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American Revolution Experience Interactive Website - A Contemporary Approach to Storytelling



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The American Battlefield Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution asked Interactive Knowledge to create a uniquely formatted educational website that introduces several interesting people who participated in the American Revolution. The American Revolution Experience tells the story of thirteen individuals who significantly affected the outcome of the revolution. The website offers visitors an opportunity to learn details about these people by interacting with maps, timelines, archival documents, animations, and original art that brings their stories to life.

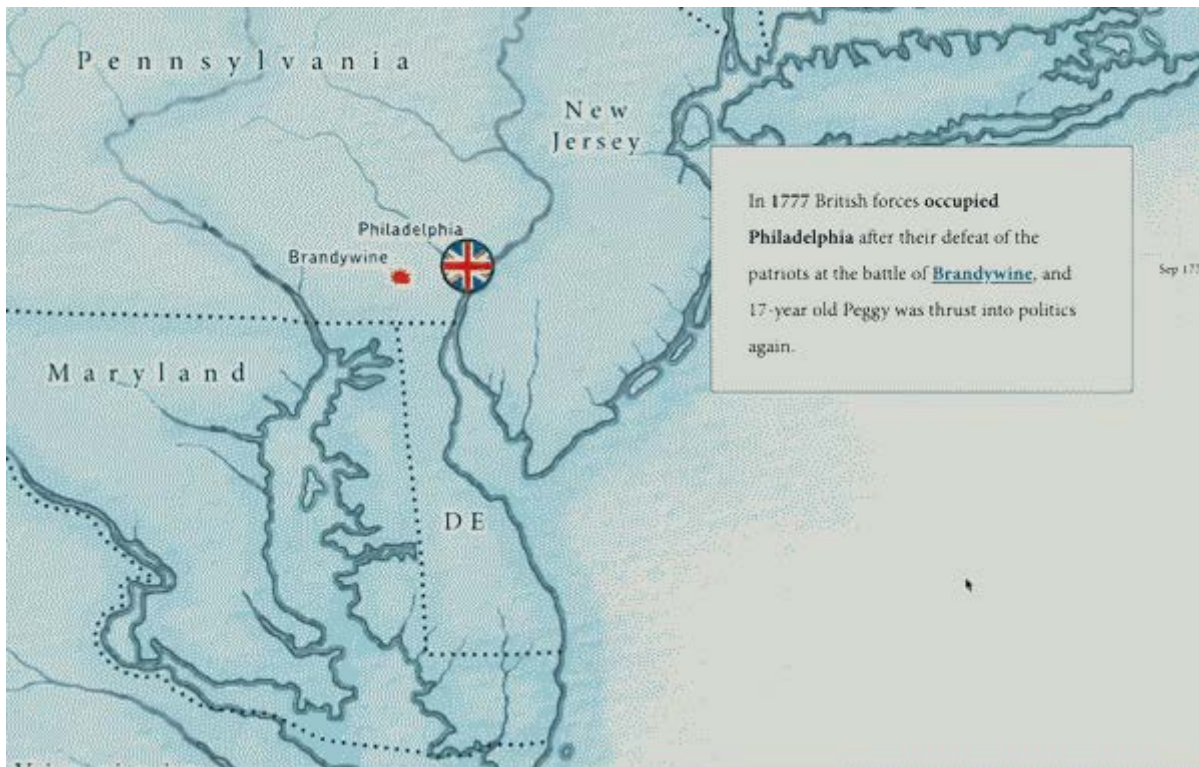
Key Website Features



Stories About a Diverse Group of Patriots and Loyalists

All of the people featured on the American Revolution Experience website appear on the home page, placed on a map of the Revolutionary War-era map. Their location is based on a key element of their story. Visitors to the site can scroll over the images on the map to see the names of each person and a brief description. Those featured on the website are not commonly known and include formerly enslaved people, women on both sides of the conflict, and men who fought in the war for reasons that ranged from deep philosophical beliefs to expedience and self-preservation.

Each true story is thoroughly researched and written by historians. The content is easily accessible to any audience and perfect for middle school and high school students and teachers.



Parallax Scrolling and Animation

Parallax scrolling is an engaging technique that allows the Interactive Knowledge design team to build long pages with access to a wide variety of types of content. Every story on the American Revolution Experience website is revealed as visitors to the site scroll down the page. Text is displayed throughout each story but the text is supplemented with access to archival documents, paintings that were produced during the Revolutionary War era, images of artifacts, and animated maps that show locations and movement from one location to another as described in the story.

