

TURN[®]

WASHINGTON'S SPIES

Dear Educator,

Make America's Revolutionary era relevant to today's world with AMC's new season of **TURN: Washington's Spies**, beginning Monday, April 13, 2015, at 9pm/8c.

TURN: Washington's Spies stars Jamie Bell as Abraham Woodhull, a farmer living in British-occupied Long Island during the Revolutionary War, who bands together with a disparate group of childhood friends to form the Culper Ring – General George Washington's espionage operation. Together they risked their lives and honor, and turned against family and king, for a fight they believed in passionately, ultimately helping George Washington turn the tide of the war in favor of the patriots. The series, based on the acclaimed book *Washington's Spies*, by Alexander Rose, tells the little-known, true story of America's first spy ring.

Inspired by **TURN: Washington's Spies** and developed by the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI), in cooperation with AMC, this educational program invites students to research this period in American history, the strategies used by all sides, and how the members and techniques of the Culper Ring changed the course of the Revolutionary War. Students also analyze and debate the similarities and differences between the Culper Ring's tactics and the ways their modern descendants — the CIA and NSA — operate today.

The study materials, which meet curricular standards for social studies and history, feature background information and Internet research links, including links to primary sources, for students to access and learn from. In addition, students can visit a dedicated microsite for this program at ymiclassroom.com/turn, where they will find links to interactive resources at AMC.com, including video-clips from **TURN: Washington's Spies**.

We encourage you to share this teaching kit with other teachers at your school. Although the materials are copyrighted, you may make as many copies as you need for educational purposes.

Please let us know your opinion of this program by returning the enclosed reply card or by responding through the feedback form at www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-turn. We depend on your comments and ideas to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



2-HOUR PREMIERE EVENT
MONDAY **APRIL 13** 9/8C

amc

TARGET AUDIENCE

American History students in high school and college

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To assess the state of the Revolution in 1777
- To examine the role of the Culper Ring in the American Revolution
- To analyze the similarities between the Culper Ring and modern intelligence-gathering organizations
- To explore the notion of what makes someone a hero and what makes someone a traitor
- To engage students in a dialogue about foreign intervention throughout American history

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This teacher's guide
- Five reproducible student activity sheets
- A large-scale visual resource for display in your classroom

- A dedicated microsite at ymiclassroom.com/turn, which provides links to additional learning resources at AMC.com, including video-clips from **TURN: Washington's Spies**
- Common Core standards alignment for high school history classes at ymiclassroom.com/turn
- A reply card for your feedback, or reply online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-turn

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Photocopy this teacher's guide and the three student activity sheets before displaying the poster in your classroom. Make additional copies of these resources to share with your colleagues, or they can download these teaching materials at ymiclassroom.com/turn. Use the wall poster to introduce **TURN: Washington's Spies**, and provide students with copies of the activity sheets, which build on themes explored in season 2 of **TURN: Washington's Spies**.



Activity 1

LOYALISTS, PATRIOTS, AND FENCE-SITTERS

The first activity will provide students with the context for upcoming events in Season 2, as the action moves from British-occupied Long Island and New York City to New Jersey and Philadelphia, where the British have just driven out the Continental Congress and taken control of the city.

In the "Discovery" section of this activity, students go beyond the battlefield to learn about the divisions between the loyalists to the Crown and the patriots struggling for independence. As the AMC series **TURN: Washington's Spies** showcases, such bitter rifts divided not just towns or cities but families. It was difficult to know whom to trust. Why? Because the British were encamped in the cities where the Patriots lived and in many cases lived in the same houses. So, as the armies clashed, the spies went to work. The "Discussion" section asks students to view King George's tyrannical rule from a contemporary point of view and debate whether, in the United States today, George Washington's spies would be seen as heroes or traitors.

EXTENSION:

Research events in American history which have proved to be divisive (e.g.: the Vietnam War, invading Iraq, etc.). Assess how the divisive nature of these events made America more or less susceptible to spies and the long-term impact of such divisions on the American people.

