

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cohort: _____

Learning Targets:

- I can research the history of a song on the internet
- I can critically infer a song's full meaning from its lyrics, history, music, and artist.

Revolutionary War Song Analysis

Today, you will be given the lyrics to an important song from the Revolutionary War. This song contributed to a particular *perspective* on the war, and helped certain ideas spread. But which ideas did it help spread? Did it support the revolution and inspire Americans to revolt? Or did it advocate remaining loyal to the British? Something else? Remember, a song such as “Yankee Doodle,” whose lyrics make fun of the American soldiers, ended up making fun of the British during the war.



In this project, you will collect data about the four dimensions of the song: (1) lyrics, (2) history, (3) artist, and (4) music. From this data, you must **critically infer** what the full meaning of the song was during the Revolutionary War, and what ideas it helped to spread. You will be graded on thoroughness and accuracy of your work.

Your Song

(Song Title)

5 Ways To Research

Below, take notes on 5 different places you can find information on the internet regarding your song.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I. Lyrics – What are the lyrics about?

a) Are there any words/people/places you don't know? Look them up and write their definitions down!

b) Copy down 2 key lines from the song. A key line is either repeated a lot of times, or seems important to the meaning of the song.

c) Whose *perspective* (point of view) is the song written from? (Example: Yankee Doodle is written from the perspective of someone looking at an American soldier.)

d) In your own words, write what are the lyrics about (use 1-3 sentences). It's okay if the lyrics are very confusion—take a guess!

II. Song History

a) What year was the song written? _____

b) Why was the song written? Or, if you can't find out: is there a particular historical event during the Revolutionary War that the song is referring to?

c) Is it an original song or did the melody come from somewhere else? Where?

d) Who sang the song during the Revolutionary War? What was it used for?

e) Use the space below for any other notes about the song's history that may be relevant:

III. Artist(s)

a) Who wrote the song? _____

b) Was this a popular artist of the time? _____

c) What causes did the artist support? _____

IV. Music

Once you have completed sections I, II, and III, you may get a pair of headphones from the front of the room. See if you can find a recording of the song online. (This may be hard because you can't access YouTube. You may only find a MIDI version without singing.) Return the headphones when you are done with this section.

a) What is the mood (emotion) of the music? _____

b) In your opinion, is the song catchy? _____

c) Does this seem like the kind of song lots of people would sing to? _____

d) What sorts of instruments are used to play along to the voice in the recording you listened to?

V. Critical Inference

Using the information you have gathered about your song, write a 2-4 sentence inference about the full meaning of the song.

Example: “Yankee Doodle is a song making fun of the way the British made fun of Americans before the Americans started winning the war. It was originally sung by the British, before Americans adopted the song for them. Because of this, it was probably a fun song to sing, and also motivational for Americans.”

Extra Credit

Write your own last verse to the song. Make sure to pay attention to the point of view and mood (emotion) of the song. Good luck!
