

The War in the South, 1778-1781

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: The Franco-American Alliance

Directions: As a member of the American delegation to France, read the following, and on the worksheet that follows list the terms that Congress hopes you will get from France, and whether each is essential or optional.

Instructions to the Agent, September 24, 1776:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/france/fr1778i.htm>

There is delivered to you herewith a Plan of a Treaty [the next document below] with his most Christian Majesty of France, approved of in Congress, on the Part of the United States of America.

It is the wish of Congress that the Treaty should be concluded; and you are hereby instructed to use every Means in your Power for concluding it, compactly conformable to the Plan you have received.

If you shall find that to be impracticable, you are hereby authorized to relax the Demands of the United States, and to enlarge their Offers agreeably to the following Directions:

If his most Christian Majesty shall not consent that the subjects [inhabitants] of the United States shall have the Privileges proposed in the second Article, then the United States ought not to give the Subjects of his most Christian Majesty the Privileges proposed in the first Article; but that the United States shall give to his most Christian Majesty the same Privileges, Liberties, and Immunities at least, and the like Favour in all Things which any foreign Nation the most favoured shall have; provided, his most Christian Majesty shall give to the United States the same Benefits, Privileges and Immunities which any the most favoured foreign Nation now has, uses, or enjoys. [In other words, no country would be able to trade with either France or the United States on better terms those two would with each other.] And, in Case neither of these Propositions of equal Advantages are [is] agreed to, then the whole of the said Articles are to be rejected, rather than obstruct the further Progress of the Treaty.

The fourth must be insisted upon....

The twelfth and thirteenth Articles are to be waived, if you find that the Treaty will be interrupted by insisting on it [them]....

If his most Christian Majesty should be unwilling to agree to the...twenty sixth Article, you are directed to consent that the Goods and Effects of Enemies, on Board the Ships and Vessels of either Party, shall be liable to Seizure and Confiscation....

As the Scarcity of Arms, Artillery and other military Stores is so considerable in the United States. You will solicit the Court of France for on immediate Supply of twenty or thirty thousand Muskets and

Bayonets, and a large Supply of Ammunition and brass Field Pieces, to be sent under Convoy by France. The United States will engage for the Payment of the Arms, Artillery and Ammunition, and to indemnify France for the Expense of the Convoy....

It is highly probably that France means not to let the United States sink in the present Contest. But as the Difficulty of obtaining true Accounts of our Condition may cause an Opinion to be entertained that we are able to support the War on our own Strength and Resources longer than, in fact, we can do, it will be proper for you to press for the immediate and explicit declaration of France in our Favour [in other words, a declaration of war], upon a Suggestion that a Re-union with Great Britain may be the Consequence of a delay....

If the Court of France cannot be prevailed on to engage in the War with Great Britain for any considerations already proposed in this treaty, you are hereby authorized to agree as a further inducement, that these United States will wage the war in union with France not make peace with Great Britain until the latter France shall gain the possession of those islands in the West Indies formerly called Neutral, and which by the Treaty of Paris were ceded to G. Britain provided France shall make the conquest of these Islands an early object of the War and prosecute the same with sufficient force.

You are desired to obtain, as early as possible, a publick acknowledgment of the Independency of these States on the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain, by the Court of France.

In conducting this important Business, the Congress have the greatest Confidence in your Address, Abilities, Vigilance, and Attachment to the Interests of the United States; and wish you every Success.

Excerpts from Plan of the Treaties with France, 1776:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/france/fr1778p.htm>

Resolved, That the following plan of a treaty be proposed to His Most Christian Majesty [the King of France].

There shall be a firm inviolable and universal peace and a true and sincere friendship between the most serene and mighty Prince Lewis sixteenth [Louis XVI] the most Christian King his heirs and successors and the United States of America; and the subjects of the most Christian King and of the said states; and between the countries, islands cities and towns situate under the jurisdiction of the most Christian King and of the said united states and the people and inhabitants thereof of every degree; without exception of persons or places; and the terms herein mentioned shall be perpetual between the most Christian King, his heirs and successors & the United States.

