

Exit Pass/Concluding Discussion Teacher Guide

- Does your textbook offer a complete picture of the Revolutionary War?
 - For most students, the answer will be no. Most texts do not provide biographies or case studies of African Americans who served in the Revolutionary War. In some instances pictures or brief mentions of slaves fighting will be included, but it is far from a complete analysis.
- Does it matter that certain topics are left out?
 - Textbooks are likely to leave things out and it would be impossible to include every event and individual who was important to any piece of history. That said, it is important for students to look to additional sources of information and to not rely on a single text to address everything.
- How do you think the decision is made about what is included/left out of textbooks?
 - Many of today's textbooks are written to address the standards that have been created by state departments of education. In the case of Virginia, the role of slaves in the American Revolution is not addressed in any detail.
 - Textbooks are limited in the space they can devote to different topics. Including more "obscure" biographies is often not an option.
 - In many cases textbooks are not re-written, but are instead subjected to minor edits and revisions. The inclusion of this information would require a major re-write.
- What was the original paradox identified at the beginning of this lesson?
 - Students were asked to identify the paradox of enslaved individuals enlisting in a war to fight for someone else's freedom. Students were also asked to analyze the hypocrisy of colonists fighting for the idea of liberty and equality while continuing to enslave a group of people.
- Have we solved the paradox through our research?
 - The paradox has been solved
 - Slaves enlisted and fought because they were promised freedom. The incentive of emancipation was sufficient to encourage slaves to fight someone else's war.
 - Loyalists encouraged slaves to enlist (starting with Lord Dunmore) because they were lacking manpower. Additionally, the Loyalists were trying to take away a large part of the income of colonists who were financing the war.
 - Colonists eventually changed their policy to allow for slaves to enlist due to a lack of manpower and in response to British policies.