

## Mary Ludwig Hays | Lesson Plan

How does Mary Ludwig Hays, and the legend of Molly Pitcher, demonstrate the bravery and contributions of women during the Revolutionary War?

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Students will understand how Mary Ludwig Hays was the woman behind the legend of “Molly Pitcher” and understand her role during the American Revolutionary War. Students will also understand how integral women were to the Revolutionary War and the founding of our great nation.

### Learning Objectives:

- Explain the legend of Molly Pitcher.
- Identify the various responsibilities of women during the Revolutionary War.
- Evaluate the importance of men and women’s different and distinct roles during the Revolutionary War.
- Examine how Mary Ludwig Hays displayed bravery during the Revolutionary War.
- Evaluate how the legend of Molly Pitcher is a symbol of bravery and heroism.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Revolutionary War:** The conflict fought between the 13 American colonies and Great Britain from 1775 to 1783, which concluded in 1783 when America defeated the British and gained independence as the United States of America.
- **Legend:** A traditional story or tale that has been passed down through generations, often based on real people and events.
- **Molly Pitcher:** A legend based on Mary Ludwig Hays and other brave women who took on different roles during the Revolutionary War.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, Women of History, Historical Revolutions

### What You’ll Need

- Video: *Mary Ludwig Hays: Woman Warrior of the American Revolution* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Mary Ludwig Hays: Woman Warrior of the American Revolution* (Click [Here](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a class discussion on heroes and heroism. Encourage students to share a definition of what it means to be a hero. Prompt students to think about popular



examples of heroes, both fictional and real. Invite students to share examples aloud and brainstorm together.

2. Display a copy of the “Mary Ludwig Hays Worksheet” and pass out individual worksheets to students.
3. Instruct students to write their definition of “hero” and an example of someone who is their hero in the Warm-Up Activity. Teachers may need to model an example for students.
4. Once completed, explain to students that there were many heroes during the Revolutionary War, but some uncommonly recognized ones were women. Invite students to predict how women like Mary Ludwig Hays might have been heroes in the American Revolution and the challenges they may have faced during this time.
5. Invite students to share what they know about the term “legend.” Explain to students that the video is about the legend of Molly Pitcher, which is based on real stories of women in the Revolutionary War.
6. Read over the rest of the worksheet as a class so students know what to listen for during the video.
7. Set the stage for the upcoming video by highlighting the theme of bravery and heroism. Encourage students to look for ways throughout the video of Mary Ludwig Hays choosing to be brave and selfless in the midst of danger.

#### Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Assist students with completing the worksheet alongside the video, encouraging note-taking and active listening.
3. Pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions, especially short answer responses. If necessary, model short answer responses, restate the question, and write a complete sentence.

#### Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.
3. Ask students to read aloud their responses to the Making Connections section.
4. Conclude with an open-ended prompt for students to reflect on what they've learned about Molly Pitcher/Mary Ludwig Hays and why she is considered a hero and symbol of bravery. Emphasize the importance of bravery and helping others.

#### **Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.