

American Revolution Reading List

New Jersey

The Fighting Ground by Avi. (Fiction, Gr. 3-7, 1984)

A thirteen-year-old New Jersey boy named Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War despite his father's refusal to let him go. In just twenty-four hours, Jonathan's life is forever changed—by his fellow soldiers, unsuspecting enemies, and the frightening and complicated realities of war.

When Washington Crossed the Delaware: A Wintertime Story for Young Patriots by Lynne V. Cheney. (Nonfiction, 2004, Gr. 2 – 4)

Cheney chronicles the general's courageous leadership in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, including his famed crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas day in 1776.

The New Jersey Colony by Kevin Cunningham. (Nonfiction, Gr. 2 – 4, 2011, True Book series)

Looks at the history of the state of New Jersey from its beginnings as Dutch settlements to its entrance into the United States in 1787.

Molly Pitcher (Jr. Graphic American Legends) by Kirra Fedyszyn. (Nonfiction, Biography, 2014, Gr. 3 – 6)

In graphic novel format, it tells the biography of Molly Pitcher who followed her husband to the Revolutionary War and brought water to soldiers in battle. When her husband is killed, she took up the cannon and fired at the British.

Molly Pitcher: Young American Patriot (Graphic Library, Graphic Biographies) by Jason Glaser, illustrated by Tod Smith, Bill Anderson, and Charles Barrett. (Graphic Novel, Nonfiction, Biography, 2005, Gr. 3 – 5)

Describes the legend of Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher and presented in a graphic-novel format.

The Untold Story of Washington's Surprise Attack: The Daring Crossing of the Delaware River (What You Didn't Know About the American Revolution series) by Danny Kravitz (2015, Nonfiction, Gr. 3 – 8)

General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River is immortalized in a famous painting, but the unforgettable true story of that night remains largely unknown to many people. Washington's daring act boosted sagging morale, shocked the British, and convinced potential allies such as France that the Americans meant business.

Eighteen Roses Red: A Young Girl's Heroic Mission in the Revolutionary War by Ruth H. Maxwell (2006, Fiction, Gr. 3 – 7) (American Revolution Adventures series)

As the Revolutionary War tears thirteen-year-old Anne's New Jersey family apart, a Loyalist lies dying in her home with an important message for General George Washington. Can Anne get this secret message to George Washington in time?

Washington's Crossing the Delaware and the Winter at Valley Forge Through Primary Sources by John Micklos. (Nonfiction, Gr. 4 – 8, 2013)

How could poorly equipped and untrained men crush the might British? Follow author John Micklos, Jr. as he explores two wild winters with Washington.

Crossing the Delaware: A History in Many Voices by Louise Peacock (Nonfiction, 1998, Gr. 4 – 7)

Detailed paintings, letters from fictional soldiers, and true-life accounts tell the dramatic tale of General Washington's crossing of Delaware and the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War during the winter of 1776.

A Ride into Morning: The Story of Tempe Wick by Ann Rinaldi (Fiction, 2003, Gr. 7 – 9)
Rinaldi bases her story on the real story of Temple Wick, who, during the Revolutionary War in Morristown, NJ, battles to save her beloved horse after a mutinous soldier demands she give it to him in exchange for keeping her brother's rum-smuggling activities a secret from the authorities.

Time Enough for Drums by Ann Rinaldi. (Fiction, 1986, Gr. 7 & up)

Sixteen-year-old Jem struggles to maintain the status quo at home in Trenton, New Jersey, when the family men join the war for independence.

They Called Her Molly Pitcher by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by Cynthia von Buhler. (Pic book, Nonfiction, 2006, Ages 3 – 7)

The rousing true tale of an American Revolution heroine.

Molly Pitcher: Young Patriot, (Childhood of Famous Americans series) by Augusta Stevenson, illustrated by Gene Garriott. (Nonfiction, Biography, 1986, Gr. 3 – 7)

A childhood biography of the Pennsylvania German woman who became a Revolutionary War heroine when she carried water to American soldiers and even fired a cannon herself during the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey.

The 18 Penny Goose by Sally M. Walker (1998, Fiction, Gr. 2 – 4)

A young girl named Letty Wright living on a farm in Essex County during the American Revolution and her family make the difficult decision to leave their farm in 1778 to escape from British raiders. Based on the real Wright family, who lived in what is now East Orange, it describes what the family encountered when they returned afterward.

Compiled by Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library