

BEYOND the BATTLEFIELD

A VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP to the

★ MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ★

Dear Educators, Librarians, Parents, Readers, and Fellow Revolutionaries,

As I work on *I Survived* books, I'm always wishing that I could bring readers along with me on my research journeys. And finally my dream is coming true.

I am writing with an invitation for you to join me on a virtual field trip to the Museum of the American Revolution, an amazing new museum in Philadelphia.

The virtual field trip, called *Beyond the Battlefield*, is a 25-minute video extravaganza in which I take kids (and teachers!) behind the scenes of the museum.

They will delve into the background of the Revolution and War of Independence. They will see historical treasures. They will meet historians and hear stories of young people — like them — who were a part of America's fight for freedom.

Our goal is to bring this exciting and frightening time in history to life to your students, to supplement your curriculum, and to open new doors of curiosity. It's a great companion to my book *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* and pairs perfectly with a rich collection of ancillary resources, including my March/April *Storyworks* article "Blood, Smoke, and Freedom" (available in multiple reading levels), before and after viewing tips from our Top Teaching bloggers, a vocabulary list, and discussion questions.

I can't wait to hear what you think.
Huzzah! (That's how they said "hooray!" in colonial times.)



Lauren Tarshis

Author of the *New York Times* Bestselling *I SURVIVED* Series
Editor of *StoryWorks* and *StoryWorks Jr.* Magazines

Beyond the Battlefield Virtual Field Trip FAQ

How can I incorporate the virtual field trip into my plans?

The free virtual field trip can be used to augment a Revolutionary War or Colonial Times curriculum unit, or as part of an ELA study on fiction/historical fiction/non-fiction. Or keep it on file for a substitute day!

What grade level is this appropriate for?

The Beyond the Battlefield virtual field trip is designed with supporting materials for grades 2–8, but can be enjoyed by older viewers, too!

How long should I schedule for the virtual field trip?

The actual viewing time is 25 minutes, but classroom engagement can be extended before and after viewing with activities, readings, and discussion questions from this Beyond the Battlefield Classroom Kit.

How should I plan my viewing?

You can schedule your viewing in a number of ways: watch independently, as a single class, across a grade level, or multiple grades in a larger setting, such as an auditorium, library, or community center.

What are the technical requirements for viewing?

The virtual field trip is a simple video played like any other video on the internet. You will need access to the internet, audio capability, and, depending on crowd size, a projector for viewing. We recommend testing ahead and contacting your audio visual department as needed.

How should I prepare my reader/students for the virtual field trip?

- Before the field trip, use the **revolutionary vocabulary handout** in the Beyond the Battlefield Classroom Kit to prepare students for the language and concepts that they will explore.
- After the field trip, use the **grade level-specific discussion questions and answer keys** in this kit to engage further with the themes and topics presented and extend their educational experience.
- Explore Lauren Tarshis's *StoryWorks* narrative nonfiction article "Blood, Smoke and Freedom," about the experiences of one of the young soldiers featured in the virtual field trip ([available for free](#) in multiple reading levels).
- **For grades 3–5**, explore the additional Beyond the Battlefield classroom materials prepared by [Scholastic Top Teaching blogger Genia Connell](#).
- **For grades 6–8**, explore the additional Beyond the Battlefield classroom materials prepared by [Scholastic Top Teaching blogger Mary Blow](#).

Do my students need to read *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* before the virtual field trip?

It is recommended (but not required) that you make copies of *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* available to students prior to the virtual field trip. When paired with the virtual field trip, the book provides a fictional counterpart that will help solidify students's understanding and comprehension of the revolutionary era and events, and help them feel more engaged and connected to the subject matter. The above blogs by Genia Connell and Mary Blow contain wonderful resources for exploring the book in your classroom.

Is there a hashtag for the virtual field trip?

Yes! Please use #beyondthebattlefield. We'd love to see photos and hear reactions from your students, so be sure to include the hashtag and tag Scholastic in any social posts.

Discussion Answers Grades 6–8

Answers will vary, but may be similar to:

1. In the 1600s and early 1700s, America wasn't yet a country; it was made up of 13 colonies that were owned and controlled by Great Britain. People who lived in these colonies included settlers from European countries, African people who had been brought over and forced to work as slaves, and Native Americans from dozens of tribes and nations.
2. The mood of this section of the video is tense and dramatic because Tarshis is explaining how the Americans grew more and more angry at England and its king. Images of furious-looking colonists, tense drum music, shouting sound effects, and narration like "anger exploded into war" all help to create this tense and dramatic mood.
3. According to museum curator Matthew Skic, the Declaration of Independence introduced the idea of a country's government being directed by its own people, rather than a king or queen.
4. Joseph Plumb Martin's book helped Lauren Tarshis gather accurate historical details about the Revolutionary War and understand what it was really like to be a soldier in the war.
5. By studying objects from the past, we can learn about what everyday life was like for people living in that time period. For example, by studying the type of knapsack used by Revolutionary War soldiers, you can imagine a young soldier like Joseph carrying one filled with clothing and other necessities for life on the battlefield.
6. The section features dramatic footage of soldiers firing muskets, running through smoky battlefields, and lying wounded in the grass. Scary drum music plays as Skic explains that Joseph would have seen "blood on the field" and "soldiers retreating for their lives." All of this helps you understand the horrors of being a Revolutionary War soldier.
7. The Hessian soldiers provided more manpower to the British army. Hessian soldiers were among the best in the world, and according to curator Matthew Skic, the sight of these soldiers in their ornate uniforms would have been very intimidating to the much less experienced American soldiers.
8. Lauren Tarshis means that as an enslaved person, the danger London faced was even greater than that of other soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War. Though Pleasants was given his freedom by the British army, if the Americans had captured him, he could have been sold back into slavery, whipped, or killed.

Discussion Answers Grades 6–8 (Continued)

9. Women played an important role in the Revolutionary War. Although they could not be soldiers, they provided vital support to the American army. Women would follow the army, cleaning and doing laundry for the troops. According to Lauren Tarshis and Matthew Skic, the Americans would not have won the war without the support of women. Additionally, some women like Abigail Adams played a part in formulating the idea of the Revolution before the war even began.
10. Tarshis's tone is admiring as she talks about General George Washington. Tarshis says Washington believed strongly in American independence and was "willing to risk everything to fight for that cause." She says that even after his humiliating defeat in the Battle of Brooklyn, Washington "worked hard to learn from his mistakes," and persisted through "dark days" and "doubts." These details show that Tarshis admires Washington for his conviction, courage, and resilience.