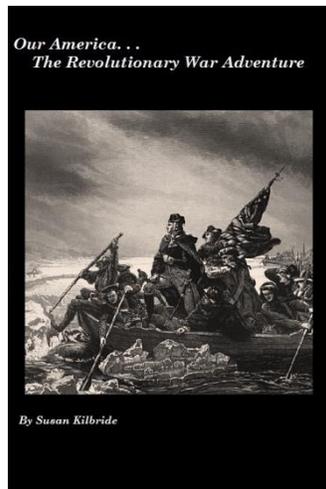


# Activities to Accompany: *The Revolutionary War Adventure* By Susan Kilbride



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These activities are designed to accompany the book *The Revolutionary War Adventure*, but they can be used for any unit study on Colonial times.

## **The Revolutionary War Adventure**

Join Finn and Ginny as they continue to search back in time to find their lost parents. In the previous three books in the series, Finn and Ginny adventured with the Pilgrims, survived the horrors of King Philip's War, and lived through the Salem Witch Trials. In their fourth adventure, they find themselves caught up in the events of the Revolutionary War.

The *Our America* books are designed to teach the stories of United States history in such a fun way that the reader won't even realize that they're educational. *The Revolutionary War Adventure* is based on actual accounts written by the people who lived through the war. Ages 10 and up.

Susan Kilbride is a home educator who realized that the best way to teach history wasn't by using standard text books but by telling the stories of the people who lived it. For more information on Susan and her books, visit her website at: <http://funtasticunitstudies.com/>

The *Revolutionary War Adventure* is available at Amazon at the following link:

[http://www.amazon.com/The-Revolutionary-Adventure-America-Volume/dp/1494353431/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1389020912&sr=8-3&keywords=susan+kilbride](http://www.amazon.com/The-Revolutionary-Adventure-America-Volume/dp/1494353431/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1389020912&sr=8-3&keywords=susan+kilbride)

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## **Praise for Books in the Our America Series**

*When I first informed my 10-year-old that I had a new book for her to read for school, she let out a sigh combined with a look like, "Oh, great! . . . That means something I won't enjoy." Little did she know that an exciting journey awaited her. She began reading and within the first chapter informed me that she already loved the book! She was taken away into a world of adventure seeking to discover a mystery. . . . Thank you, Susan Kilbride, for the fantastic opportunity to teach my children about their rich heritage and to keep them excited about learning more.*

**Tammy Wollner, author of Keeping His Way Pure**

*My 11-year-old son, who has no desire to learn from a textbook about the pilgrims and memorize boring dates, eagerly read The Pilgrim Adventure. A living book, The Pilgrim Adventure combines real facts with some fiction to make the subject more appealing.*

**Tina from Newbeehomeschooler.com**

*You cannot go wrong with an adventure with Finn and Ginny!*

**Richele McFarlin from Families.com**

*This series is great for kids who loved the Magic Tree House series but are now looking for books targeted to slightly older children. Written for upper elementary-aged kids, this book includes two likable main characters who love history.*

**Pamela from the Lavish Book Shelf**

*Susan knows what homeschoolers are looking for and delivers that in her books.*

**Heidi Johnson from Homeschool-how-to.com**

*Never mind the mind-numbing and biased textbooks to learn history. You and your children will learn more from reading Ms. Kilbride's books and be far more entertained as well.*

**Gail Nagasako, author of Homeschooling Why and How**

*I love how Finn and Ginny become a part of the story and participate in the unfolding of the pilgrims' experiences when they arrive at Plymouth. I found myself, while reading it, forgetting that it was also educational! An especially nice fact about this book is that the author obviously knows her facts on the Pilgrims and Mayflower. . . . She very effectively brings these people to life in an interesting way for the reader.*

**Joy from homeschoolliterature.com**

*Susan Kilbride, homeschool mother and author, has done it again! The Pilgrim Adventure is Susan's first book in her new Our America series, and it is a wonderful way to involve kids of all ages in learning about early America. . . . The storyline involves homeschooled twins, Finn and Ginny, in a search for their missing parents. This fantastic search lands the twins aboard the Mayflower and eventually the new land. Mystery and adventure keep your attention while historical facts are seamlessly woven into the story.*

