

Lesson 1.3: Treaty of Paris: The Original 13 Colonies & All the Rest of That Land

Time: approximately 45 minutes

Learning Goal: Understand the disposition of land boundaries in N. America after the Revolution and how the new USA's border's lead to the creation of new states like Kentucky.

Materials: Unit 1 Power Point; Blank Map of North America, 1783 (not included!)

**Intro/Bellringer: (5-10 minutes):** Students enter the room with the painting "The Treaty of Paris, 1783" (below) displayed on projector/screen. Prompt asks them "Do you recognize any of the people in this painting?"



Once students are settled take responses on who the folks in the painting are. Students are most likely to correctly recognize Ben Franklin (and mistakenly believe that someone there is Thomas Jefferson or George Washington). For the record they are, from left to right: John Jay, John Adams, Ben Franklin, Henry Laurens, and William Temple Franklin (Ben's grandson). Tell the students:

*This is a painting to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War and recognized the independence of the United States from Great Britain. These five men were the American diplomats that negotiated the Treaty. It was fairly customary for an important diplomatic event like a Treaty to be captured in a painting...just like we like to get pictures and selfies of important events. Of course painting takes a lot of time and skill; these men didn't all sit in a room at the same time posing like this. The painter, Benjamin West, did individual sessions with each man and then included them in a finished group portrait (almost like "photoshopping!") So what do you think is happening over here in this unfinished area on the right?*

*(allow some guesses but share that the British diplomats refused to pose for the portrait!)*

*Can you imagine the nerve? "Hey, we just defeated you, the greatest empire in the world, and made you give up your North American empire...would you like to pose for a picture commemorating that!?" It'd be like asking the soccer team you just smashed to pose with you for a selfie! So the painting was never finished and hangs just as it looks here in the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.*

**Notes/Map Work: (20-25 minutes)** *Ok, please open your notebooks and note down the following facts about the results of this Treaty of Paris of 1783:*

*(displayed on a slide)* Treaty of Paris, 1783

- \*officially ends hostilities between all involved parties
- \*Britain officially recognizes the independence of the USA
- \*fishing rights and other such trade matters are squared away
- \*THE RECOGNIZED EXTENT OF THE NEW USA'S BORDERS ARE DETERMINED

*Let's look at a map of the "agreed upon" borders of the USA from the 1783 Treaty:*

*(display map)*



**\*\*NOTE THE INSTANTLY RECOGNIZABLE CONTOURS OF FUTURE STATE OF KENTUCKY'S BOUNDARIES\*\***

*So this shows the extent of the original 13 colonies and then ALL the additional land that now belongs...to someone! It doesn't belong to Great Britain anymore, and Great Britain has agreed that it all belongs to the new USA.*

*We're going to spend time today and tomorrow talking about what happens to all this land so I have a blank map for you to complete and add to your notes!*

Distribute Blank Map of Treaty of Paris 1783. Instruct students to complete all parts as shown on the displayed map (may also use a map from an available textbook, atlas) Be sure to include rivers, oceans, Colonies, and major cities.

In addition, if students have not yet learned a good Great Lakes Mnemonic, tell them that the Great Lakes from West To East are: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. They can create their own

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mnemonic by inventing a sentence with words starting in S, M, H, E, and O. Example: Some monkeys hate eating oreos. They will know their Great Lakes forever!

Allow about 10-15 minutes for map work, but with no fewer than 10 minutes remaining in class begin the following discussion:

*\*How do you think the 13 Colonies reacted or thought about suddenly possessing all this land? What do you think some of the options for handling all this new territory might have been?*

*(allow discussion, anticipate/suggest the following, discussing pros and cons of each option:*

*\*divide it up among each of the original 13 colonies*

*\*let it be a free-for-all, citizens of each colony go out and claim whatever they can in the name of their home colony*

*\*let the new US government, the overall Confederation Congress take charge of the land*

*\*\*\*Keep in mind, NO COLONY REALLY THOUGHT OF THE "USA" AS THEIR "COUNTRY." Their own colony, their own state, was their home country; the so-called "United States, in Congress Assembled" was more of an agreement to work together to fight the war against England. They did not really think of the Continental Congress as their "government!"*

*Please be sure to bring your maps from today with you to class tomorrow. You will use them during the bellringer at which time you will receive a score for the assignment!*