

Component	Description		
Title of Lesson	The Devil's in't: Soldiers camped at Valley Forge and in Afghanistan		
Content/Subject Area	US History		
Context	War has been an ever present part of society since the dawn of man. How soldiers have gone to war, and their individual experiences evolve with history. The winter at Valley Forge was remembered as being brutal and unforgiving, with the Continental Army relying on very little to survive. However with a cause that they believed in, the troops rallied and persevered to victory. In present day Afghanistan, American troops experience a wildly different world. The geography is unforgiving in its own way, supplies can be found, but troops and morale are low. 15 years after the start of the war in Afghanistan it continues to be mired in controversy and lacking an uncertain future.		
Duration	One 60 minute lesson		
Objective	SWBAT analyze primary sources relating to soldier life IOT compare the experiences of soldiers at Valley Forge in 1777-8 and the soldiers in Afghanistan today.		
Standards	8.4.C.C. Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments. (Reference Civics and Government standard 5.3.12.J.) CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.		
Instruction Part 1 5 minutes	Display Opening Question ("The Devil's in't" Slide #2). Allow students to discuss their response to the question "You have just been assigned to camp in the woods outside of Philly for the next 6 months. What will you bring with you and why?". Facilitate further probing questions regarding what it takes to supply an army and student willingness to "rough it".		
Instruction Part 2 10 minutes	 Display the Guiding Question ("The Devil's in't" Slide #3) and inform students that they will need to answer it by the end of this lesson. Present Valley Forge and Afghanistan background ("The 		

	Devil's in't" Slide #4 and 5). Students can record notes at teachers directive. 3. Distribute "Student Handout A" and copies of the four paired primary sources "Daily Life", Geography", "Shelter" and "Leadership".			
Instruction Part 3 15 minutes	 Have the students read both texts from "Daily Life" to themselves. Ask the students to share observations, reactions and/or cite text from the documents on Student Handout A. Pause to take their answers and facilitate discussion among the whole class. Teacher may want to record the answers submitted by students on overhead projector. 			
Instruction Part 4 20 minutes	 Students will view the remainder of the sources from "Geography", "Shelter", and "Leadership" and record their reactions on Student Handout A. Teacher should circulate the room checking for understanding and providing assistance. 			
Closure 10 minutes	Review all sources and responses ("The Devil's in't Slide #'s 6-13).			
Assessment	Student Handout B, which asks students to evaluate which military experience they would prefer, Valley Forge or Afghanistan.			
Key Terms	Valley Forge Continental Army Afghanistan Taliban			
Resources and Materials	Full transcript of George Washington's Letter https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/t-03706.p			
	Full text of Albigence Waldo's diary http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1776-1785/albigence-waldo-from-the-diary-of-a-surgeon-at-valley-forge-1777.php Full text of USA Today Campbell Article http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/12/29/gen-john-campbell-afghanistan-taliban-isil/78033970/			
	The Devil's in't Slideshow https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/11gvqX_9AXMv https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/11gvqX_9XMv https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/11gvqX_9XMv https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/11gvqX_9XMv https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/11gvqX_9XMv https://docs.google.com/a/philasd.org/presentation/d/1			
	Copies of Primary Sources Copies of Student Handout A			

Copies of Student Handout B
Smartboard or Projector with screen

Name:	
Date:	Per:

The Devil's in't

Soldiers Camped at Valley Forge and in Afghanistan
Student Handout A

As you look at all of the primary sources record observations, write reactions, or cite text that help you to answer the guiding question: How do the experiences of the soldiers in the Continental Army as they camped at Valley Forge from December 1777 - June 1778 compare to those experienced by soldiers in Afghanistan today?

Valley Forge	Afghanistan		
Daily Life			
Geography			
Shelter			
Leadership			

Name:
Date:Per:
The Devil's in't
Soldiers Camped at Valley Forge and in Afghanistan Student Handout B
The experiences of the soldiers in the Continental Army as they camped at Valley Forge from December 1777 - June 1778 are both similar and different to the experiences of soldiers in Afghanistan today. Based on what you know now, would you rather be a soldier in Washington's army, or today's military forces in Afghanistan. Provide details from at least 4 of the sources to support your answer.

