
Grade Level: Elementary School	Study Unit: American Revolution	Lesson Topic: Culture	Resource Materials: Aitken Bible Preface
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Objective:

Elementary school students will understand the formation of **culture** in the colonies. In addition, students will see why political oppression and religious persecution in Europe gave rise to a spirit of independence in America. Finally, students will examine how the spirit of independence in the culture was displayed by the Aitken Bible.

Procedure:

- The teacher will illustrate the formation of culture through a craft. The students will be placed into teams. Each team will receive strands of ribbon, each strand a different color.
 - The teacher will instruct the students to wrap the ribbons around each other, creating one strand.
 - The teacher will explain the culture of colonial America was like the single multi-colored strand.
 - Different people from different lands came together (British, Dutch, Swedish, German).
 - Each of the people groups brought cultural influences (customs, traditions, experiences).
 - The influences combined to help shape a new culture (defined by a spirit of independence).
- The teacher will explain how political oppression in Europe influenced culture in colonial America.
 - For example, in England, the tyrant King Charles I ruled from 1625 to 1649.
 - He caused a civil war in England, later he caused a second civil war in England.
 - People from England, as well as other places of political oppression, fled to colonial America.
 - In the culture, this planted a widespread desire for a government which allowed citizens a voice.
- The teacher will explain how religious persecution in Europe influenced culture in colonial America.
 - For example, in Germany, a religious war called the Thirty Years War lasted from 1618 to 1648.
 - The war, one of the most disastrous in history, was between Catholics and Protestants.
 - People from Germany, as well as other places of religious persecution, fled to colonial America.
 - In the culture, this planted a widespread desire for a government which allowed religious freedom.
- The teacher will explain how the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1763 influenced culture in America.
 - The war stirred feelings of oppression and persecution.
 - The war united the colonies for a common cause.
 - The war forced the colonists to fight for their freedom.
 - In the culture, the war and its aftermath planted a widespread desire for independent government.
- The teacher will explain how a spirit of independence unified people from different backgrounds.
 - Despite their differences, colonists came together for the cause of American independence.
- The teacher will use the Aitken Bible as an example of the spirit of independence in colonial culture.
 - Colonists demonstrated independence with petitions for Bibles from a source other than Britain.
 - Congress demonstrated independence in ignoring the British license on the Bible.
 - Robert Aitken demonstrated independence in printing the first English Bible in America.

Closure/Review:

With guided questioning, the teacher will help the students to review the following topics. How did troubles in Europe shape the culture in America? How did the French and Indian War and its aftermath plant the seeds of the American Revolution in colonial culture? How did a spirit of independence unite colonists from different backgrounds? How was the Aitken Bible a symbol of the spirit of independence?