ART. I.

The Subjects of the most Christian King shall pay no other Duties or Imposts in the Ports, Havens, Roads, Countries, Islands, Cities, or Towns of the said united States or any of them, than the Natives thereof, or any Commercial Companies established by them or any of them, shall pay, but shall enjoy all other the Rights, Liberties, Priviledges, Immunities, and Exemptions in Trade, Navigation and Commerce in passing from one Part thereof to another, and in going to and from the same, from and to any Part of the World, which the said Natives, or Companies enjoy.

ART. II.

The Subjects, People and Inhabitants of the said united States, and every of them, shall pay no other Duties, or Imposts in the Ports, Havens, Roads, Countries, Islands, Cities, or Towns of the most Christian King, than the Natives of such Countries, Islands, Cities, or Towns of France, or any commercial Companies established by the most Christian King shall pay, but shall enjoy all other the Rights, Liberties, Priviledges, Immunities and Exemptions in Trade, Navigation and Commerce, in passing from one port thereof to another, and in going to and from the same, from and to any Part of the World, which the said Natives, or Companies enjoy....

ART. IV.

The most Christian King shall endeavour, by all the Means in his Power to protect and defend all Vessels [ships], and the Effects belonging to the Subjects, People, or Inhabitants of the said united States, or any of them, being in his Ports, Havens, or Roads, or on the Seas, near to his Countries, Islands, Cities, or Towns, and to recover and to restore, to the right owners, their Agents or Attornies, all such Vessels, and Effects, which shall be taken, within his Jurisdiction; and his Ships of War, or any Convoys sailing under his Authority, shall upon all occasions, take under their Protection all Vessels belonging to the Subjects, People or Inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, and holding the same Course, or going the same Way, and shall defend such Vessels US long as they hold the same Course, or go the same Way, against all Attacks, Force, and Violence, in the same manner, as they ought to protect and defend Vessels belonging to the Subjects of the most Christian King....

ART. IX.

The most Christian King, shall never invade, nor under any presence attempt to possess himself of Labradore, New Britain, Nova Scotia, Acadia, Canada, Florida, nor any of the Countries, Cities, or Towns, on the Continent of North America, nor of the Islands of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, St. John's, Anticosti, nor of any other Island lying near to the said Continent, in the Seas, or in any Gulph [Gulf], Bay, or River, it being the true Intent and meaning of this Treaty, that the said United States, shall have the sole, exclusive, undivided and perpetual Possession of the Countries, Cities, and Towns, on the said Continent, and of all Islands near to it, which now are, or lately were under the Jurisdiction of or Subject to the King or Crown of Great Britain, whenever they shall be united or confederated with the said United States....

ART. XXII.

In Case the Subjects and People of either Party, with their Shipping, whether public, and of War, or private and of Merchants, be forced through Stress of Weather, Pursuit of Pirates or Enemies, or any other urgent Necessity, for Seeking of Shelter and Harbour, to retreat, and enter into any of the Rivers, Creeks, Bays, Havens, Roads, Ports, or Shores, belonging to the other Party; they shall be received and treated with all Humanity, and Kindness, and enjoy all friendly Protection and Help; and they shall be permitted to refresh and provide themselves, at reasonable Rates, with Victuals and all Things needful! for the Sustenance of their Persons, or Reparation of their Ships, and Conveniency of their Voyage; and they shall no Ways be detained or hindered from returning out of the said Ports or Roads, but may remove and depart when and whither they please, without any Lett or Hindrance....

ART. XXVI.

