Find the Tories:
An Erskine Map Escape Room
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Interactive Primary Source Discovery

A short activity for a small group which creates a fresh and personal experience of the local community during the Revolutionary War.

Uses primary source document based discovery to show:

- The Revolutionary War is something experienced in our community, it “happened here”.
- Our community was divided in its approaches to the crisis of how to make the government change in response to their needs. There were “Tories” and “Whigs” and “fence sitters” in every town.
- The Revolution is not just about famous founding fathers and the Continental Army. The local population, especially the militia, had an important role in formation of the nation.

Primary documents drawn upon:
- A period map
- Sheriff’s crime report
- Revolutionary War pension stories
- Papers of George Washington
- Iron Act & Gov. Clinton’s response
- Court of Common pleas evidence
- John Hathorn’s letters to Clinton

Other curriculum connections:
- Role of geography & natural resources in movements of people and effects on history.

Pre-activity: The group has a “secret vote” (putting their choices on paper ballots) for these positions:

1. This government will never work for us. We must create something new, no matter what the cost.
2. We must work within the current system to achieve change. If we do not there will be suffering and chaos.

At the end of the locked room, open the ballot box & discuss.

A Thinglink image of any map showing key locations or person begins the discovery process. Tapping a link pulls up a document-based “clue” which can be expanded.

The clues lead to props containing solutions/answers, and some props also give one of the digits corresponding to a combination lock on a small cash box.

Once the group has cycled through the clues, they now know which persons or locations are connected to Tories.

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