

Fact and Opinion

Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?

Comprehension:
Fact and Opinion

Read the selection below.

Benedict Arnold: Hero and Villain

When you hear the name Benedict Arnold, you may think of the biggest traitor in American history. Arnold's name is rightly linked with betrayal. He is not remembered for his patriotic efforts at the start of his military career.

In 1775, Benedict Arnold led the charge to capture Fort Ticonderoga. He went on to lead an attack on Quebec, the capital of British Canada. Even though he was wounded and he failed to capture the city, Arnold continued to fight bravely for the patriots' cause.

Arnold embraced the American ideal when the first shots of the Revolution rang out. He was also eager to make

a name for himself. He had a habit of inflating his reports. He did what he needed to do to make himself look good. He craved power. He expected wealth in return for his bold actions in battle.

Eventually, Congress investigated Arnold's accounts and criticized his actions. Congress recommended a court martial. It would have brought sure disgrace.

Arnold decided to switch to the British cause. He tried to deliver West Point into the hands of the British. He failed and grew to be hated by leaders on both sides of the cause. He was a man who could not be trusted. He died alone, without friends or country.

Use the T-Map to identify facts and opinions given in the selection. Write three statements in each column. Then answer the question below.

FACT	OPINION
Arnold led the charge to capture Fort Ticonderoga Arnold continued to fight bravely for the patriots' cause	Arnold's name is rightly linked with betrayal

How do you know that "In 1775, Benedict Arnold led the charge to capture Fort Ticonderoga" is a factual statement?

He was wounded.

Name Britain Tabb Date 10/7/22

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Alexander Hamilton: Triumph and Tragedy

Of all the founders of the United States, Alexander Hamilton was the most unlikely patriot. He was born in the West Indies. At the age of ten, he moved with his mother to the island of St. Croix. Hamilton did not have a lot of formal schooling, but he was a gifted scholar. Local people who read his essays arranged for him to be sent to the American colonies for proper schooling.

Hamilton was fifteen when he arrived in New York to attend college. It was the beginning of a revolution. People around him were debating about whether to go to war against Britain.

Hamilton soon began studying

military tactics. He joined the New York artillery company. His brilliant leadership skills were obvious to all who knew him. He was an unwavering support to the colonial cause. His efforts clearly helped defeat the British.

After the war, Hamilton became a member of Congress. He believed passionately in the need for a strong government. He could be hot-tempered and stubborn in his views, but he helped gather support for the new constitution.

In 1804, a rival named Aaron Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel. Hamilton aimed too high, but Burr's aim was right on. Hamilton died the next day.

Use a T-Map like the one here to identify facts and opinions about Alexander Hamilton. Then answer the questions.

1. Why do you think the author says that Hamilton was an "unlikely patriot"?

Aaron Burr aimed right at him but Hamilton aimed too high

2. What fact supports the opinion that Hamilton was a gifted scholar?

Local people that read his essays arranged for him to be sent to the American Colonies.

3. What kind of facts could support the opinion that Hamilton's efforts "clearly" helped defeat the British?

Hamilton studied Military tactics. He has brilliant leadership skills.