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INTRODUCTION

The *Brain Teasers* series provides ways to exercise and develop brain power! Each page stands alone and can be used as a quick and easy filler activity. The pages can be distributed to students as individual worksheets or made into transparencies for presentation to the entire class. The activities are especially useful in helping students develop:

- logic and other critical thinking skills
- creative thinking skills
- research skills
- spelling and vocabulary skills
- general knowledge skills

This *United States History Brain Teasers* book can be used in conjunction with a United States social studies curriculum to reinforce learning. The most current data has been used in this book as much as possible.

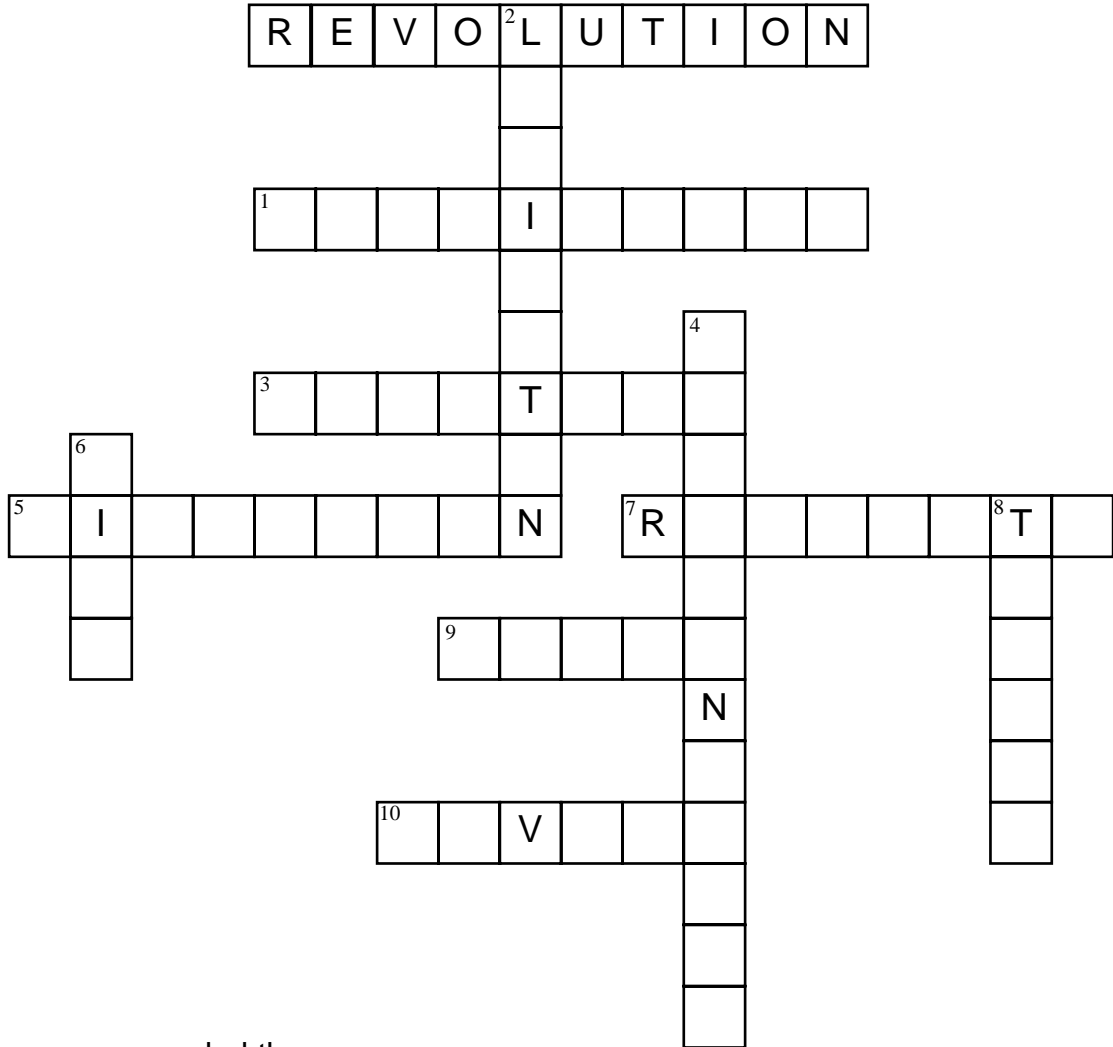
To make some of the puzzles more difficult, you may wish to block out or fold under word banks before duplicating the pages.

