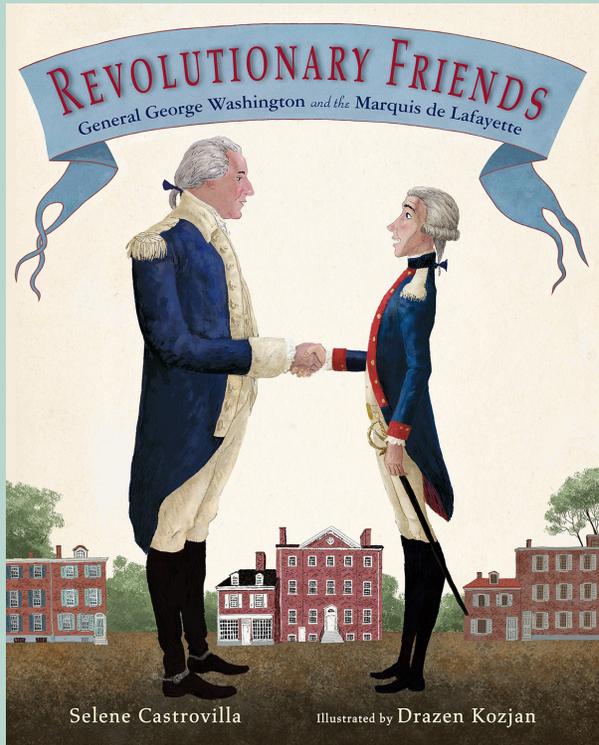


An Educator/Discussion Guide



When Lafayette first arrived in America, members of the Continental Congress were wary of him. Why? What made them change their minds?

While most Americans were displeased with the conduct of many Frenchmen, why was it so important for them to cultivate a relationship with Lafayette?

How did Lafayette try to change the way Americans looked at the French?

How did Lafayette distinguish himself at the Battle of Brandywine despite the fact that the Americans lost the battle?

When the war effort was not going well in 1777, how did Lafayette react to the news that General Gates might replace Washington as the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army?

Lafayette considered himself a French patriot. How did that bode for him during the French Revolution? What are some examples that show Lafayette's courage?

Lafayette told Washington that he came to America "to learn, and not to teach". What did he mean by that? What effect did that statement have on Washington and other Americans?

When Washington brings Lafayette to review his troops, we see a flag with a snake drawn on it, along with the words "Don't Tread on Me." Have your students find out more about that flag. What is its meaning, and how did it come to be?

Excerpts from Lafayette's journal and letters appear throughout *Revolutionary Friends*. The first entry reads, "Having to choose between slavery that everyone believes he has the right to impose upon me, and liberty, which called me to glory, I departed." Discuss the meaning of this statement. What is the "slavery" that Lafayette speaks of? Who is the "he" that Lafayette refers to?

After reading some of Lafayette's letters, have your students translate one of one of them into an e-mail, a Facebook post, and a tweet. Then ask them to decide if these modern forms with George Washington from Lafayette's perspective. We know how he felt about George Washington and how he perceived Washington's feelings about him, but do we really know what Washington thought about him?

In August of 1824, Lafayette returned to America as "The Nation's Guest" and visited all twenty-four states. Have your students research Lafayette's tour.

The notes at the end of the book tell us that dozens of U.S. cities, towns, counties, streets, and institutions are named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette. The same is true of George Washington. How many places can your students find that bear their names? When was each place founded?