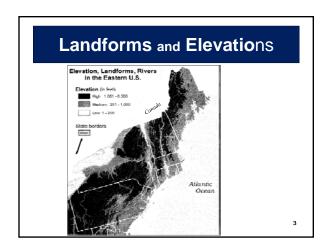
MILITARY GEOGRAPHY An Historical Geography of NYS: Strategic Location Prof. Anthony Grande

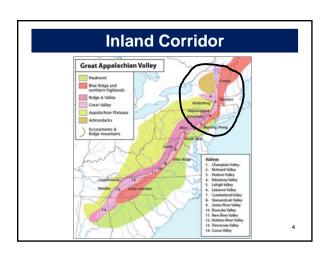
Military Geography

 Exercise 12 (REQUIRED) explores the interrelationship between the physical landscape and places in NYS that have important military significance in American military history.

> French and Indian Wars American Revolution War of 1812

> > 2









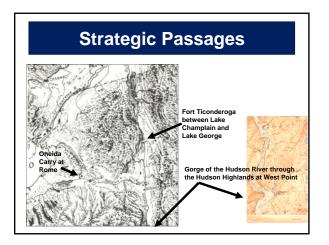
Strategic Passages

- Geography (terrain, weather, climate and culture) plays an important role in planning and execution of battle plans.
- The location of routes and passages as well as bottlenecks and areas of unimpeded movement have always been important. Control of these areas have been the goal of strategists.
- Among the most important strategic sites in America in the 1700s are 3 sites in NYS:

the Oneida Carry at Rome,

Fort Ticonderoga between Lake Champlain and Lake George

the Gorge of the Hudson at West Point.



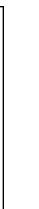
Site of

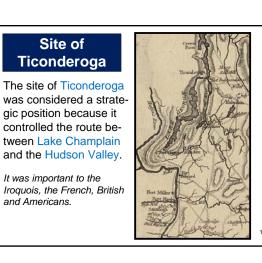
Ticonderoga

It was important to the

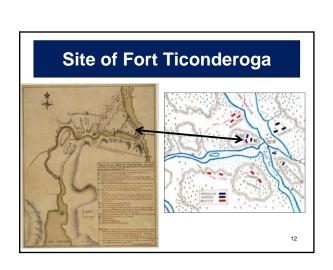
and Americans.

Oneida Carry THE ONEIDA CARRY ca. 1755





Site of Fort Ticonderoga Lake George ake Champlain



Site of Fort Ticonderoga



Control of this site meant control of all travel between Canada and New York Harbor.

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NY and the American Revolution

July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence is signed in Philadelphia.

Great Britain controlled the seas. The Royal Navy quickly blockaded all primary colonial ports and controlled coastal traffic.

August 22-30, 1776

Battle of Long Island (Brooklyn) for control of New York Harbor

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NYC and the American Revolution



NYC was quickly secured by the British and remained under British control throughout the Revolution.

15

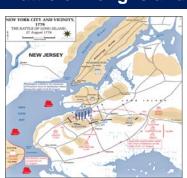
NYC and the American Revolution

The Battle of Long Island was fought across Kings County (Brooklyn) from Gravesend Bay to "The Heights" to the ferry crossing at the original village of Brooklyn.

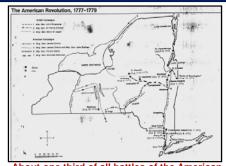


6

Battle of Long Island



NY and the American Revolution



About one third of all battles of the American Revolution were fought on New York soil.

18

NY and the American Revolution

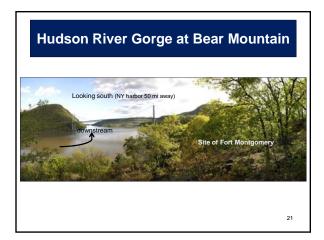
- The British attempted to end the war by splitting the colonies in half.
- Gen. Howe moves north from NYC.
- Col. St. Leger moves east from Oswego.
- Gen. Burgoyne moves south from Montreal.
- All were to meet at Albany in victory!

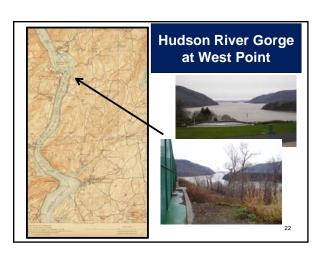


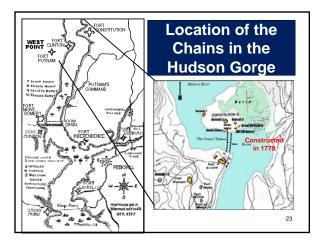
What Happened?

- · Howe never made it past West Point.
- Americans controlled the Hudson Highlands.
 Because of the S-shape of the Hudson there,
 British ships had to slow down.
- The Americans put an iron chain across the river to block passage.
- Howe retreated to NYC, not able to deliver supplies to Burgoyne.

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What Happened?

- St. Leger never made it past Rome.
- British and Indian forces moving into the Mohawk Valley encountered a large American militia at Oriskany.
- After one of the bloodiest battles of the war and with false rumors present, the Indian forces disengaged.
- St. Leger retreated to Oswego.

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Considered to be a significant turning point in the War of Independence, the Battle of Oriskany, fought on August 6, 1777, has been described as one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

What Happened?

- Burgoyne never made it past Saratoga.
- · Meeting much militia resistance as his force moved south, dealing with bad weather, and running low on supplies, Burgoyne was forced to surrender after the second battle of Saratoga.
- · This defeat convinced France to join the war on the American side.

Battle of Saratoga





American victory at Saratoga is considered one of the most important events that changed world history.

The Aftermath

- After the Battle of Saratoga (1777), only the area south of Bear Mountain, including NYC, remained under British control.
- The New England Colonies were linked to the Middle and Southern Colonies via inland routes. Food and manufactured goods were exchanged.
- Only one other battle (1779) was fought in NY.
- Revolutionary War ends in 1781.

War of 1812

