

American Revolution

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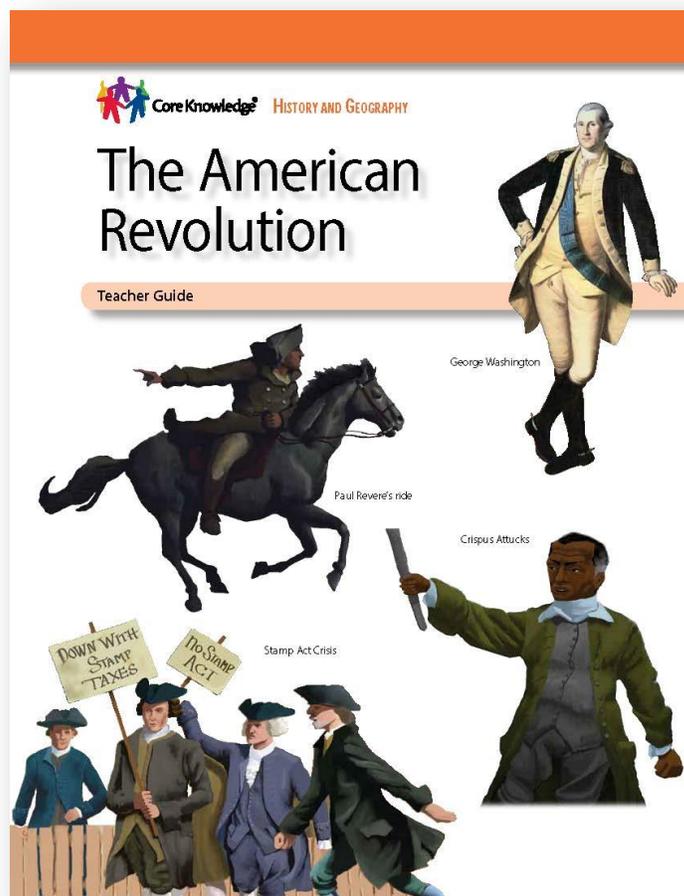
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***Note for use of Washington Irving Fiction Excerpts:** Distribute copies of the two stories by Washington Irving and read one or both aloud as time permits.

Washington Irving (1783 -1859) was born in New York City. The first American author to earn a living as a writer, Irving wrote stories, essays, biographies, travel books, and *A History of New York* (1809), a humorous guidebook. These two stories are centered in New York’s Hudson Valley around the time of the American Revolution, and reflect the culture and literature of the time.

Use the following questions for discussion when reading "Rip Van Winkle": Why does Rip Van Winkle go hunting in the mountains? Whom does he meet? What happens when Rip shares a drink with the men? What strange things happen after Rip wakes up? How do you know that a great deal of time has passed? What event in history does this story explain?

Use the following questions for discussion when reading "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow": What is the setting of the story? Who is Ichabod Crane? How does he make a living? Whom does he hope to marry? Which suitors must he compete with? What happens at the Van Tassel party? What happens after the party? Do you think the headless horseman was real? Why or why not?

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