It shall be lawfull for all and Singular the Subjects of the most Christian King, and the Citizens, People, and Inhabitants of the said States, to Sail with their Ships, with all manner of Liberty and Security; no distinction being made, who are the Proprietors of the Merchandises laden thereon from any Port, to the Places of those who now are, or hereafter shall be at Enmity with the most Christian King, or the United

States. It shall likewise be lawfull for the Subjects and Inhabitants aforesaid, to sail with the Ships and Merchandizes aforementioned; and to trade with the same Liberty, and Security from the Places, Ports, and Havens of those who are Enemies of both, or either Party, without any opposition or Disturbance whatsoever, not only directly from the Places of the Enemy aforementioned to neutral Places; but also from one Place belonging to an Enemy, to another Place belonging to an Enemy, whether they be under the Jurisdiction of the same Prince or under Several: And it is hereby Stipulated that free Ships shall also give a Freedom to Goods, and that every Thing shall be deemed to be free and exempt, which shall be found on board the Ships, belonging to the Subjects of either of the Confederates; although the whole Lading or any Part thereof, should appertain to the Enemies of Either, Contraband Goods being always excepted. It is also agreed in like manner, that the same Liberty, be extended to Persons, who are on board a free Ship with this Effect, that although they be Enemies to both or either Party, they are not to be taken out of that free Ship, unless they are Soldiers, and in actual Service of the Enemies....

For each of the subjects listed in the left-hand column, indicate what your delegation has been instructed to try to obtain from France, and whether this goal is essential, or merely desirable:

Subject	Goal	Essential, or Merely Desirable?
Peace and friendship between the United States and France		
Trade between the United States and France		
Protection of vessels		
French ambitions in North America		
West Indies		

Import and export duties		
Refuge for ships		
Trade with other countries		
Purchase of military supplies		
Declaration of war on Great Britain		
French recognition of American independence		

The War in the South, 1778-1781

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: The Franco-American Alliance

Directions: As a diplomat in the service of King Louis XVI of France, read the following treaties, and on the worksheet that follows list the terms that have been agreed upon by your country and the United States.

Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and France, February 6, 1778:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/france/fr1788-1.htm>

The most Christian King, and the thirteen United States of North America, to wit, New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay Rhode island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania Delaware, Maryland, Virginia North-Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia,...have concluded and agreed upon the following Articles.

ARTICLE. 1.st

There shall be a firm, inviolable and universal Peace, and a true and sincere Friendship between the most Christian King, his Heirs and Successors, and the United States of America; and the Subjects of the most Christian King and of the said States; and between the Countries, Islands, Cities, and Towns, situate under the Jurisdiction of the most Christian King, and of the said United States, and the people and Inhabitants of every Degree, without exception of Persons or Places; & the Terms herein after mentioned shall be perpetual between the most Christian King his Heirs and Successors and the said United States.

ART. 2.nd

The most Christian King, and the United States engage mutually not to grant any particular Favor to other Nations in respect of Commerce and Navigation, which shall not immediately become common to the other Party, who shall enjoy the same Favor freely, if the Concession was freer made, or on allowing the same Compensation, if the Concession was Conditional. [In other words, no country will be able to trade with either France or the United States on better terms those two would with each other.]

ART. 3.d

The Subjects of the most Christian King shall pay in the Port Havens, Roads, Countries, Islands, Cities or Towns, of the United States or any of them, no other or greater Duties or Imposts of what Nature soever they may be, or by what Name soever called, than those which the Nations most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the Rights, Liberties, Privileges, Immunities and Exemptions in Trade, Navigation and Commerce, whether in passing from one Port in the said States to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any Part of the World, which the said Nations do or shall enjoy.

ART. 4.

The Subjects, People and Inhabitants of the said United States, and each of them, shall not pay in the Ports, Havens Roads Isles, Cities & Places under the Domination of his most Christian Majesty in Europe, any other or greater Duties or Imposts, of what Nature soever, they may be, or by what Name soever called, that those which the most favoured Nations are or shall be obliged to pay; & they shall enjoy all the Rights, Liberties, Privileges, Immunities & Exemptions, in Trade Navigation and Commerce whether in passing from one Port in the said Dominions in Europe to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any Part of the World, which the said Nation do or shall enjoy....

ART. 6.

