



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee
"Fife and Drum"
Lesson Plan

Contributor: Mary Katherine Ranck

State: Idaho

Grade Level: 5th-12th Grade

Time Allocation: 45 minutes and completion of quiz

1. **Identify the standards to be addressed:** Idaho State Content Standards: 5th grade pg 23-27, 6-12 grade pg 45-49 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/social-studies/ICS-Social-Studies.pdf>
2. **Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:** See Lesson Objectives attached and completion of knowledge testing quiz attached.
3. **Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:** PowerPoint presentation ([click here to download](#)), extra information found on slide additions (attached), cardboard replica of drum 16" depth, 16" diameter.
4. **Introduction of the topic:** Introducing who the Fifers and Drummers were during the Revolutionary War and their roles in the Continental Army under General George Washington.
5. **Procedure for instruction:** Use PowerPoint for students and additional information provided for teachers to elaborate on slides.
6. **Lesson closure:** Slide 23 conclusion.
7. **Assessment of student understanding:** 45 minutes and completion of quiz to test knowledge.



Fife and Drum

PowerPoint
Created by:
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Introduction

- Fifers and drummers played a major role in directing the Continental Army
- Their job was to communicate orders and to serve as a morale booster

Pre-Revolutionary War

- Soldiers before the start of the Revolutionary War, were typically found wearing home spun hunting shirts
- Pouch at the waist held the sticks called "snares"
- The Drum and Fifers were originally "men"



Smoldering Anger with British Misrule

- **Boston Massacre** - 5 Mar 1770
- **Boston Tea Party** - 16 Dec 1773
- **Stamp Act** - 1765
- **Taxation without Representation**

Pre-War Preparation

- **1775:** Reorganized by forcing out Tory officers
- Arms and powder were stocked and hidden
- The Minutemen were known to be ready at a 'minute's notice', hence the name
- Drums, fifes, colors, and halberds were provided at public expense
- Anti-British pamphlets were circulated

Recognition of Rank

- Army was not uniformed or trained
- Rank among the soldiers had a specific designation:
 - Non-Commissioned Officers wore an epaulette
 - **Epaulette:** an ornamental shoulder piece used as insignia of rank
 - **Cockades:** a rosette or knot of ribbons worn in a hat as a badge of office
 - Generals were distinguished by colored sashes worn across the breast and over the waistcoat
 - **Training:**
 - Troops had no way of seeing disciplined troops
 - Learned through printed drill manuals



The 13 Colonies

- Maine
- New Hampshire
 - Vermont
 - New York
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut
 - Virginia
 - Maryland
- North Carolina
- South Carolina

Uniform at Start of War

- **Drummers :**

- White lace and feathers on their hats

- **Fifers :**

- Black feathers and red cockades over the hat buttons

Ages of Fifers and Drummers

- Average age of drummer was 19 years old
- Average age of a Fifer was 17 years old
- Some were orphans and some were the sons of civilian soldiers



Voice of the Commander

Fife

- The fife was a high pitch sound
- Side blowing with six finger holes
- Hand-made with crude workmanship
- Revolutionary Fifes have not survived
- Fifes were the same scale of 24" long as today's fifes



Voice of the Commander

Drum



- Drums were used because of their low pitch
- Was larger than the regulation military drums of today
- The Drum before the start of the War was large and heavy
 - Made from hardwood with 10 drilled holes
 - 16 inches in diameter and 16 inches deep
- The snares were much thicker
- Drums produced more volume and was able to carry the sound over greater distances

The Drummers

- Drummers were to carry their drum over his shoulder on his back by means of a "**drag rope**"
- Per General Washington's order: if a drum was found in the baggage wagon, punishment was to be immediate flogging





Position, Practice, and Pay

- Each company had fifers and drummers
- **Drummers** were positioned in front rank beside and to the right of the Commanding Officer
- **Fifers** were to the right of the drummer
- **1776:** order had appointed a **Fifer Major** and **Drummer Major** to teach the young drum and fifers
 - Per this order, the boys were only allowed to practice between 11am and 1pm every day
- The **Majors** were paid \$10 $\frac{8}{9}$ per month
- **Drummers and Fifers** were paid \$8 $\frac{2}{3}$ per month
- **Infantry Private:** Paid \$8 $\frac{1}{3}$ per month



