



Revolutionary War Soldiers

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- identify the key events in the life of a famous Revolutionary War soldier.
- identify cause and effect in the life of a famous Revolutionary War soldier.
- summarize the person's contribution to the Revolutionary War effort, including cause and effect events.

Support Learners

If students need extra support to identify key events and/or to summarize a person's life using cause and effect, **then**

- using pages 11–13 in the book *Revolutionary War Soldiers*, work with students to complete *Biography: Cause and Effect*.
- have students write a sentence that answers the question, "Why is this person famous?" Say: *The answer to this question is the cause, and the person's fame is the effect.*

Provide More Practice

Use these texts for further practice with determining cause and effect in the lives of famous people:

- *The United States Constitution*
- *Benedict Arnold*

Meeting the Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2,
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3

Reading: Informational Text

Cause and Effect in Biography

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the Text Show students the cover and say: *We can tell from the cover of this book that it will teach us about soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. What kind of facts do you think it might provide?* After allowing students to share a few predictions say: *This book also provides some biographical information about famous Revolutionary War soldiers.*

Introduce the Strategy *To help readers understand why certain people become famous or important, authors who write biographies identify and share reasons or causes for their fame. Fame can also be a cause; it can cause changes in people's lives. As strategic readers of biographies, we should be looking for causes and effects in order to better understand the people we read about.*

Demonstrate and Collaborate

Model Strategy Use Turn to page 11 and say: *Why did George Washington become famous?* (He was our first president; he is known as "the father of our country.") *Although it is not the main reason he is famous now, his fame was first caused by his brave military leadership. Let's see what else we can learn about causes and effects in George Washington's life.*

Collaborate with Students Read pages 11–13 aloud to students. Then say: *This section gives us a lot of cause and effect information about George Washington's life. For example, why did Washington return to military life?* (He wanted to fight for the colonies' freedom from Great Britain.)

Talk with your learning partner about why Washington had difficulty maintaining a strong army. In other words what was the cause of the difficulty?

Allow partners to discuss the text to identify the causes of Washington's difficulty maintaining a strong army. Then bring the class together to identify those causes. (Political leaders would not provide for the soldiers' basic needs.)

Support Independent Practice

- Display *Biography: Cause and Effect* and discuss with students the way the organizer can be completed.
- Have students work in pairs to investigate a historical figure of their choosing or one that you assign. They should use the graphic organizer to identify the cause of the person's fame and at least one other cause/effect event in the person's life.
- Support students' further research by helping them identify credible online sources.
- Look for opportunities for students to use the graphic organizer with additional texts. Use this resource whenever students need support explaining how a person's life is shaped by cause/effect events.

Biography: Cause and Effect

Name _____

Date _____

Name of the person featured in the biography:

Text: _____

Why is the person famous? (What is the cause of his or her fame?) _____

How did fame affect this person's life? (How did fame act as a cause of other events?)

Identify additional cause/effect events in this person's life:

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

Cause: _____

Effect: _____