The most Christian King shall endeavour by all the means in his Power to protect and defend all Vessels and the Effects belonging to the Subjects, People or Inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, being in his Ports Havens or Roads or on the Sea near to his Countries, Islands Cities or Towns and to recover and restore to the right owners, their agents or Attornies all such Vessel & Effects, which shall be taken within his Jurisdiction; and the Ships of War of his most Christian Majesty or any Convoys sailing under his authority shall upon all Occasions take under their Protection all Vessels belonging to the Subjects, People or Inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them & holding the same Course or going the same Way, and shall defend such Vessels, as long as they hold the same Course or go the same way, against all Attacks, Force and Violence in the same manner, as they ought to protect and defend the Vessels belonging to the Subjects of the most Christian King....

ART. 20.

If any Ship belonging to either of the Parties their People or Subjects, shall, within the Coasts or Dominions of the other, stick upon the Sands or be wrecked or suffer any other Damage, all friendly Assistance and Relief shall be given to the Persons shipwrecked or such as shall be in danger thereof; and Letters of safe Conduct shall likewise be given to them for their free and quiet Passage from thence, and the return of every one to his own Country.

ART. 21.

In Case the Subjects and Inhabitants of either Party with their shipping whether publick and of War or private and of Merchants, be forced, through Stress of Weather, pursuit of Pirates or Enemies, or any other urgent necessity for seeking of Shelter and Harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the Rivers, Bays, Roads or Ports belonging to the other Party, they shall be received and treated with all humanity and Kindness and enjoy all friendly Protection & Help; and they shall be permitted to refresh and provide themselves at reasonable Rates with victuals and all things needful for the sustenance of their Persons or reparation of their Ships and conveniency of their Voyage; and they shall no Ways be detained or hindered from returning out of the said Ports or Roads but may remove and depart when and whither they please without any let or hindrance....

Treaty of Alliance between the United States and France, February 6, 1778:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/france/fr1788-2.htm>

The most Christian King and the United States of North America, to wit, New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhodes island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, having this Day concluded a Treaty of amity and Commerce, for the reciprocal advantage of their Subjects and Citizens have thought it necessary to take into consideration the means of strengthening those engagements and of rendering

them useful to the safety and tranquility of the two parties, particularly in case Great Britain in Resentment of that connection and of the good correspondence which is the object of the said Treaty, should break the Peace with France, either by direct hostilities, or by hindering her commerce and navigation, in a manner contrary to the Rights of Nations, and the Peace subsisting between the two Crowns; and his Majesty and the said united States having resolved in that Case to join their Councils and efforts against the Enterprises of their common Enemy, the respective Plenipotentiaries, impower'd to concert the Clauses & conditions proper to fulfil the said Intentions, have, after the most mature Deliberation, concluded and determined on the following Articles.

ART. 1.

If War should break out between France and Great Britain, during the continuance of the present War between the United States and England, his Majesty and the said united States, shall make it a common cause, and aid each other mutually with their good Offices, their Counsels, and their forces, according to the exigence of Conjunctures as becomes good & faithful Allies.

ART. 2.

The essential and direct End of the present defensive alliance is to maintain effectually the liberty, Sovereignty, and independance absolute and unlimited of the said united States, as well in Matters of Gouvernement as of commerce.

ART. 3.

The two contracting Parties shall each on its own Part, and in the manner it may judge most proper, make all the efforts in its Power, against their common Enemy, in order to attain the end proposed....

ART. 6.

The Most Christian King renounces for ever the possession of the Islands of Bermudas as well as of any part of the continent of North America which before the treaty of Paris in 1763 [that ended the French and Indian War] or in virtue of that Treaty, were acknowledged to belong to the Crown of Great Britain, or to the united States heretofore called British Colonies, or which are at this Time or have lately been under the Power of The King and Crown of Great Britain.

ART. 8.

Neither of the two Parties shall conclude either Truce or Peace with Great Britain, without the formal consent of the other first obtain'd; and they mutually engage not to lay down their arms, until the Independence of the united States shall have been formally or tacitly assured by the Treaty or Treaties that shall terminate the War....

ART. 10.

The Most Christian King and the United states, agree to invite or admit other Powers who may have received injuries from England to make common cause with them, and to accede to the present alliance, under such conditions as shall be freely agreed to and settled between all the Parties.