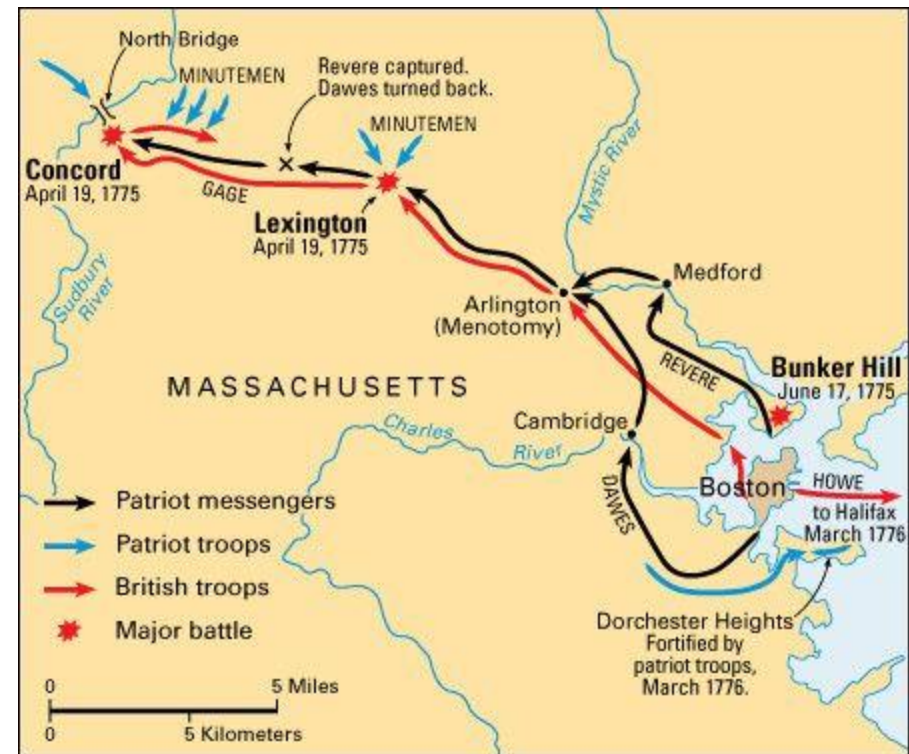
Drum Beats

- Tunes that were played were also played by the **British**
- **Reveille**: will beat at day break
 - 8:00 am to wake troops 
 - The fifers played ½ dozen more tunes for reveille
- **The General**: To warn Army to “move out” that day 
 - Substituted for Reveille
 - To prepare for march
- **Tattoo**: was played at the end of the day – now known as **Taps**
 - 9:00 pm every night
- **Retreat**: Played at sunset for as long as 10-15 minutes
- **Parley**: used to signal to the enemy a surrender or peace talk was desired
- **Routine Calls**: by drummers only
 - **Left Turn**
 - **Right Turn**
 - **About Turn**
 - **First Call**
 - **Recall**
 - **First Sergeant’s Call**
 - **Cease Fire** signified by the first 4 bars of **The General**

Lexington & Concord

19 April 1775

- **Beat to Arms:** getting arms in case of alarm 🗣️
- **Beat Assembly:** played after **The General** to form companies ready to march 🗣️
- Defeated battle at both Lexington and Concord



Battles of Revolution

19 April 1775– 3 September 1783

History of Defeats

- **Lexington & Concord:** 19 April 1775 to May 1777
- War was going badly; Patriots beaten in NY and PA
- Some Patriots feared “doomed”

Cause for Turn of the War

- **Oct 1776:** Congress sent Ben Franklin, John Adams, and Arthur Lee to France
- **Feb 1778:** Baron Friedrich Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge
- **Recruitment:**
 - **1777:** Congress allowed 75,000 men, Washington only had 7,000
 - Money and land incentives to join

The Uniforms

French and Dutch Infusion of Funds

- **Uniform:** soldiers were able to be more elaborately dressed due to the infusion of funds from the French and Dutch
 - **Tricorn black hat** with a feather
 - Carried short swords with a scimitar blade
 - Jackets- **Red Regimental coats** with opposite color of cuffs and lapels, **usually in blue**
 - The Fifers and Drummers didn't carry guns - Revealed to the enemy as a non-threat



Yankee Doodle Dandy

Pro-British - c. 1775

Yankee Doodle came to town
For to buy a firelock
We will tar and feather him
And so we will John Hancock.

