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<b>Grade Level:</b> Elementary School	<b>Study Unit:</b> American Revolution	<b>Lesson Topic:</b> Immigration	<b>Resource Materials:</b> Aitken Bible Preface
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### Objective:

Elementary school students will understand the motivations for **immigration** into colonial America. In addition, students will study political, religious, and economic factors. Finally, students will learn about immigrant Robert Aitken, who rose to become a printer for the Journals of Congress and publisher of the first American Bible.

### Procedure:

- Using a globe or map, the teacher will trace the routes taken by immigrants coming to America.
  - The teacher will explain where his or her ancestors came from to immigrate to America. Then the teacher will trace the route on the globe or map from the country of origin to America.
  - Next, the teacher will ask the students if they know where their ancestors came from to immigrate to America. If a student does, the teacher will trace the route on the globe or map to America.
    - Explain immigrants came to colonial America from different places for different reasons.
- The teacher will explain some reasons immigrants came to colonial America.
  - Political: immigrants seeking relief from political persecution
    - For example, Germans escaped oppressive policies and wars.
  - Religious: immigrants seeking freedom to practice their beliefs
    - For example, Protestants, Catholics, and others fled Europe.
      - Quakers founded the colony of Pennsylvania.
      - English Catholics founded the colony of Maryland.
  - Economic: immigrants seeking to improve their financial situation
    - For example, Robert Aitken came for economic reasons (see below).
- The teacher will use the story of Robert Aitken as an example of one immigrant's journey to America.
  - Born in Dalkeith near Edinburgh, Scotland, around 1735
  - Learned bookbinding and went into the book business in Paisley
  - Pursuing better business prospects, journeyed to America in 1769
    - Left wife and three kids at home (one child died in his absence)
  - Arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1769, advertised books for sale
  - Received orders for and had printed two books—one a religious work
    - (Aitken is claimed by both Quakers and Presbyterians.)
  - Within the year, returned to Scotland, brought family to America in 1771
  - Opened a business as a bookseller, soon became a publisher and binder
  - Appointed printer of the Journals of Congress from September 1776 to May 1778
  - Printed the first English Bible in America in 1782 (the Aitken Bible)
    - The Aitken Bible was approved by Congress.
    - The Aitken Bible was recommended to Americans.

### Closure/Review:

With guided questioning, the teacher will help the students to review the following topics. What are some countries people came from to immigrate to colonial America? What are some reasons people immigrated to colonial America? How did the story of Robert Aitken show America as a land of opportunity? How did the country benefit from Aitken and other immigrants?

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