**Jackie from Quaint Scribbles**

*Thank you Ms. Kilbride. This captivating book is a keeper to add to our early American time period.*

**Tina Robertson from New Beginnings**

## Materials Needed for this Unit

Dried raspberry leaves (or a substitute to make tea with)

A tea strainer

Sugar

Shortening

1 Egg

Molasses

Flour

Baking soda

Powdered ginger

A 9 x 9 inch cake pan

1 1/2 pounds of flour/student

1 pound of beef or fish/student

3/4 pound of pork or bacon/student

1/2 pint of peas or beans/student

1/4 pint of cider/student

A piece of yarn or twine that is about 3 feet long

Root Beer extract (If you can't find it at your local grocery store, you can purchase it online from Amazon, or you could test other flavors from the grocery store.)

Carbonated water

40 Bamboo skewers

Black, Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow paint

A large paper clip

Wire cutters

Needle-nosed pliers

Access to the internet is helpful

## Activity 1: Balsamic Hyperion

When the colonists boycotted tea from England, they started drinking tea substitutes such as balsamic hyperion, a tea made from dried raspberry leaves. Find some dried raspberry leaves at a natural foods store and have your students make balsamic hyperion by boiling some water and seeping the leaves in it using a tea strainer. If you can't find raspberry leaves, you can substitute some other type of herb tea.

If you would like to have a "Revolutionary War Tea Party," you could make the following ginger bread recipe to go along with your tea. The early colonists would have used pearl ash (potassium carbonate) instead of baking soda in their ginger bread.

### Revolutionary Ginger Bread

1/2 C Sugar	1 1/2 C Flour
1/2 C Shortening	1 t soda
1 Egg	1 t powdered ginger
1 C hot water	1/2 C molasses

Cream the shortening and the sugar together. Then mix in everything but the flour. Finally, add the flour. Grease a 9 x 9 inch cake pan and pour the mixture into the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

## Activity 2: Making Root Beer

Finn and Ginny met Samuel Adams during their Revolutionary War adventure. Samuel Adams owned a brewery. However, he wasn't a particularly successful brewer, possibly because he spent so much of his time with politics. Tell your students that when most people think of a brewery they think of making beer or ale, but a favorite children's drink, root beer, is also brewed. You can make a simple root beer without brewing it by using root beer extract.

### Simple Homemade Root Beer

1 C water	1 1/2 t root beer extract
1 1/2 C white sugar	1 liter cold carbonated water

Mix the water and sugar in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Add the root beer extract and remove from heat. Cool the mixture until you can pour it into a pitcher and then place it in the refrigerator. Once the mixture is cold, slowly mix it with the carbonated water and serve.

### Activity 3: The Concord Hymn

Below is a copy of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem about the Battle of Concord. Read it with your students and talk about what it means. Why do your students think Emerson called the first shot fired at Concord, "the shot heard round the world"?

Go online and search for a photo of the Concord monument. Emerson wrote this poem for its dedication. Have your students try and write a similar type of poem.

#### Concord Hymn by Ralph Waldo Emerson

##### Sung at the Completion of the Battle Monument in 1837

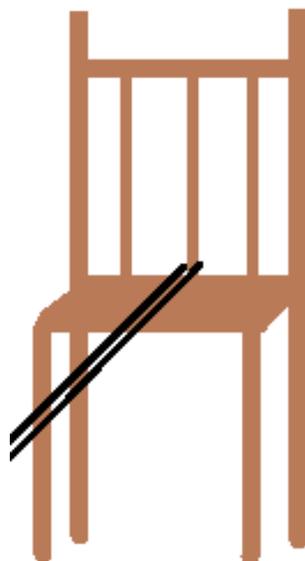
By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
 Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
 Here once the embattled farmers stood  
 And fired the shot heard round the world.  
 The foe long since in silence slept;  
 Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;  
 And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
 Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.  
 On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
 We set to-day a votive stone;  
 That memory may their deed redeem,  
 When, like our sires, our sons are gone.  
 Spirit, that made these heroes dare  
 To die, and leave their children free,  
 Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
 The shaft we raise to them and thee.

