

Hunter College of the City University of New York
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

Extra Credit Exercise 7
Military Geography of NYS

Due no later than the Midterm exam.

The purpose of this exercise is to explore the nature of the relationship between the physical landscape and places in NYS that have important military significance in American history.

In the mid-1700s New York became part of a struggle for global superiority between Britain and France that spread from Europe and to America. During the American Revolution, New York was the site of over one-third of the battles fought between American and British forces. A geographic analysis of a region (site and situation) helps us to understand how existing characteristics become strategically important when placed within the context of the culture, economy, politics, military exploits and the technological ability of the people at a specific point in time.

The 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 is being commemorated. There special events in upstate New York areas have been scheduled. Consult the I Love New York web site..

ASSIGNMENT:

Consult the French and Indian War, American Revolution and War of 1812 maps on the course homepage in addition to the web pages listed on this exercise. Look at the location of forts and battlefields in light of their geographic site and situation. Why was the place important? What relationship did this place have to the larger region? How did control or the ability (or inability) to pass through an area influence history? What was the purpose of the alliances between the Indian nations and the French or English and later the Americans?

1. **Visit the following web sites.** You are to focus on the nature of site and situation at historically significant locations for the time period. Surf through the various links. View the photographs. Read the descriptions.
 - a) www.hudsonrivervalley.org (click on **SITE INDEX** on the side bar, then **THEMES**, then **AMERICAN REVOLUTION**, then **AMERICAN REVOLUTION LINKS** at the bottom of the page).
 - b) <http://independencetrail.org/index.html> (click on **THE COUNTIES** and **STORIES** at the bottom)
 - c) www.historiclakes.org/contents.htm (click on the **lake names** and **images**; scroll to bottom of the page.)

These web sites have links to other web sites, some of which are listed on page 2

2. a) From each of the following areas below, select one militarily significant site located within it:

AREA 1 - Lake Champlain-Lake George-Saratoga

AREA 2 - Lower Hudson Valley-New York City

AREA 3 - Niagara Frontier-Lake Ontario-Mohawk Valley

b) For the site selected within Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3 **briefly describe the geographic importance of each site as a battle location or strategic defensive location of a fort within the context of its place in history** (the French and Indian Wars or the American Revolution or the War of 1812). **NOTE:** You will provide three separate descriptions.

c) Print and attach a **map of the battle site or defensive location** to each description (provide 3 maps total). *Be sure the map is readable and shows the strategic location being discussed. Annotate the map by hand if necessary.*

Some other web addresses:

www.revolutionaryday.com/nyroute5/oriskany

www.nps.gov/sara

www.fwhmuseum.com/archaeology.html

www.fort-ticonderoga.org/

www.nps.gov/npnh/index.htm

www.oldfortniagara.org

www.nysparks.com/historic-sites/

www.nps.gov/fost

www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/starks/starkone.html

www.nysm.nysed.gov/Warof1812/

www.usma.edu/visiting.asp

www.historiclakes.org/towns/whitehall_gallery.htm