Activity 2

THE CULPER RING

For generations, history books have taught us that Nathan Hale was America's only spy during the Revolutionary War, famous for saying, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." His statue even stands outside CIA headquarters today. But, as **TURN** reveals, there was actually a wide network of agents providing General George Washington with secret intelligence throughout the war.

This activity provides students with background on Washington's espionage operation and introduces the members of the Culper Ring featured in **TURN: Washington's Spies** on AMC. Students research Abraham Woodhull, Benjamin Tallmadge, Caleb Brewster,

and Anna Strong and their impact on the fight for independence. Then students debate whether the modern descendants of Washington's spy ring — the CIA and NSA — continue the patriotic work of Hale and the Culper Ring or if they have made intelligence-gathering a means of stripping citizens of their rights and freedom. Students will analyze and debate the ethics and constitutionality of espionage and intelligence gathering vis-à-vis several modern situations.

EXTENSION:

- Research and analyze different spy groups throughout American history in circumstances such as the Civil War (e.g.: the Confederate Signal Corps) and the Cold War as well as the government's reaction to them (e.g.: McCarthyism). Consider how such groups would be treated by the government today.
- Ask students to consider the Patriot Act, which was established in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Encourage students to assess the constitutionality of this act and to debate whether or not it has made America safer.



Activity 3 THE BIRTH OF SPYCRAFT

From the Alphanumeric Substitution Code to the Sympathetic Stain (invisible ink), the Culper Ring revolutionized the craft of espionage, and in Season 2 of **TURN: Washington's Spies**, viewers will learn how the spy network conceived various methods to communicate and gather their intelligence.

This activity asks students to examine how the Culper Ring laid the foundation for modern spycraft. Students will analyze the espionage tools crafted by Washington's Spies — invisible ink, hollowed eggs, and hollow bullets — and discuss how these 18th-century espionage techniques are still reflected in modern-day spycraft. Students will also compare and contrast the type of risks someone engaged in espionage took during the American Revolution and the kind of risks one might take in today's world.

EXTENSION:

Suggest that students consider the portrayal of spies and espionage in the media through films, television, and fiction. Ask them to evaluate the changes in the technology used, enemies featured, and circumstances. Have students present their findings using video-clips or excerpts from novels.



Activity 4 PATRIOT/TRAITOR

Benedict Arnold, an early hero of the Revolution, known for his daring in battle, becomes a leading character in this season of **TURN: Washington's Spies**, appearing as a bold and decisive alternative to Washington's leadership for some patriots, and as a potential turncoat to the British spymaster, Major John Andre.

Part 1 of this activity asks students to assess Arnold from both of these perspectives, using primary sources to learn about his family background, his accomplishments on the battlefield, and his burning ambitions. Students will outline and discuss the factors that would lead a patriot such as Ben Tallmadge to see Arnold as a potential replacement for George Washington yet cause Major John Andre, the head of British intelligence, to single him out as a man ready to betray his cause.

Part 2 introduces background information on Arnold's infamous treachery and his support for the British through the remaining years of the war. Students can then use Arnold as a benchmark to debate whether modern-day "enemies of the state," like Edward Snowden, Daniel Ellsberg, Chelsea Manning, and Jeffrey Sterling are traitors or patriots.

EXTENSION:

Assign students various scenarios in which a person might question his loyalty to their nation. Encourage them to discuss what factors might influence individuals to remain loyal to or to betray their homeland. Ask students to consider what the consequences should be for someone who chooses to betray the United States today.

Activity 5 FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Throughout Season 2 of **TURN: Washington's Spies**, we see George Washington maneuvering, often behind the scenes, to secure French military support for the American cause. This activity alerts students to this important storyline and guides them to background information on the diplomatic campaign that finally brought France into the war as an ally to the patriots. Based on their research, students can assess how factors such as ideology, economics, national security, and political rivalry weighed in the French decision to intervene against the British. Then students can debate whether America's pattern of sending troops to trouble spots around the globe follows the same strategy as French participation in the American Revolution.

EXTENSION:

Choose a current conflict and ask students to research it. Then, ask them to prepare a presentation about whether or not the United States should become involved in it and why.

RESOURCES

amctv.com/shows/turn/about
ymiclassroom.com/turn

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