**National Pride Song -
1778**

Yankee Doodle is a tune
That comes in mighty handy
The enemy all runs away at
Yankee Doodle Dandy.



Yanky Dudel

- **Yanky**: Dismissive reference to the Dutch origins of Northeast Settlers
- **Doodle**: derived from German **dudel**, meaning “playing music badly” or **Dödel** meaning “fool or simpleton”
- **Macaroni**: implied “backwoods bumpkins”
- **Dandies**: men who placed importance on appearance
- **Chorus**: about dance steps in Europe
- **American**: meant you were a rube, unsophisticated colonial outpost

Rochambeau Honored

One of the most important contribution had been General Rochambeau, commander of all French forces.

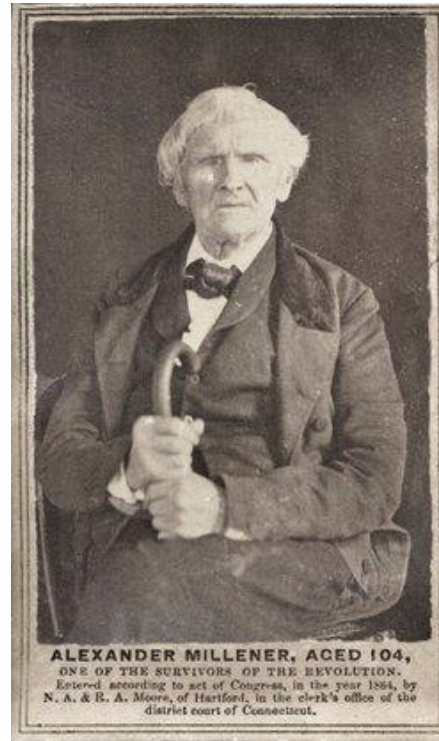
France had provided with personnel, muskets, powder and uniforms.

Summer 1782, Rendezvous to honor General Rochambeau along with George Washington.

Fifers and drummers now accomplished played French tunes.

Alexander Millener

George Washington's Drummer Boy



"After George had been out for some time, his wife asked him where he had been? He answered, laughing, 'To look at my boys.' 'Well,' she replied, 'I will go and see **my** children'." - Millener

Mustered Out

- Drummers and Fifers were mustered out with the rest of the army
- Two small artillery contingents were retained in service.
- **1784:** Continental Army completely disbanded
- Alexander Millener's drum was given to Daughters of the American Revolution.

Voices of Fife and Drum Directed the Army

Always remember the fifers and drummers
for their service and sacrifice that
contributed to win the freedom of our
nation.

References

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Slide 1

Title Page

Click on icon for fife and drum music to hear National Anthem

Slide: 2

Introduction

Fifers and drummers were young people who played a major role in directing the Continental Army. Their job was to communicate orders from the commanding officers and also to serve as a morale booster.

When you look through some of the pictures of fifers and drummers on internet sites, you see images of older children maybe eight to eleven years old. You also see images of today's fifes and drums. Do these images match the historical record?

In our imagination what picture comes to mind of the militia in pre-Revolutionary War and the Revolutionary army at the beginning of the conflict. Picture that same army at the end of the war. The fifers and drummers were different in these situations. What does the historical record say?

Colonial America was different in many social aspects, even the ability to dance. Why was that different?

Many images come to mind when you think about fifers and drummers. Let's look at this history to see how fifers and drummers contributed to our independence as a nation and if the images in our minds are accurate.

Pre-Revolution War

Slide 3: Pre- Revolution War

1. Early 1607-1754 -Militia groups formed in individual towns to provide public safety but the towns were too poor to devote men solely to war. Militia was not trained in military skills or weaponry.
2. 1754-1763 French and Indian Wars- colonists joined British troops and learned from British military tactics and use of arms
3. After 1763- Britain maintained regular troops in America
4. Fifers and drummers included in every company of infantry. These positions were held by men.

Slide 4: Smoldering Anger with the British misrule

1. Boston Massacre- 5 Mar 1770- British soldiers while supporting a person being heckled, killed three persons and two died later of wounds.
2. Tea Party- 16 Dec 1773- Colonists disguised as Indians threw hundreds of chests of tea into the Boston harbor protesting taxes.
3. Stamp Act- 1765- Required printed materials to be produced on stamped paper produced in London- This act was repealed in 1768.

