

RAYNHAM HALL PRIMARY SOURCE INVESTIGATION

Lesson Overview and NYS Standards

Lesson and Field Trip Proposal Overview

This Grade 4 social studies lesson and field trip proposal uses Raynham Hall Museum as the setting for a primary source investigation. Students examine how British occupation affected the choices of people living in Oyster Bay during the American Revolution, consider multiple perspectives, and use evidence from the museum's rooms and historical records to answer the compelling question.

Destination	Raynham Hall Museum, 30 W. Main Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771
Grade Level	4
Content Area	New York State and Local History and Government
Lesson Focus	British occupation of Oyster Bay during the American Revolution
Suggested Trip Date	Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Exact NYS Standard

Grade 4 New York State and Local History and Government: SS.4.3d Colonial and Revolutionary Period in New York: Growing conflicts between England and the 13 colonies over issues of political and economic rights led to the American Revolution. New York played a significant role during the Revolution, in part due to its geographic location. Students will examine issues of political and economic rights that led to the American Revolution. Students will examine New York's geographic location relative to the other colonies, locate centers of Loyalist support, and examine the extent of the British occupation. Students will examine which Native Americans supported the British and which Native Americans supported the Patriot cause. Students will explore why African Americans volunteered to fight with the British during the war. Students will investigate the strategically important battles of Long Island and Saratoga and why the Battle of Saratoga is considered by many to be a turning point.

Compelling Question

How did the British occupation of Oyster Bay affect the choices people made during the American Revolution?

Student Learning Objective

Students will be able to explain how British occupation affected the choices of people living in Oyster Bay during the American Revolution by completing a primary source investigation sheet using three Raynham Hall primary sources with at least two observations from each source and one evidence-based conclusion connected to how the British occupation of Oyster Bay affected the choices people made during the American Revolution.

Key Ideas

- New York was an important place during the American Revolution because British soldiers occupied parts of the state, including communities on Long Island.
- The people who lived in occupied Oyster Bay had to make difficult choices about loyalty, safety, secrecy, and freedom.
- The American Revolution was about freedom from British rule, but freedom did not mean the same thing for everyone living in New York at the time.

Critical Vocabulary

Term	Student-Friendly Definition
Occupied	When an army takes control of or moves into a place.
Patriot	An American colonist who supported independence from Britain.
Loyalist	An American colonist who remained loyal to Britain.
Spy	Someone who secretly collects and shares information.
Freedom	The ability to make choices and have rights without being controlled by another person or government.
British soldiers	Soldiers who fought for Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.
Queen's Rangers	A unit of the British military.
Manumission Society	A group that worked to end slavery and help enslaved people become free.