Nebraska Social Studies/History Standards
8.1.3 Students will describe key people, events, and ideas from colonial America.

- Describe life in the colonies in the 18th century from the perspectives of Native Americans, large landowners, farmers, artisans, women, and slaves.
- Identify key individuals and events in the American Revolution, e.g., King George, Lord North, Lord Cornwallis, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Paine.

Lesson theme:

The students will be assigned a person or place that took place during the American Revolution. The students will research their assigned theme and find at least ten facts and fill out attached worksheet. Also, the students will be responsible to name two primary documents related to their assigned person or place where accurate information would have been obtained.

Day One: Each student will be assigned to research a topic from the American Revolutionary Era using the computer lab and fill out worksheet provided.

Warm-Up:

What is the difference between a primary and a secondary document? Groups of 4 will brainstorm examples of each.

Primary Document: These are contemporary accounts of an event, written by someone who experienced or witnessed the event in question. These original documents (i.e., they are not about another document or account) are often diaries, letters, memoirs, journals, speeches, manuscripts, interviews and other such unpublished works. They may also include published pieces such as newspaper or magazine articles (as long as they are written soon after the fact and not as historical accounts), photographs, audio or video recordings, research reports in the natural or social sciences, or original literary or theatrical works.

Secondary Document: The function of these is to interpret primary sources, and so can be described as at least one step removed from the event or phenomenon under review. Secondary source materials, then, interpret, assign value to, conjecture upon, and draw conclusions about the events reported in primary sources. These are usually in the form...
of published works such as journal articles or books, but may include radio or television documentaries, or conference proceedings. The student textbook is a secondary document.

Lesson:

Students will choose one of the following persons or places during the American Revolution and research facts using the following websites. The students will fill out the worksheet provided and write down facts about their person or place. The students must cite the websites used.

**American Revolution Themes:**

George Washington
Martha Washington
Philis Wheatley
Thomas Jefferson
John Adams
Abigail Adams
Benjamin Franklin
Patrick Henry
John Hancock
A Minuteman
Paul Revere
American flag with 13 stars
Marquis de Lafayette
Continental Soldier
Betsy Ross
Benjamin Franklin’s kite
Websites for students to use for research:

http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/web/amrevol.html

http://ushistory.org

http://www.loc.gov/index.html

http://www.gilderlehrman.org/

http://www.kidinfo.com/american_history/american_revolution.html

http://library.ucsc.edu/help/howto/distinguish-between-primary-and-secondary-sources

Research Worksheet

Name: ____________________________ Date: __________

American Revolution Fact Sheet on ____________________________

Name two primary documents you could use to find information on this person or place:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Facts: ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Day 2:

Lesson:

Using the facts collected the students will use a black outline picture of their topic from the American Revolutionary Era. The student will place the black outline picture of their person, place or thing and with a plain white piece of paper over it, trace the facts along the black lines of the picture. (Examples attached).

The final product will be a picture of their person, place, or thing created using the facts of the same. The students will be amazed at the likeness of their historical person or place.
Websites for black outline pictures of people and places:

http://www.usa-printables.com/People/

http://www.apples4theteacher.com/coloring-pages/american-history/revolutionary-war/

http://www.apples4theteacher.com/coloring-pages/american-history/revolutionary-war/index2.html

Materials Needed:

Blank paper

Pencil

Research sheet

Picture of American Revolutionary person, place or thing.

(Two examples have been included in this lesson plan.)
Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790

by Chris Jacobsen
Our first president was George Washington. 1732-1799.
By flying a kite in a thunderstorm he proved that lightning was electricity.