Rush: http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rush.htm

Step 2: Find answers to the following questions:
- Who was _______? (In one sentence describe what you think is the most important thing about him).
- What colony was he from?
- What was his profession?
- How did he come to be involved in the American Revolution?
- What role did he play in the fight for freedom and/or what contributions did he make?
- What sacrifices did he make for the cause of American independence?

Step 3: Use these answers to write a half page report on each of the two founding fathers you chose.

Evaluation

Your reports on the two Founding Fathers you chose will be assessed according to the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Information is very organized with well-constructed sentences and paragraphs.</td>
<td>Information is organized with well-constructed sentences and paragraphs.</td>
<td>Information is organized, but sentences and paragraphs are not well-constructed.</td>
<td>Information appears to be disorganized.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You did it! You obtained in depth information about two of America's Founding Fathers and you learned about others from the reports of your fellow spies. Now you have a better understanding of the contributions and sacrifices they made to win independence from Great Britain. Could America have won it's freedom without any one of them? Which Founding Father do you think played the most important role?

### Conclusion

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### Teacher Page

Standard: TN 5.07 "Identify the causes and results of the American Revolution."

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**