### Activity 4: Making Rope

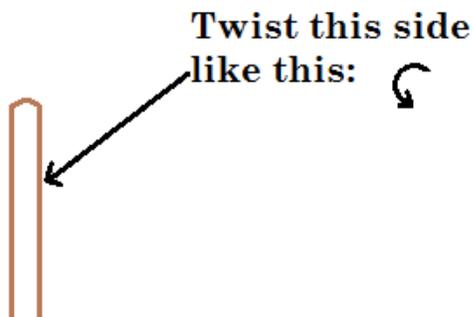
When Finn and Ginny arrived in the middle of the battle on Breed's Hill, Uncle Elias tossed them a rope to climb. Tell your students that rope-making was a very important skill during colonial times. There were special areas called *Ropewalks* where hemp fibers were twisted into rope. The hemp was first soaked, cleaned, and stretched. Then it was spun into yarn. At the ropewalk, the lengths of yarn were twisted together to make rope. You can do an internet search of the word "Ropewalk" to see the various types of ropewalks that existed.

There are all kinds of devices for making rope, but you can make a simple cord yourself with just a length of twine or yarn. Take about three feet of yarn or twine and wrap it

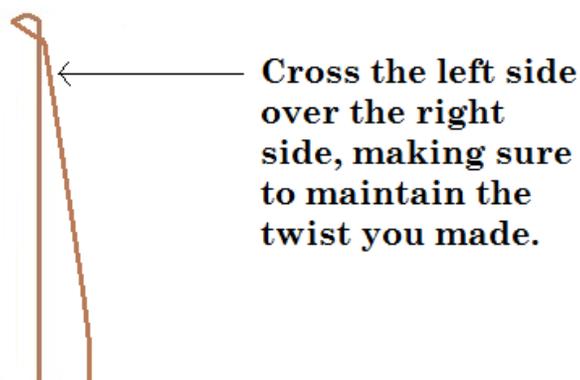
around the rungs of a chair or something similar. (You can even do it around your big toe if you like!)



Hold the yarn with both hands up near the chair rung, holding the right side of the yarn with your right hand, between your thumb and forefinger. Hold the left side of the yarn with your left hand. Now, using your thumb and forefinger, give the yarn in your right hand a counter-clockwise twist of about 360 degrees (a full circle):



Right after you do this, take the yarn in your left hand and cross it over the top of the yarn in your right hand, transferring the yarns to the opposite hands as you go. Make sure that you do not untwist the yarn during the transfer:



Now the yarn that was in your left hand should be in your right hand and visa-versa. Take the yarn in your right hand and give it a counter-clockwise twist of about 360 degrees. Then take the yarn in your left hand and cross it over the top of the yarn in your right hand. Keep repeating these steps, making sure not to untwist what you've already done. The tails of your yarn will start tangling up a bit. Once you've done a few twists, you can straighten them out, but make sure to keep a tight hold on the twists you've already made or they will unwind.

When you are ready to stop, tie a knot on the free end of your cord, close to the twists. Then cut the other end from the chair and tie a knot on that end. Make sure you keep the rope from untwisting as you do this.

### **Activity 5: Soldier's Food**

Show your students the following list of daily rations for a Revolutionary War soldier (during the times when food was available).

1 1/2 pounds of flour  
1 pound of beef or fish  
3/4 pound of pork or bacon  
1/2 pint of peas or beans  
1 gill (1/4 of a pint) of whiskey or spirits

Have your students try eating just these items for one day (substituting cider for the whiskey and drinking water whenever they are thirsty). The flour was used either as thickening in stews or to make firecake, which was a simple bread made from flour and water. It was made by mixing the flour and water together and cooking the dough on a fire. You can make firecake at home by mixing two parts flour and one part water into a dough and baking it on a greased cookie sheet.