Allow students to use a variety of reference books or the World Wide Web to complete some or all of the activities. We hope you and your students will have great fun learning more about the people and events that shaped our country's history.



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

People in the thirteen colonies united to fight against the well-trained British army. General George Washington led the Continental Army into many battles against the British. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. George _____ led the Continental Army.
3. British troops surrendered at _____.
5. Part-time colonial soldiers were called _____.
7. Nickname for British troops _____.
9. Thomas _____ was the author of *Common Sense*.
10. Paul _____ was a silversmith.

Down

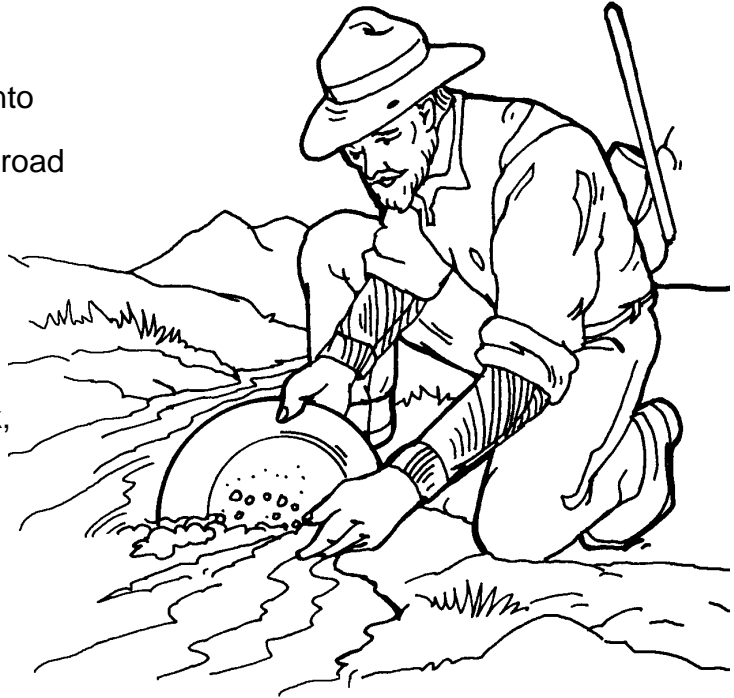
2. The first shots of the American Revolution were fired at _____ and Concord.
4. Colonists fought to win their _____.
6. British monarch, _____ George
8. The _____ of Paris ended the war.



SETTLING THE WEST

Write the letter of the description on the line before the clues that match it.

- ___ 1. Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Zebulon Pike
- ___ 2. Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana
- ___ 3. California, Sutter's Mill, Sacramento
- ___ 4. steamboats, covered wagons, railroad
- ___ 5. Arkansas, Red, Missouri
- ___ 6. England, France, Spain
- ___ 7. Rocky, Smoky, Appalachian
- ___ 8. Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin
- ___ 9. Oregon, Santa Fe, Old Spanish
- ___ 10. Cheyenne, Sioux, Pawnee
- ___ 11. steel plow, barbed wire, windmill
- ___ 12. territory, acre, state



- a. divisions of land in the territories
- b. signers of the Declaration of Independence
- c. groups of Native Americans who lived on the plains
- d. early explorers
- e. foreign countries that owned American land
- f. inventions that helped settlers
- g. rivers west of the Mississippi River
- h. Gold Rush locations
- i. trails in the Old West
- j. places west of the Mississippi River
- k. transportation
- l. names of American mountain ranges