Slide 5:

Pre-War Preparation

Prepared for war as revolt brewed

- A. In 1775 militia was reorganized, sympathetic patriot leaders replaced Tory officers. Militia service began at age 16.
- B. Many Americans had gained experience from serving with the British regulars during the hostilities and now became prominent in the Revolution.
- C. Arms and powder were stocked and hidden.
- D. Minutemen formed- ready to respond at a minute's notice.
- E. Drums, fifes, colors and halberds were provided per Congress at the public's expense. Halberds were combined spear and battle ax.
- F. Anti-British pamphlets circulated- if caught colonists were accused of treason and could be jailed or hanged.

Slide 6

Recognition of Rank

The army at the beginning of the war was neither uniformed or trained. Differentiation of rank was needed so discipline and organization could be achieved.

Troops had no way of seeing well-disciplined troops or to become familiar with the European tactics. Troops had to learn through printed drill manuals.

Can you imagine reading a book about football and subsequently saying to the coach, "Oh, I am now ready to play football."

Slide 9:

Ages of Drummer and Fifer

The perception of childhood was a different in the 18th century. Children were responsible for various shores when working on the farms, with a printer or a blacksmith. If not physically capable of holding and firing a heavy musket, young people could be useful as musicians. Military service for a soldier began at age 16.

A study by John Rees compared the historical record and calculated the ages of fifers and drummers. His research looked at the age on the pension applications and from that information was able to determine the age of drummer or fifer at the time of service.

He found the average age of the drummers was 19 years old. If the youth was too small and became fatigued on the battlefield, this was a hinderance. If not able to hold a drum, could be a fifer.

In the same study, the average age of a fifer was 17 years old. There are rare accounts of fifers as young as 10 years, and some 12 to 14 years old but most were mature.

Between 14-18 years old, could join with parent's permission but this was not required till 1802.

Slide: 10

The Fife

Unlike this lacquered fife with metal at both ends

Crude made from beechwood, rosewood, boxwood and cocabola.

Fragile and tended to warp or crack and needed to be 'puttied up'.

As a result, fifes were then discarded.

Had no keys.

Slide 11

The Drum

Voice of the Commander

Purpose: 1. Conveyer of signals and orders 2. Morale Booster

Drums produce more volume and had greater carrying power.

Used because of low pitched sound

Display cardboard to visualize size of drum.

Size: 16 inches deep or high and 16 inches in diameter; trifle larger than military drum of today.

Rim was metal with ten drilled holes. Drummers would tighten the tension cords till the skin was taunt. Not mechanism at center of the cord.

Made of mahogany, cured maple and beechwood. Wood casings were easily damaged in battle.

The two snares used to play the drum were much thicker than those snares or 'sticks' of today.

Wooden panels displayed painted scenes of battles or rallying cries, like 'Don't Tread on Me'.

Drum Majors- were responsible for instructing, discipline and welfare of drummers. Drum Majors were senior to Fife Majors.

Fife Majors- same responsibilities.

Youth could be developed into fine drummers. From schools they were chosen from the most apt and then given a post. They were taught drum as soon as they could handle it.

Slide 12

The Drummers

Many drummers and fifers continued military life after their service as drummers and fifers.

Slide 13:

Position, Practice and Pay

1. Position: A. on battlefield, drummer to right of commanding officer and fifer to right of drummer.
B. Musicians were held in high esteem. Viewed as an honor.

Regarded as soft detail and rated additional pay.

Musicians were let off sentry duty and trench digging.

As a result, grown men became fifers and drummers but that changed when new order suitable musicians must be selected from troops already enlisted.

Negros, free Mulattos, or Indians could be musicians since prohibited from carrying arms.

2. Practice: in 1777, George Washington ordered hours (11-1pm) daily practice and any other time resulted in severe punishment. Also ordered Majors to improve music or Majors will have their pay decreased.

Showed importance of music as an order.

British army had fifers and drummers, this influence continued in America with fife and drum schools.

3. Pay: Pay rates: Infantry Privates: paid 8 & 1/3 dollars per month
Drummers & Fifers: paid 8 & 2/3 dollars per month.
Paid more than privates
Drummer Majors and Fifer Majors: 10 38/9 per month
Extra pay set aside for instrument repair

Boys below age of fourteen to be instructed by Drum Major and not to be paid as musicians, but as privates, until they could perform their duties

Slide 14:

Beats of the Drums

Fifers and Drummers were responsible for the everyday routines of the soldiers.

