

The People Between: *Native Americans* *in a Revolutionary Era*

More than 250,000 Native Americans lived east of the Mississippi River during the Revolutionary era. They formed more than eighty nations and spoke dozens of languages. The decades of political turmoil and warfare that divided Great Britain and its colonies and led to the creation of the United States profoundly affected native people.

*Explore their stories
throughout the Museum.*

A Diverse Continent

The map of North America in 1763

includes the names and locations of many American Indian nations in the lands claimed by European powers at the beginning of the 1760s. Use the flip doors to learn about native people and their relationship to King George III.

Rule Britannia! 1760-1765

Frontier Politics

The silver treaty medals, engraved powder horn, and reproduction wampum belt

illustrate the complex political and diplomatic relations between Native American nations and the British Crown in the 1760s. Watch the short film to find out how a war between Britain and France just a few years earlier shaped British and colonial American attitudes toward the native peoples living west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The Price of Victory

See reverse for more!



*"Good Peter," Chief of the Oneida Indians
(ca. 1717-1793), by John Trumbull, 1792,
Yale University Art Gallery*

Debating Independence

The **Season of Independence** interactive explores how the diverse peoples living in eastern North America discussed and debated the dangers and benefits of declaring American Independence in 1776. Can you find a Native American character expressing an opinion on this subject? Nearby, look for **original documents** that explore how the “people between” viewed the Independence movement.

The Promise of Equality

A National Decision

The **Oneida Nation Theater** transports you back to early 1777, as you stand in the midst of men and women of the Oneida nation. With British and Revolutionary leaders calling on them for military support, the Oneida nation, like dozens of other American Indian communities, must make a decision. Which strategy to preserve Oneida independence would you have followed?

Oneida Nation Theater

Winter Warriors

Can you find the delegation of Oneida and other Native American fighters in the **Valley Forge Mural** who traveled hundreds of miles on foot and horseback to assist General Washington and the army at Valley Forge? On May 20, 1778, they fought alongside Revolutionary forces at the nearby Battle of Barren Hill and lost six Oneida fighters.

Winter Patriots 1777-1778

Defending the Ohio Country

Watch the object theater to learn how American Indian nations in the Ohio Valley worked together to protect their lands from invasion by Revolutionary forces. The **British trade rifle, silver hilted sword, and pipe tomahawk** were used by Native American and Loyalist forces during the Revolutionary War. During the bloody year that followed the surrender at Yorktown, American Indians inflicted a series of military defeats on American troops.

From Yorktown to Independence

Fracturing the Confederacy

What happened to the Iroquois Confederacy following the Revolutionary War? Learn about the Seneca leader **Ki-On-Twog-Ky (Cornplanter)** and touch a reproduction **wampum belt** similar to those used to record agreements and speeches delivered in councils.

Unfinished Victories

A Veteran View

In the Museum’s final gallery, you can look into the eyes of an American Indian veteran of the Revolutionary War. **Thaonawyuthe** (known as Chainbreaker) fought alongside Loyalists and Native American against revolutionaries and Oneida Indian warriors at the 1777 Battle of Oriskany. He sat for this rare daguerreotype (an early form of photography) before his death in 1859.

Revolutionary Generation in Photographs

Detail of reproduction wampum belt