ART. 11.

The two Parties guarantee mutually from the present time and forever, against all other powers, to wit, the united states to his most Christian Majesty the present Possessions of the Crown of France in America as well as those which it may acquire by the future Treaty of peace: and his most Christian Majesty guarantees on his part to the united States, their liberty, Sovereignty, and Independence absolute, and unlimited, as well in Matters of Government as commerce and also their Possessions, and the additions or conquests that their Confederation may obtain during the war, from any of the

Dominions now or heretofore possessed by Great Britain in North America...the whole as their Possessions shall be fixed and assured to the said States at the moment of the cessation of their present War with England....

Act Separate and Secret between the United States and France, February 6, 1778:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/fr1788-3.htm>

The most Christian King declares in consequence of the intimate union which subsists between him and the King of Spain [France and Spain were ruled by different members of the same family], that in concluding with the united States of America this Treaty of amity and commerce, and that of eventual and defensive alliance, his Majesty hath intended and intends to reserve expressly, as he reserves by this present separate and secret act, to his said Catholick Majesty [that is, the King of Spain], the Power of acceding to the said Treatys, and to participate in their stipulations at such time as he shall judge proper. It being well understood nevertheless, that if any of the Stipulations of the said Treatys are not agreeable to the King of Spain, his Catholick Majesty may propose other conditions analogous to the principal aim of the alliance and conformable to the Rules of equality, reciprocity & friendship.

The Deputies of the united States in the name of their constituents, accept the present Declaration in its full extent and the Deputy of the said states who is fully impower'd to treat with Spain, promises to sign on the first Requisition of his Catholic Majesty, the act or acts necessary to communicate to him the Stipulations of the Treaties above written; and the said Deputy shall endeavour in good faith the adjustment of the points in which the King of Spain may propose any alteration, conformable to the principles of equality, reciprocity and the most sincere and perfect amity....

For each of the subjects indicated in the left-hand column, indicate what agreement has been reached between your government and that of the United States concerning that subject.

Subject	Agreement
French recognition of American independence	
Peace and friendship between the United States and France	
Trade between the United States and France	

Protection of vessels	
Refuge for ships	
War against Great Britain	
French ambitions in North America	
Involvement of other countries in the war	

The War in the South, 1778-1781

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: African-Americans in the Revolutionary War

Directions: Read the documents below, using the following questions to guide your reading.

Question	Answer
What do you think Lord Dunmore hoped to accomplish through his proclamation?	
How did the Virginia legislature respond to Lord Dunmore's proclamation?	
Why did Boston King decide to join the British? Why might this decision have been difficult for him?	
Why did Henry Laurens think that slaves would make good soldiers?	
What do Henry Laurens' letters tell us about his attitude toward African-Americans?	
What reservations did George Washington have about the idea of arming slaves?	

The War in the South, 1778-1781

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: African-Americans in the Revolutionary War

Proclamation by Lord Dunmore, November 7, 1775: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part2/2h42t.html>

[Lord Dunmore was the royal governor of Virginia. Several months earlier, at the start of the Revolutionary War, he had been forced to flee Williamsburg, Virginia's capital, and had taken refuge aboard a British ship just off the coast. He knew that the roughly 300 men he had under his command would not be enough to help him restore royal authority in the colony.]

As I have ever entertained Hopes that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled...and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY'S troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such unreasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be [effected], I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to [resort] to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to [owned by] Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty....

The Virginia Declaration, December 14, 1775: http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/blackloyalists/documents/official/virginia_response.htm

[This declaration was passed by the Virginia General Assembly on December 14, 1775.]