Used for signaling and regulating march of the troops

All companies depended on the drum for commands

1. **Reveille:** beat at daybreak signal to rise and sentries to leave off. Fifers played 6 or more tunes. Click on icon to hear music of Reveille played.
2. **The Troop:** at 8 am. Assemble together for purpose of calling the roll and inspecting the men for duty.
3. **Tattoo or Tappoo:** (now called Taps) at 9 pm to end the day. Initial meaning of Dutch phrase to shut the taps of casks and close business for the day.

4. **Retreat:** at sunset lasted 10-15 minutes for calling the roll. Also used when marching to the rear. Drummer beat retreat upon the ramparts ½ hour prior to the gates being shut to give notice to the townspeople.
5. **Parley:** used to signal to enemy a surrender or peace talk was desired. Drum alone used for surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.
6. **The March:** signal to advance – used in tactics for maintaining cadence of the troops. Used when troops to march forward.

Routine calls by Drummers only=

- a. **First call:** or Drummers call to gather musicians prior to the beating of any call.
- b. **Assembly:** After the General, to form their companies, form regimental line, and ready to march.
- c. **The General:** first four bars used to signal to cease fire **and** to warn army to move that day, substituted for Reveille as signal to rise, dress, and prepare themselves for the march. [Click on icon to hear music of The General.](#)
- d. **To Arms-** getting arms in case of alarm and prepare to fight. A long roll of continuous series of paired strokes rapidly executed on the drum.
- e. **Recall:**
- f. **First Sergeant's Call:** After dismissal from the Troop to assemble the first sergeants of each company for "orders".
- g. **Cease Fire**

Quick step: must be commanded, used only for turning movements or for changing positions. Step 120 steps, but troops often disregarded the music.

Today's march is quick step pace. Elite troops is double that time.

March pace: meant or ordinary step used at all times by the marching troops or 60 steps per minute.

Today, cadence has increased, all troops march at quickstep, elite march at double step.

Slide 15:

Lexington and Concord

19 April 1775

I remember a family friend, Mary Ranck, relating the story of Lexington. She was twelve years old in 1775. Mary said they called it 'the shot heard around the world' about the first conflict of the Revolutionary War.

A courier by the name of Paul Revere, the Boston silversmith, on a horse sighted two lanterns in the steeple of Old North Church which meant British were ferrying the river to Cambridge instead of coming by land; that would have been indicated by one beacon. Paul Revere ran to warn patriots John Hancock and Samuel Adams who had a price on their heads and would have been hung if caught by the British. They were able to escape capture riding in a chassis.

Mary said there was a Captain John Parker, a veteran of Roger's Rangers, commanding the Lexington militia. At midnight, he awakened drummer William Diamond and said, "Get Your Drum and come along".

William Diamond was nineteen years old and her first cousin. Her family as well as Will's family had conversations around the dinner table about their treatment by the British, especially the British army which had more troops in America now. Those relatives had decided if a conflict came, they would all join the fight against the British. Some of their neighbors felt differently. She remembers her Grandfather and their Grandfather came to this country at the same time and settled in Lexington and Concord. All those families thought of themselves as brothers, fellow Englishmen. To fight against them was a committed decision and it was very difficult.

William Diamond had been schooled as a fifer along with other youth his age, mostly sixteen to nineteen years old. But since he was considered most apt, he had been approached by the local patriots, including Captain John Parker, to be chosen when the conflict came. Some other fifers were also chosen to be used elsewhere since man power was in short supply to manage the arms.

William garbed his snares and tightened his cords so that the skin was taunt. He gathered at John Parker's right side in the village. Captain Parker couldn't see the British and he ordered them to return to their homes. Nothing happened that night but Captain John Parker commanded "go home and stay within the sound of the drum". But William couldn't sleep, he had never been in a battle and didn't know what to expect. He rested but was restless and ready to be called.

The next morning a scout reported to Captain Parker, "British are coming, whole shew of 'em". William was alerted. This time the Captain aroused, said "Where's that drummer. Good lad." Then "**Beat to Arms**" which was a signal for getting arms in case of alarm. This was a long roll and continuous series of paired strokes rapidly executed on the drum. Instantly this body of men were at their respective posts. Along with the meeting bell, the drum beat made the very air echo, 'to Arms, to Arms'.