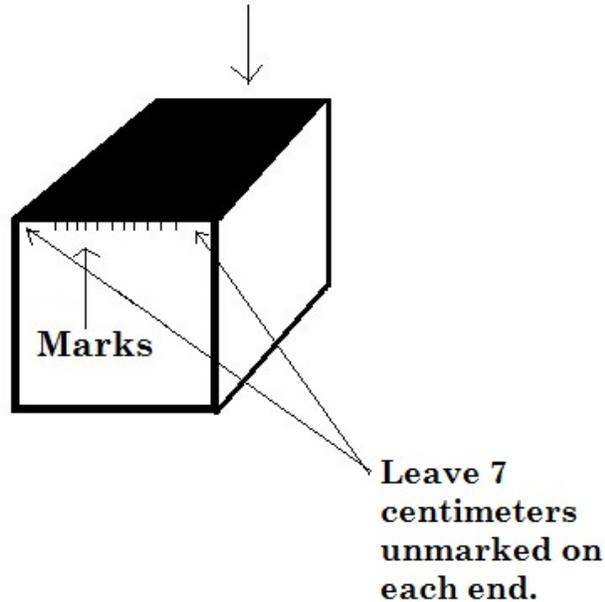
Experiment and see what you can do with the food given to the soldiers to make it as tasty as possible.

### **Activity 6: Weaving**

The Revolutionary War soldiers often used rolled up blankets or "bedrolls" both for sleeping and to carry personal items. Blankets were woven from wool, linen (made from flax), or linsey-woolsey, a combination of wool and linen. Your students can use a box to make a simple loom to weave a piece of fabric. Take a corrugated cardboard box about the size of a shoebox (or you could try a shoebox that has strong sides) and cut off the top flaps.

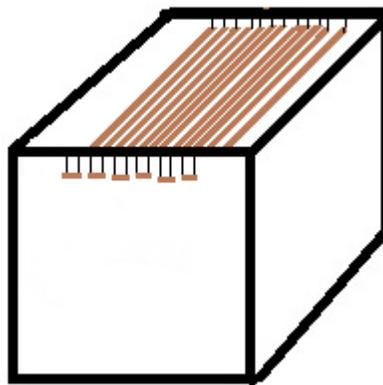
Next, make marks every half-centimeter along the top of one of the short sides. Leave about seven centimeters unmarked at each end:

**Place the marks along the top on the two shortest sides.**



Now place marks on the opposite side, making sure that the marks on both sides of the box line up with each other. After you have made them, take a knife and cut slits where the marks are. The slits should be a little over a centimeter long.

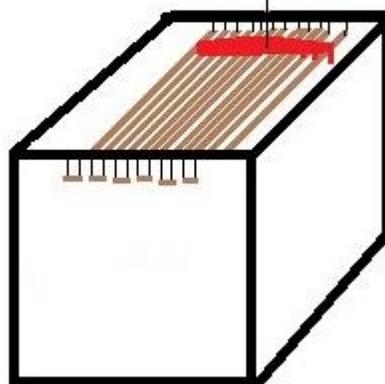
Next, take some yarn and string it back and forth between the slits like this:



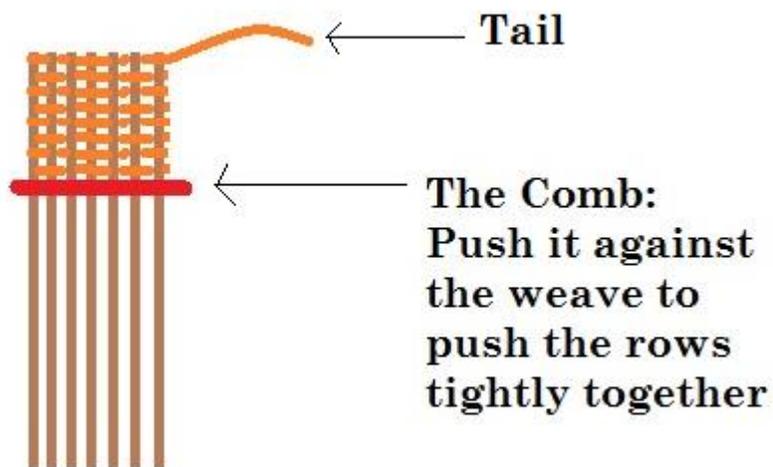
Once your loom has been strung, take a plastic comb that is at least as long as the width of the yarn you just strung and, with the teeth pointing down, push it through the

yarn from the top. Make sure when you position the comb that the strings of yarn are about the same distance apart from each other:

**Comb with the teeth pointing down**



Next, take a piece of yarn that is about two feet long and thread it onto a needle with a large eye. Use the needle to thread the piece of yarn over and under then over and under the lines of yarn in the box. Your first row should be close to one end of the box. After you have threaded each row, use the comb to push the yarn tight up against the previous row. Make sure to leave a “tail” on each end. When you are finished with your project, weave the tails into the cloth to finish it off.



