The American Revolution: Going Dutch, French and Spanish

**Before Reading**

List all of the countries involved in the American Revolution.

**Key Vocabulary**

Privateer Brig Schooner

Amity Commerce

*Note: In the lessons lower case “s” looks like an “f”- See the word “vessel” 1st word, 2nd line of the Document from July 19th 1780.*

**Essential Question**

What are the various motives for countries to become involved in another country’s conflicts (trade, resources maintain or gain territory, strategy to gain global/regional power)?

**Supporting Questions**

Why would the Americans disrupt British trade?

What are the short term and long term goals of the English officials located in France?

What are the economic hardships associated with fighting a war?

What are the economic advantages of trading with a country at war?

**Document Analysis**

English Letter from 7th August 1776

1. From where does the letter originate? Which country controls that area?
2. Where were the Midshipman and Captain O’Hara when they were taken?
3. Which country is shamefully accepting the behavior of the pirates?

English Letter from 15th October 1776

1. From where does the letter originate? Which country controls the area?
2. Which country’s “Rebel Army” was defeated on Long Island?
3. Which country was the army rebelling against?
4. The author of the letter is Andrew Frazer an agent for the English government reporting on activities at the port of Dunkirk, France. Why are the English concerned about the Dutch ship at a French port?
5. What type of cargo is the Dutch ship carrying?
6. Martinico is the modern day island of Martinque. Which country controlled Martinico?

English Letter from 28th October 1776

1. Why is the English agent Frazer giving a detailed description of vessels using a French port?
2. What were the contents of the ship that arrived from Charles Town, South Carolina?
3. In the post script, why did the Dutch vessels change their names?

English Letter from Jamaica, August 7th, 1776

1. Which country controls Jamaica?
2. From where did the schooner the *Dolphin* sail?
3. What was the *Dolphin’s* cargo?
4. For which group is the cargo intended?
5. Which country did the timber and ammunition originate?

English Letter from August 1st 1777

1. What is the nationality of this group of Privateers?
2. Who has fully authorized this group of Privateers?
3. What “prizes” are the American privateers selling “in a most public manner?”
4. Why is this a concern to the English?

English Letter from July 19th 1780:

1. What happened to the vessel named *The Batchelor* loaded with timber?
2. What were the nationalities of the crew?
3. Why would the French allow a privateer to operate from their port?

American Letter from Passy, February 8, 1778

1. Which two countries signed the treaties?
2. What were the goals of the treaty of amity and commerce?
3. What did France have to gain in the treaty?
4. Which other country has allied with the Americans in a “separate and secret clause?”

**Synthesize**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country – List each country involved | Motive for Involvement – trade, attain independence, maintain territory, strategy to gain power | Classify Motive as Economic, Political or Social | Textual Evidence – cite evidence from the primary source, specify your source |
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Map all of the countries involved in the American Revolution and color code the country according to their motive.

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