Other drumbeats could be heard in the distance calling out the militia.

Then the fighting started and the reality of the battle set in. Their kinsfolk lay bleeding, being dragged to their homes to die.

William Diamond kept to the right side of Captain Parker, as he ordered "**Beat Assembly**" a signal for men to form their companies and regimental lines and get ready to march. Then "Drum and fife, sound "**the March**" and this was a signal to advance and also to maintain cadence.

The patriots were defeated at both battles of Lexington and Concord.

"What a sad day," Mary said.

From the memoirs of Elizabeth Harrington

Signed Elizabeth Harrington, 1801

[Click](#) on icon to [hear music](#) of Beat to Arms and Beat Assembly

Fictitious story written by Mary Ranck

Slide 16:

Battles of the Revolution

Who were the Americans fighting? British army, German mercenaries

Some Indian groups and American loyalists

History of Defeats: Lexington & Concord, Siege of Boston, Trenton, Long Island, Ticonderoga.

Then Saratoga Victory (Sep/Oct 1777) and turn of war.

Causes for a Turn of the War

1. Oct 1776- Congress sent Ben Franklin, John Adams and Arthur Lee to France- to negotiate & secure a formal alliance with France. 1778 “Treaty of Alliance” France backed military efforts till full independence from Great Britain. John Adams secured loans from the Dutch.
2. Feb 1778- Baron Friedrich Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge- adopted Prussian techniques
 - a. Lack of clothing
 - b. Some units understrength and irregular
 - c. Lack of standardized drill techniques
 - d. Poor equipment & ignorance of use
 - e. General lack of systemized organization

1784-1789- Thomas Jefferson in France—When asked, “are you here to replace Ben Franklin”? Jefferson, “No, Sir I succeed him; no one can replace him”.

Bright spot- France now sending muskets, powder and other supplies.

3. Recruitment tools-
 - a. Recruitment parades that were called “following the drum”.
 - b. Most apt or qualified fifers and drummers were recruited from the fife and drum schools.

- c. One of the major problems in recruitment was the fact that fellow colonists didn't want to fight against their brothers or fellow Englishmen.

Slide: 17

The Uniforms

Private and Drummer in 1781

1. Drummer has his drum over his back- carried over his shoulder by means of a drag rope.
Note: Order per George Washington: if drum is found in the baggage wagon, punishment is immediate flogging.
2. Dressed- more elaborately due to French infusion of money and the Dutch.
3. Tricorn black hat with feather- this allowed Captain to locate drummer, his signalman, quickly in smoke or confusion of the battle.
4. Carried short sword with a scimitar blade which is slightly tapered down straight of the blade until last third when it angles sharply and becomes deeper.
5. Ropes tightened down the drum.
6. Heavy sticks or called snares.
7. White wigs.
8. Waistcoats and Colonial coveralls.
9. Jacket (Red Regimental coats) with opposite color of cuffs and lapels usually blue.
10. Carried no gun- revealed to enemy no weapons and therefore no threat.
11. Not shown- probably a water canteen and halberd which is a spear and battle ax.

Slide: 18

“Yanky Dudel”

[Click](#) on icon to [hear music](#) of Yankee Doodle Dandy

Yankee Doodle went to town

A-Riding on a pony

Stuck a feather in his cap

And called it “macaroni”.

CHORUS:

Yankee Doodle keep it up

Yankee Doodle Dandy

Mind the music and the step

And with the girls be handy

And there was Captain Washington

Upon a slapping stallion

Giving orders to his men

I guess there were a million.

Pro- British—c.1775

Yankee Doodle came to town

For to buy a firelock

We will tar and feather him

And so we will John Hancock.

National Pride Song by 1781

Yankee Doodle is a tune

That comes in mighty handy

The enemy all runs away at

Yankee Doodle Dandy.

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Yankee Doodle Dandy

Resource: Mooney, Mark 4 Jul 2014 “Yankee Doodle Dandy Explained and Other Revolutionary Facts.”

From ABC News retrieved 6 May 2016.

Source: NPR newscast: Reason Behind the Rhyme: ‘Yankee Doodle’ October 22, 2005 12:00 AM ET

Yankee Doodle – Wikipedia

Tradition places this song in pre-Revolutionary War originally sung by British military officers.

