



**NSDAR Educational Resources Committee**  
“Chatham in Connecticut During the Revolutionary  
War”  
Lesson Plan

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**Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>**

**1. Identify the standards to be addressed:**

Hist 8.1-Analyze connections among events and developments in historical contexts

Themes: Explore the history of individual Connecticut cities and towns; Analyze the role and contributions of Connecticut in the Revolutionary War

**2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

Students will explore the people and events that contributed to the story of Chatham, CT.

**3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

-Family interviews by students and family pertinent documents

-Books and published records such as *History and Architecture of East Hampton*, Lucy Potter & William A. Ritchie, 1980; *Yankee Township*, Carl F. Price, Citizens Welfare Club, 1975; *Postscripts to Yankee Township*, Carl F. Price, East Hampton Bicentennial Committee, 1975.

-Internet research such as: *Chatham—The Early Settlers and Their Descendants—Part I*

**4. Introduction of the topic:**

Students will share what they already know about Chatham (now East Hampton, Middle Haddam and Cobalt) during the Revolutionary War Students will observe a map of early Chatham while the teacher highlights the most populated and explored areas during the Revolution (Knowles Landing, Great Hill, etc.)

**5. Procedure for instruction:**

The teacher presents topics that student pairs choose for research and a brief class presentation, that as much as possible covers the “who”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “why”, “how” and “how much” of the topics. (See the list of possible topics on the next page.)

**6. Lesson closure:**

Pairs of students present their prepared information to the class, after which other class members are called to state a 20 second summary of the facts that helped establish this nation and/or East Hampton, Connecticut.

**7. Assessment of student understanding:**

Students write and share a one to two page essay that summarizes what they learned was occurring in Chatham (East Hampton area) and this nation in the late 1770’s and early 1780’s. (If time permits, the class selects the best three essays.)

The following is a list of possible topics for the student research:

- (a) The various origins of Chatham residents before the Revolutionary War
- (b) Slavery in Chatham during the Revolutionary War

- (c) The shipbuilding industry in and near Chatham during the Revolutionary War
- (d) The poisoning of Chatham prisoners in Wallabout Bay, New York Harbor
- (e) A biographical sketch of Captain Seth Overton and his capture of a British sloop
- (f) A biographical sketch of Captain Samuel Brooks and his raid off of Point Judith
- (g) The importance of Chauncey Bulkley and his “privateering” vessels
- (h) An overview of accomplishments of notable Revolutionary War military such as Captain John Penfield, Captain David Stewart, etc.
- (i) Chatham’s non-maritime livelihoods during the Revolutionary War
- (j) The lives of Chatham women, their children and their home lives during the Revolutionary War.