Archival Documents, Portraits, and Artifacts

The American Revolution Experience is designed to engage audiences with rarely heard stories delivered in an engaging context. The website features nearly one hundred archival

documents, portraits, and images of artifacts. Many of the documents can be read and understood because all of the archival materials are presented in a modal that allows visitors to zoom into the details. Visually compelling Revolutionary War-era maps are included, providing a factual context that brings history to life.

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

Born in Spain in 1746, a young Bernardo Vicente Apolinar de Gálvez y Madrid participated in the Spanish army's invasion of Portugal and fought against the Portuguese and their British allies during the Seven Years' War. De Gálvez became a colonel in 1776, the same year America declared independence, and became governor of Spanish-controlled Louisiana on **January 1, 1777.**



Map of Spanish Louisiana

Content Organized by Themes

All of the stories are organized by historical themes that were chosen by the project's historians and educators. These themes help visitors understand some context for the many events that shaped the Revolutionary War period. The themes offer a unique organization of the content that will be very useful for students, teachers, and anyone interested in American history.

The following themes are featured in this section of the website:

- Choosing Sides
- Freedom and Slavery
- Modern-Day Legacy
- Post-War Life
- Roles in the Army

Detailed Timeline

May 10

Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.

JUN 17



Battle of Bunker Hill

JUL 1775



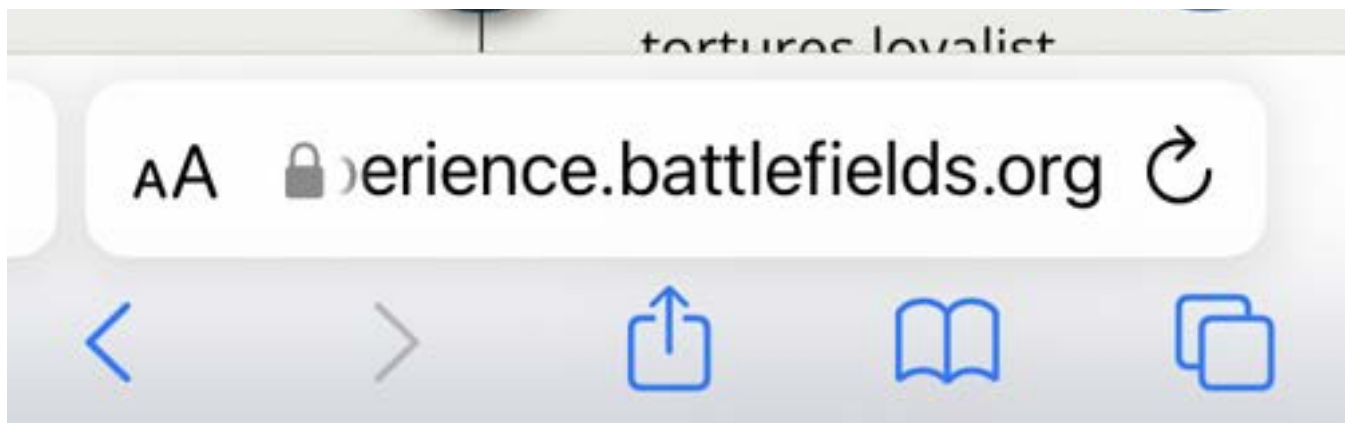
Thomas Brown joins a loyalist counter-association after the Georgia Provincial Congress votes to join the Continental Association.

AUG 1775



A patriot mob attacks and violently





Timelines offer a great way to understand how an event is affected by what came before it in time and how that event influenced what occurred next. The Timeline designed for the American Revolution Experience website combines well-known events that occurred throughout the Revolutionary War period (i.e. Continental Congress approves and begins to sign the Declaration of Independence.) with events that shaped the stories of the thirteen people featured on the site.

The majority of items listed in the Timeline are interactive. Clicking on the nodes related to people will carry the visitor to the specific spot in the scrolling story that relates to that event. Clicking on the battle icons reveals a landing page for that battle on the American Battlefields Trust website. Visitors can choose to dive into the Trust website to find extensive content about the battle (including maps, videos, and field trip itineraries) or return to the Timeline and view more events.

Original Art

One of the most appealing features of this product is the original portraits of the people whose stories populate the site. Each person

is carefully rendered to show their humanity and create interest and intrigue. These portraits were created specifically for the American Revolution Experience and provide a consistent design element that is applied throughout the website. In addition to the portraits, nearly half of the stories include an additional drawing that illustrates a historical scene that is included in the person's story.



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Delivering Effective Content Strategy for our Clients

Interactive Knowledge has a long history of designing large-scale websites for our clients. We have a deep respect for our clients' content and focus our energy on understanding the users' needs and designing site architecture that helps them find what they are looking for. We know that typical v...

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