Yankee Doodle went to town

Riding on a little pony

He stuck a feather in his cap

And called it Macaroni

Chorus: Yankee Doodle keep it up

Yankee Doodle Dandy

Mind the music and your step

And with the girls be handy.

The origin of the work **Yankee**. There are several theories but the prevailing theory is that was a dismissive reference by the British towards Americans colonists and the **Dutch** origins of many northeast settlers. It is believed to be a **corruption of Janke or little Jan**, a common Dutch name.

A **doodle** is derived from the Low German **dudel** meaning “playing music badly” or **Dodel** meaning fool or simpleton.

The phrase “**stuck a feather in his hat** and called it macaroni” implied that backwoods bumpkins could put a feather in their coonskin hats and think they were as elegant as European in the latest Italian style—the “macaroni”. **Dandies** were men who placed particular importance upon physical appearance.

Chorus: Sung predominantly by the British as a reminder to our American friends that dance steps in Europe and in America, the colonies, were different. To check to see if doing the steps right and holding the girl in the correct way.

Consider the influence of religious groups such as the early Puritans of Boston and Pilgrims of Plymouth or the Mennonite groups in Pennsylvania who were accustomed to singing hymns and psalms. Instrumental music with use of violins, fiddles, flutes or horns was considered to be worldly by these groups.

In some other colonies, the general conditions were not conducive to music or arts including dancing.

So in reference to the chorus, boys stepping on girl's feet or missteps maybe wasn't far from the truth.

During Revolutionary War, sung by rebels or patriots as a song of defiance and they added verses mocking the British troops and hailing the Commander of the Continental Army, George Washington. By 1781, Yankee Doodle had turned into a song of national pride. Yankee Doodle – Wikipedia

Slide: 20

General Rochambeau Honored French Commander

The Allies kept a rendezvous in the summer of 1782 at King's Ferry in New York along the Hudson River.

A tribute to Count Rochambeau along with George Washington to honor the French contribution to the war.

The French had made possible the now fully uniformed and equipped Continental Army.

On horseback, both men paraded through the lines as skilled fifers and drummers played French tunes.

Slide 21:

Alexander Millener

George Washington's drummer boy

1760-1865

Too young to enlist for service he enlisted as drummer and was attached to George Washington's Life Guard.

His mother accompanied the army as washerwoman to be near the boy. He died at age 105 at end of Civil War.

After serving as drummer, his military career included battles of White Plains, Brandywine, Saratoga, Monmouth and Yorktown. Served in Navy for five years and through the War of 1812.

Only a handful of veterans of Revolutionary War that lived long enough to be photographed.

Quote of George Washington at camp and Lady Washington.

It is interesting to note that George Washington used the term, 'boys' and this may have contributed to the legacy of viewing the drummers and fifers as older children rather than young men.

Slide 22

Fifers and Drummers mustered out

Musicians kept their instruments after the Revolutionary War.

Alexander Millener's drum was given to Hervey Eli Chapter House in Rochester, New York and is maintained by the Irondequoit Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Other drums hung on the walls of homes, sometimes taken down to be played at family gatherings, community parades, or to summon a town meeting

Continental Army was completely disbanded in 1784.

Fifes and Drums were not used again in a military setting until the War of 1812. In subsequent battles such as War with Mexico, Civil War and Indian Wars they were used along with the introduction of the bugle. Not until World War I did the fifes and drums become obsolete.

Slide 23

Voices of Fifes and Drums

These voices propelled this disregarded fledgling Continental Army to triumph over the powerful British Army.

Fifes and Drums were heard above the firing of the guns, the smoke in the air, and the confusion of the battle.

Objectives

1. Pick out two drum signals and what those commands signified.
2. Distinguish between the term boy and the average age of the fifers and drummers.
3. Compare size of Revolutionary drum to snare drum of today.
4. Describe the difference between the Revolutionary fife and today's fife.
5. Interpret General Washington's order of placement of drum when not marching.
6. List the role of Negros, free Mulattos, and Indians in the Revolutionary War.
7. Distinguish the rank of the Generals.
8. Explain the role of Paul Revere in the battle of Lexington.
9. List the American allies in the Revolutionary War.
10. Define the colonies of the American Revolution.
11. List an influence that fueled the revolt against British misrule.
12. Recognize why Alexander Milliner was distinguished.
13. Describe the uniform of the drummers.
14. Indicate what doodle meant in the song Yankee Doodle Dandy.
15. List two influences that may have contributed to poor dancing performance of soldiers.
16. Define the era when the fife and drum became obsolete.