WHEREAS lord Dunmore, by his proclamation, dated on board the ship William, off Norfolk, the 7th day of November 1775, hath offered freedom to such able-bodied slaves as are willing to join him, and take up arms, against the good people of this colony, giving thereby encouragement to a general insurrection, which may induce a necessity of inflicting the severest punishments upon those unhappy people, already deluded by his base and insidious arts; and whereas, by an act of the General Assembly now in force in this colony, it is enacted, that all negro or other slaves, conspiring to rebel or make insurrection, shall suffer death, and be excluded all benefit of clergy : We think it proper to declare, that

all slaves who have been, or shall be seduced, by his lordship's proclamation, or other arts, to desert their masters' service, and take up arms against the inhabitants of this colony, shall be liable to such punishment as shall hereafter be directed by the General Convention. And to that end all such, who have taken this unlawful and wicked step, may return in safety to their duty, and escape the punishment due to their crimes, we hereby promise pardon to them, they surrendering themselves to Col. William Woodford, or any other commander of our troops, and not appearing in arms after the publication hereof. And we do farther earnestly recommend it to all humane and benevolent persons in this colony to explain and make known this our offer of mercy to those unfortunate people.

“I Began to Feel the Happiness, Liberty, of which I Knew Nothing Before”: Boston King Chooses Freedom and the Loyalists during the War for Independence: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6615>

[Boston King was born a slave outside Charleston, South Carolina. In 1792 he wrote this account of his escape from slavery, and his service with the British Army. At the time he was living in Sierra Leone, an African country, where he worked as a carpenter and a Methodist minister.]

When 16 years old, I was bound apprentice to a trade. After being in the shop about two years, I had the charge of my master's tools, which being very good, were often used by the men, if I happened to be out of the way: When this was the case, or any of them were lost, or misplaced, my master beat me severely, striking me upon my head, or any other part without mercy. One time in the holy-days, my master and the men being from home, and the care of the house devolving upon me and the younger apprentices, the house was broke open, and robbed of many valuable articles, thro' the negligence of the apprentice who had then the charge of it. When I came home in the evening, and saw what had happened, my consternation was inconceivable, as all that we had in the world could not make good the loss. The week following, when the master came to town, I was beat in the most unmerciful manner, so that I was not able to do any thing for a fortnight. About eight months after, we were employed in building a store-house, and nails were very dear at that time, it being in the American war, so that the work-men had their nails weighed out to them; on this account they made the younger apprentices watch the nails while they were at dinner. It being my lot one day to take care of them, which I did till an apprentice returned to his work, and then I went to dine. In the mean time he took away all the nails belonging to one of the journeymen, and he being of very violent temper, accused me to the master with stealing of them. For this offense I was beat and tortured most cruelly, and was laid up three weeks before I was able to do any work. My proprietor, hearing of the bad usage I received, came to town, and severely reprimanded my master for beating me in such a manner, threatening him, that if he ever heard the like again, he would take me away and put me to another master to finish my time, and make him pay for it. This had a good effect and he behaved much better to me, the two succeeding years, and I began to acquire a proper knowledge of my trade. My master being apprehensive that Charles-Town was in danger on account of the war, removed into the country, about 38 miles off. Here we built a large house for Mr. Waters, during which time the English took Charles-Town. Having obtained leave one day to see my parents, who had lived about 12 miles off, and it being late before I could go, I was obliged to borrow one of Mr. Waters's horses; but a servant of my master's, took the horse from me to go a little journey, and stayed two or three days longer than he ought. This involved me in the greatest perplexity, and I expected the severest punishment, because the gentleman to who the horse belonged was a very bad man, and knew not how shew mercy. To escape his cruelty, I determined to go Charles-Town, and throw myself into the hands of the English. They received me readily, and I began to feel the happiness, liberty, of which I knew nothing before, altho' I was grieved at first, to be obliged to leave my friends, and among strangers.

John Laurens to Henry Laurens, January 14, 1778:

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.com/library/index.asp?document=896>

[John Laurens was a colonel in the Continental Army, serving under George Washington. A South Carolinian from a slave-owning family, he had been impressed by the performance of African-American troops—so much so that he became convinced that slavery itself was evil. Laurens wrote the following letters to his father, who served as president of the Continental Congress, in the winter of 1778, while John was encamped with the army in Valley Forge.]

