

## **Mount Independence Glossary**

Introduction: During your field trip to the Mount Independence State Historic Site, you and your students might hear or read some of these words that were used during the American Revolution.

<b>Abatis:</b>	An entrenchment of felled trees, with their branches sharpened to present a wall of pointed stakes to the enemy.
<b>Adjutant:</b>	A staff officer who transmits orders, details and mounts guards. The Adjutant General is the principal staff officer of the army; he supervises the camp, and is the speaker for the Commanding General.
<b>Aide-de-camp:</b>	Attendant of a general officer who receives and bears orders, &c.
<b>Alarm post:</b>	Place of assembly in case of alarm.
<b>Approaches:</b>	Trenches by which besiegers approach a fortified place.
<b>Barricade:</b>	To block up, obstruct.
<b>Bastion:</b>	A defensive work at one of the angles of a fortification, consisting of two faces and two flanks.
<b>Bivouac:</b>	To camp around fires without the shelter of tents.
<b>Brigade:</b>	Two or more regiments.
<b>Company:</b>	Smallest functioning organization within a regiment.
<b>Countersign:</b>	Password.
<b>Dragoons:</b>	Cavalry members who sometimes serves on foot.
<b>Effective:</b>	A soldier equipped for duty.
<b>Fascines:</b>	Bound bundles of long branches and twigs used for fortifications.
<b>Fatigue:</b>	Manual or menial work performed by military personnel.
<b>Field officers:</b>	Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, and Major.
<b>General Officers:</b>	All above the rank of Colonel.
<b>Light Infantry:</b>	A select company trained in fast moving tactics.

<b>Magazine:</b>	Chamber or storage space for storing arms, ammunition, and provisions.
<b>Mortar:</b>	A short-chambered gun with a large bore for firing shells.
<b>Muster:</b>	Parade of troops for inspection.
<b>Necessaries:</b>	Toilets.
<b>Out-post:</b>	A body of troops posted beyond the regular lines.
<b>Parapet:</b>	A barrier of earth to intercept the fire or an enemy.
<b>Patrol:</b>	Small guard whose duty it is to preserve order in the encampment.
<b>Picket/piquet:</b>	A small out-post guard.
<b>Quartermaster:</b>	The officer tasked with providing quarters, clothing and other supplies.
<b>Ration:</b>	Daily allowance of food.
<b>Reconnoiter:</b>	To survey, examine.
<b>Redoubt:</b>	A small fortification.
<b>Relief:</b>	One-third of a guard. Each third is on duty two hours and off four.
<b>Skirmish:</b>	A loose, smaller engagement between small detachments.
<b>Star fort:</b>	Fortification built in the shape of a star, within which is a parade ground surrounded by barracks.
<b>Subaltern:</b>	A commissioned officer below a captain.
<b>Surgeon:</b>	Army doctor.
<b>Tattoo:</b>	Drum beat at the end of the day that signals retiring.
<b>Traverses:</b>	Parapets of earth thrown up as a protection against ricochet shots.
<b>Troop:</b>	Company of cavalry.
<b>Yankee:</b>	Refers to soldiers from New England.