## Activity 7: A Colonial Game

The game of pick-up sticks has been played in America since colonial times. You can make a set of pick-up sticks out of bamboo skewers. Take forty bamboo skewers and, using wire cutters, cut off the flat end of each stick so that the remainder is eight inches long. Once all of the sticks are cut, paint the first three inches of the pointed ends of the sticks with the following colors:

Paint one stick black  
 Paint seven sticks red  
 Paint seven sticks blue  
 Paint eight sticks green  
 Paint seven sticks yellow

While you are waiting for the paint to dry, take a large paper clip, unwind it one turn, and bend the end to form a ninety-degree hook. A needle-nosed pliers works well for this:



Once the paint has dried on your skewers, you are ready to play the game. The first player holds all of the sticks in one hand so that the bundle of sticks is vertical. He or she should hold the sticks about six to eight inches above a table top and then let go of them so that they fall into a pile. Then, using the paper clip hook, the first player should try and pull the sticks from the pile one by one. The trick is to pull out each stick without moving any of the others. The only stick that can move is the one being pulled out of the pile. If any other sticks in the pile move, the player's turn ends. The first player keeps the sticks that he or she pulled out of the pile, and the next player bundles the remaining sticks together and takes his or her turn following the same procedure. Keep repeating this until all of the sticks have been picked up.

Each color of stick has a different point value:

Black 25  
 Red 10  
 Blue 5  
 Green 2  
 Yellow 1

At the end of the game, each player counts up their points and the player with the most points wins.

## **Praise for Susan Kilbride's Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers**

*If you are looking for quality science units, but simply don't have the time to put a unit together, Susan's book is perfect for you. If you want to supplement your existing science program, I definitely recommend taking a close look at the book. Those of you who might be a little scared of trying to put together your own science lessons for fear you might get something wrong, fear no more. . . .*

**--Jackie from Quaint Scribbles--**

*This collection of fun science lessons and activities are designed to offer hands on experiments that will satisfy the curious nature of children, while making it easier for parents to teach science.*

**--Kathy Davis of HomeschoolBuzz.com--**

*If you're looking for a science unit study homeschool program that is easy to use and is comprehensive and worth using, then you should check out Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers. I recently read through the book and really liked what I saw.*

**--Heidi Johnson of Homeschool-how-to.com--**

*I think Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers is a good value and provides a lot of fun, hands-on science for homeschoolers.*

**--Courtney Larson, The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine--**

*. . . the conversational style and logical, easy-to-follow instructions certainly make this a recommended and useful tool for any parent; especially those that may be uncomfortable or unfamiliar with teaching science.*

**--Jeanie Frias of California Homeschooler--**

*The wealth of information included therein is amazing and the material is novice friendly. I would definitely recommend Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers.*

**-- Bridgette Taylor with Hearts at Home Curriculum--**

*Susan's book is full of so many activities that one would have a very full study of general science over the course of a school year if every activity was completed. I teach a General Science class at a local homeschool co-op and I am implementing a lot of the activities in this book into my class this year. There are even short quizzes (complete with answer keys) provided for the older student unit studies. The quizzes are multiple choice in format and cover the main points students should glean from each unit. I highly recommend this book for any science teacher or student. It really makes the teaching of science quite simple and fun.*

*Overall I give Susan's book 5+ stars.*

**--Heart of the Matter Online--**

*Science Unit Studies for Homeschoolers and Teachers is available online at Amazon.com:*  
[http://www.amazon.com/Science-Unit-Studies-Homeschoolers-Teachers/dp/1463549156/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1310266925&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Science-Unit-Studies-Homeschoolers-Teachers/dp/1463549156/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1310266925&sr=8-1)