17. Identify the probable reason for use of younger men for fifers and drummers during decreased recruitment.

18. Select the battle of the Revolutionary War that signaled a turn of the war to Patriot victory.

Quiz for Fife and Drum

1. Reveille was played
 - a. exclusively by the British
 - b. by the drum alone and no fife
 - c. for soldiers to rise and sentries to leave off
 - d. at 9 pm
2. Taptoo originally meant
 - a. turn the taps of casks off and close the business day
 - b. played at funerals, now called Taps
 - c. being played by fife only
 - d. played with fife and drum at daybreak
3. Fife used in Revolutionary War was
 - a. longer than today's fife
 - b. reinforced by metal at both ends
 - c. used because of low pitch
 - d. easily warped and then discarded
4. Drum used in Revolutionary War was
 - a. same size as military drum of today
 - b. used because of low pitch
 - c. used with one snare
 - d. always kept taunt and ready to be played
5. General George Washington ordered drums to be carried when not used in marching and ordered that
 - a. no drum to be transported on the food wagon
 - b. drummer could be discharged from army if drum found on supply wagon
 - c. immediate flogging if drum on supply wagon
 - d. lose military pension if drum not carried during march
6. Negros, free Mulattos, and Indians could
 - a. not carry fire arms
 - b. used as soldiers but could not be musicians
 - c. not allowed to be fifers
 - d. not be in the Continental Army

7. The average age of drummers was
 - a. 40-50 years old
 - b. 19 years old
 - c. less than 12 years old
 - d. over 25 years old
8. Continental soldiers were not adept at dancing because
 - a. too busy with army duties
 - b. not allowed when serving in the army
 - c. religious influences and colony social environment
 - d. cost of the dances
9. Fife and drum units became obsolete
 - a. at the end of the Revolutionary War
 - b. during the Civil War
 - c. at the beginning of World War I
 - d. at the end of the Korean War
10. Revolutionary General's rank was distinguished by
 - a. colored sashes worn over the breast
 - b. a brown feather in his hat
 - c. riding on a white horse
 - d. a red cockade in his hat
11. Paul Revere warned
 - a. that the British are coming by land
 - b. that the Patriots are coming to attack the British
 - c. that troops were coming by sea
 - d. John Adams to leave Lexington
12. Patriot allies in the Revolutionary War included
 - a. France and Germany
 - b. Iroquois Indians
 - c. Spain and German
 - d. France and Netherland
13. Colonies of the Revolutionary War included
 - a. all eastern states except Maine since it was so far north
 - b. Texas
 - c. Louisiana and all states up to the Mississippi river
 - d. thirteen eastern states

14. British misrule that fueled the Revolutionary War revolt included
 - a. the Stamp Act
 - b. prohibition of dances
 - c. no funding for fife and drum schools
 - d. institution of slavery
15. Alexander Milliner distinguished himself as
 - a. the youngest fifer in the Revolutionary War
 - b. living until World War I
 - c. George Washington's drummer boy
 - d. being hanged as a spy
16. By 1781, the uniform of drummers included
 - a. opposite colored jacket and opposite colored cuffs and lapels from Continental Army soldiers
 - b. guns worn on each hip
 - c. colored sashes that attached to the drum
 - d. a Bowie knife
17. In the song Yankee Doodle, doodle meant
 - a. being very nimble and could dance
 - b. simpleton or fool
 - c. placing importance on physical appearance
 - d. soldier was of Dutch ethnic group
18. The drum signal Parley meant
 - a. begin to fight
 - b. start marching
 - c. retreat into the woods
 - d. desire to conference with the enemy or "truce"
19. Quick step was used to
 - a. turn troops in a different direction
 - b. march at 120-160 steps per minute
 - c. retreat at a fast pace
 - d. march at 60 steps per minute

20. The battle of the Revolutionary War that signaled a turn of the war to Patriot victory

- a. Saratoga in Sep/Oct 1777
- b. Lexington and Concord in 19 Apr 1775
- c. Yorktown and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis
- d. Ticonderoga in 10 May 1777

Key to questions:

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. C
- 10.A
- 11.C
- 12.D
- 13.D
- 14.A
- 15.C
- 16.A
- 17.B
- 18.D
- 19.A
- 20.A