January 14, 1778

I barely hinted to you my dearest Father my desire to augment the Continental Forces from an untried Source—I wish I had any foundation to ask for an extraordinary addition to those favors which I have already received from you I would solicit you to cede me a number of your able bodied men Slaves, instead of leaving me a fortune—I would bring about a twofold good, first I would advance those who are unjustly deprived of the Rights of Mankind to a State which would be a proper Gradation between abject Slavery and perfect Liberty—and besides I would reinforce the Defenders of Liberty with a number of gallant Soldiers—Men who have the habit of Subordination almost indelibly impress'd on them, would have one very essential qualification of Soldiers—I am persuaded that if I could obtain authority for the purpose I would have a Corps of such men trained, uniformly clad, equip'd and ready in every respect to act at the opening of the next Campaign

February 2, 1778

You seem to think, my dear Father, that men reconciled by long habit to the miseries of their Condition, would prefer their ignominious bonds to the untasted Sweets of Liberty, especially when offer'd upon the terms which I propose—I confess indeed that, the minds of this unhappy species must be debased by a Servitude from which they can hope for no Relief but Death—and that every motive to action but Fear, must be nearly extinguished in them—but do you think they are so perfectly moulded to their State as to be insensible that a better exists—will the galling comparison between themselves and their masters leave them unenlighten'd in this respect—can their Self-Love be so totally annihilated as not frequently to induce ardent wishes for a change—

[...] I am tempted to believe that this trampled people have so much human left in them, as to be capable of aspiring to the rights of men by noble exertions if some friend to mankind would point the Road, and give them a prospect of Success.... [L]ike other men, they are the Creatures of habit, their Cowardly Ideas will be gradually effaced [wiped away], and they will be modified anew—their being rescued from a State of perpetual humiliation...will compensate the dangers incident to their new State—the hope that will spring in each man's mind respecting his own escape—will prevent his being miserable—those who fall in battle will not lose much; those who survive will obtain their Reward.

Habits of Subordination—Patience under fatigues, Sufferings and Privations of every kind—are soldierly qualifications which these men possess in an eminent degree.

Upon the whole my dearest friend and father, I hope that my plan for serving my Country and the oppressed Negro-race will not appear to you the Chimera [fantasy] of a young mind deceived by a false appearance of moral beauty—but a laudable sacrifice of private Interest to Justice and the Public good....

It is a pity that some such plan as I propose could not be more extensively executed by public Authority—a well chosen body of 5000 black men properly officer'd to act as light Troops in addition to our present establishment, might give us decisive Success in the next Campaign—

I have long deplored the wretched State of these men and considered in their history, the bloody wars excited in Africa to furnish America with Slaves—the Groans of despairing multitudes toiling for the Luxuries of Merciless Tyrants—I have had the pleasure of conversing with you sometimes upon the means of restoring them to their rights—When can it be better done, than when their enfranchisement may be made conducive to the Public Good, and be so modified as not to overpower their weak minds....

George Washington, Letter to Henry Laurens, March 20, 1779:

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.com/library/index.asp?document=888>

The policy of our arming Slaves is, in my opinion, a moot point, unless the enemy set the example; for should we begin to form Battalions of them, I have not the smallest doubt (if the War is to be prosecuted) of their following us in it, and justifying the measure upon our own ground; the upshot then must be, who can arm fastest, and where are our Arms? Besides, I am not clear that a discrimination will not render Slavery more irksome to those who remain in it; most of the good and evil things of this life are judged of by comparison; and I fear a comparison in this case will be productive of much discontent in those who are held in servitude; but as this is a subject that has never employed much of my thoughts, these are no more than the first crude Ideas that have struck me upon the occasion.

The War in the South, 1778-1781

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #3: The Course of the War in the South

Directions: Use the interactive map

(<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/americanrevolution/>) to follow the course of the war in the South. After you have done so, list in the left-hand column of the following chart what you consider to be the three most important battles of this phase of the war. In the right-hand column indicate your reasons.

Battle (Name and Date)	Why was it important?
1.	
2.	
3.	