

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Saratoga

National Historical Park



Virtual Tour Scavenger Hunt –ACTIVITY KEY

This “Scavenger Hunt” is designed to help you understand the importance of the Battles of Saratoga. Answer the following questions as you go through the virtual tour of the battlefield.

It is recommended that you read the questions through first, so you have a better idea what to look for as you explore each Tour Road Stop.

STOP 1

1. Study this picture. Identify something in it that would make it hard for soldiers to march through this area. trees, hills, ravines
2. Identify something in this picture that would make it easy to march through this area. open fields
3. How do you think John Freeman might have felt to learn that a lot of the fighting in the Battles of Saratoga took place on his farm? Why? good –proud/happy, because he supported the British
bad –his farm might be damaged by the fighting

STOP 2

1. For what did the American officers use the Neilson House? quarters, headquarters/brigade-level headquarters
2. List two (2) luxuries, or special comforts, that officers might enjoy that regular soldiers did not. beds/cots, glassware, lanterns, good candles, good luggage, use of a house
3. How do you think John Neilson might have felt knowing that his house and farm were used by the American army? Why? good –he supported the Americans
bad –farm would be damaged by the army

STOP 3

1. Why were the American River Fortifications so important? What did they let the American forces do? *kept the British from moving farther south toward Albany; stopped the British*

STOP 4

1. How would you have felt if you were an American soldier seeing British soldiers slowly marching toward you from this position? *will vary by student*

STOP 5

1. What soldiers here were on the side of the British? *Germans*
2. What happened to them and to the British here? *retreated/forced to retreat*

STOP 6

1. How do you think American troops felt as they tried to attack such a strong British position? *will vary by student*
2. How do you think the British forces felt inside these strong fortifications?
will vary by student

STOP 7

1. On what date did American soldiers capture this position? *October 7, 1777*
2. Why was the American capture of this fortified line so important?
forced the British to leave the battlefield, Americans could have gotten behind the British elsewhere

STOP 8

1. What do you see here? *tents, tables, plates, glasses, bottles, people, etc.*
2. What is going on in this scene? *British officers meeting, eating, talking*
3. How can you tell? *presence of tableware, men facing each other and seem to be talking, British officers are wearing fancy uniforms*

STOP 9

1. What do you see in this picture? cannon, river, hills, trees, sky, etc.
2. List two reasons the British wanted to have fortifications on his hill. on a hill, overlooks the valley, wide area visible, defend their hospital, artillery park, bridge, baggage

STOP 10

1. What is the name of the British general buried here? Simon Fraser
2. Why do you think he wanted to be buried here? scenery, wanted to be buried near his men, wanted to be buried on this strong fortification, etc.



Section of a model of the Breymann Redoubt

Tour Road Stop 6

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:

Artillery —usually thought of as cannons, which fired solid iron cannonballs. Also included mortars, which fired hollow, exploding shells, and howitzers, which fired either solid cannonballs or hollow mortar shells.

Brigade —a grouping of two or more regiments.

Company —a smaller group of soldiers, made up of about 50 soldiers. British regiments had 10 companies; American regiments had eight.

Continental soldier —regular, career soldiers in the American army. These were well trained, experienced soldiers, much like the soldiers in the British army.

Infantry —regular foot soldiers. They fought by standing in rank-and-file formation, neat lines and rows on the battlefield.

Loyalist —someone who remained loyal to England during the American Revolution.

Militia —soldiers who were not part of the regular army. These were men between the age of 16 and 50, and were required to serve when ordered by the government.

Musket —the guns used by most soldiers. These were smooth bore —as smooth inside the barrel as outside— and so were not very accurate. These were best used by a long line of soldiers firing as a group.

Officer —a man in the army in charge of leading groups of soldiers. Ranks of officers (from lowest to highest) included: lieutenants, captains, majors, colonels, brigadier generals, and major generals.

Patriot —someone who supported independence during the American Revolution.

Redoubt —a temporary fortification, built of a “zig-zag” log wall with a few feet of dirt packed against the front of the wall. A trench in front of the wall was left from where the dirt was dug up to pack against the wooden wall.

Regiment —the basic unit making up an army. Made up of about 500 soldiers.

Rifle —a kind of musket, but with “rifling,” a series of spiral grooves cut inside the barrel. These grooves made the musket ball (bullet) spin, like a football thrown in a “spiral,” making the bullet fly farther and more accurately.