Daily Life

VALLEY FORGE

Dr. Albigence Waldo December 14 1777 Outside Philadelphia

...I am Sick - discontented - and out of humour. Poor food - hard lodging - Cold Weather - fatigue - Nasty Cloaths - nasty Cookery - Vomit half my time - smoak'd out my senses - the Devil's in't - I can't Endure it - Why are we sent here to starve and Freeze - ... There comes a bowl of beef soup - full of burnt leaves and dirt, sickish enough to make a Hector spue ... There comes a Soldier, his bare feet are seen thro' his worn out Shoes, his legs nearly naked from the tatter'd remains of an only pair of stockings, his Breeches not sufficient to cover his nakedness, his Shirt hanging in Strings, his hair dishevell'd, his face meagre.

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AFGHANISTAN

They told us we were going to fight the Taliban. But it turns out, there is no way to know who is Taliban, or what Taliban is, or what they look like.

A guy will be bringing his kid to your clinic one day, then shooting at you the next. You'll make friends with a kid on an airdrop, then see that kid slit another kid's throat on patrol a week later. There is no "enemy" and no goal. The people don't even understand who you are or why you're there. Many of them believed we were invulnerable demons. One elder tested this theory by sending a small child to try and stab me in the back with a knife, which was made by welding a blade onto an old .50 cal casing. Kids dig up mines, bouncing betty's, and old russian munitions and set them off like firecrackers.

The place is a f***ed up maelstrom with no conceivable sense of morality, justice, benevolence, or community. Every single person is just trying to survive.

- NAPALM_SON (From an Ask Reddit thread on October 8th 2015)
https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/3nyru1/serious_soldi
ers of reddit whove fought in/

Geography

VALLEY FORGE



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AFGHANISTAN



Shelter

VALLEY FORGE



AFGHANISTAN



Leadership

VALLEY FORGE

Head Qrs: Valley Forge Dec 29th: 1777 Gent:

I take the liberty of transmitting you the Inclosed Return, which contains a state of the New Hampshire Regiments. By this you will discover how deficient, — how exceedingly short they are of the complement of men which of right according to the establishment they ought to have. This information, I have thought it my duty to lay before you, that it may have that attention which it's importance demands; and in full hope, that the most early and vigorous measures will be adopted, not only to make the Regiments more respectable but compleat.

There is one thing more to which I would take the liberty of solliciting your most serious and constant attention; to wit, the cloathing of your Troops, and the procuring of every possible supply in your power from time to time for that end... We had in Camp, on the 23rd Inst. by a Field Return then taken, not less than 2898 men unfit for duty, by reason of their being barefoot and otherwise naked.

Go: Washington

AFGHANISTAN

"Top US general may seek more troops for Afghanistan"

Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today 11:35pm EST December 29, 2015

WASHINGTON —News from Afghanistan in 2015, when American troops ended their daily combat mission after 14 years, has been grim. Taliban insurgents stormed the northern provincial capital of Kunduz in October and were pushed out after fierce fighting that included an inadvertent attack by a U.S. warplane on hospital that killed 42 civilians... Last week, six U.S. airmen were killed by a suicide bomber outside Bagram Air Base.

"My job as commander on the ground is to continually make assessments," Campbell said. "Every time I've gone to the president and said, 'I need X,' I've been very, very fortunate that he's provided that. So he's been very flexible. It's actually been conditions based as we've gone forward. "If I don't believe that we can accomplish the train, advise and assist and the (counter-terrorism) missions, then I owe it to the senior leadership to come back and say, 'Here's what I need.' If that's more people, it's more people."

Earlier this year, U.S. troops were stretched so thin that they advised their Afghan partners by video conference, Thornberry said. He said he'd rely on commanders for a recommendation on troop levels, adding that they had sought as many as 20,000.

