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A GUIDE FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

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What would the tent say if it could talk?

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TODAY AT THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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TOUCH the big portrait of King George III and a real piece of a Liberty Tree in these galleries. In the 1760s, George III was the king of Great Britain but also the British colonies. If you disagreed with him, you might gather with your friends under a Liberty Tree.

MEET Israel Trask, who was eleven years old when he encountered George Washington! He is the boy wearing a red coat in the snowball fight. What was he doing with the Continental Army?

In 1775, Americans still thought they were British, so wearing red was ok. Can you find another red coat in this gallery? Pretty soon, Americans had to invent new uniforms for their new army. Can you find one on the other side of the room from the red coat?

What would you wear if you were heading off to the Revolutionary War?

COME ABOARD the privateer ship! Smell the tarred rope and lift a cannonball on your way around. You can touch, hear, and explore everything on this ship. Ask the Museum educator who is on board all your questions about cannons, ropes, sailor food, and what’s inside the sea chest!

Would you have liked living on a privateer ship? Write a letter home from sea.

MEET London Pleasants, who ran away from slavery in Virginia in 1781. He joined the British Army as a trumpeter (someone who used his instrument to send orders and signal troops). Why did London join the British Army? You can find out and learn about four other African Americans in the storybook touchscreens called “Finding Freedom.” What is London saying to the people on the other side of the fence?

WALK among the Oneida Indian figures in this film. You can even touch them!

Watch the film. What are the Oneida talking about?

EXPERIENCE the “Field of Battle” theater, where you can march into the Battle of Brandywine with Continental soldiers! But wait, you’re unarmed and untrained! Before you go in, ask the educator about the weapons in the “Arms of Independence” case to learn how to drill like a soldier.

Would you have liked being a soldier in the Revolutionary War?

WATCH the Ongoing Revolution Film. Why is the American Revolution important to us today?

Draw yourself in the mirror – how will you be the Revolution?

MEET camp followers, the people who waited for and traveled with armies during the Revolutionary War. Moving is hard, and if you followed an army in the Revolutionary War you might only be able to take a few small toys like the ones in the large red case. These belonged to real British kids during the Revolutionary War. See if you can find a camp follower girl in the next room.

What would you take with you if you had to travel with the army? Fill your knapsack with drawings. Remember, you have to carry it all, so it shouldn’t be too heavy.

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WATCH the Ongoing Revolution Film. Why is the American Revolution important to us today? Draw yourself in the mirror – how will you be the Revolution?

TOUCH the objects along the wall as you enter this gallery. Feel the dents from cannonballs in the large cast of a stone marker from Massachusetts. Sit in the “Rising Sun” chair and try your hand at needlework like children did in the 1790s.

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What would the tent say if it could talk?

Decorate the tent and add furniture inside!

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