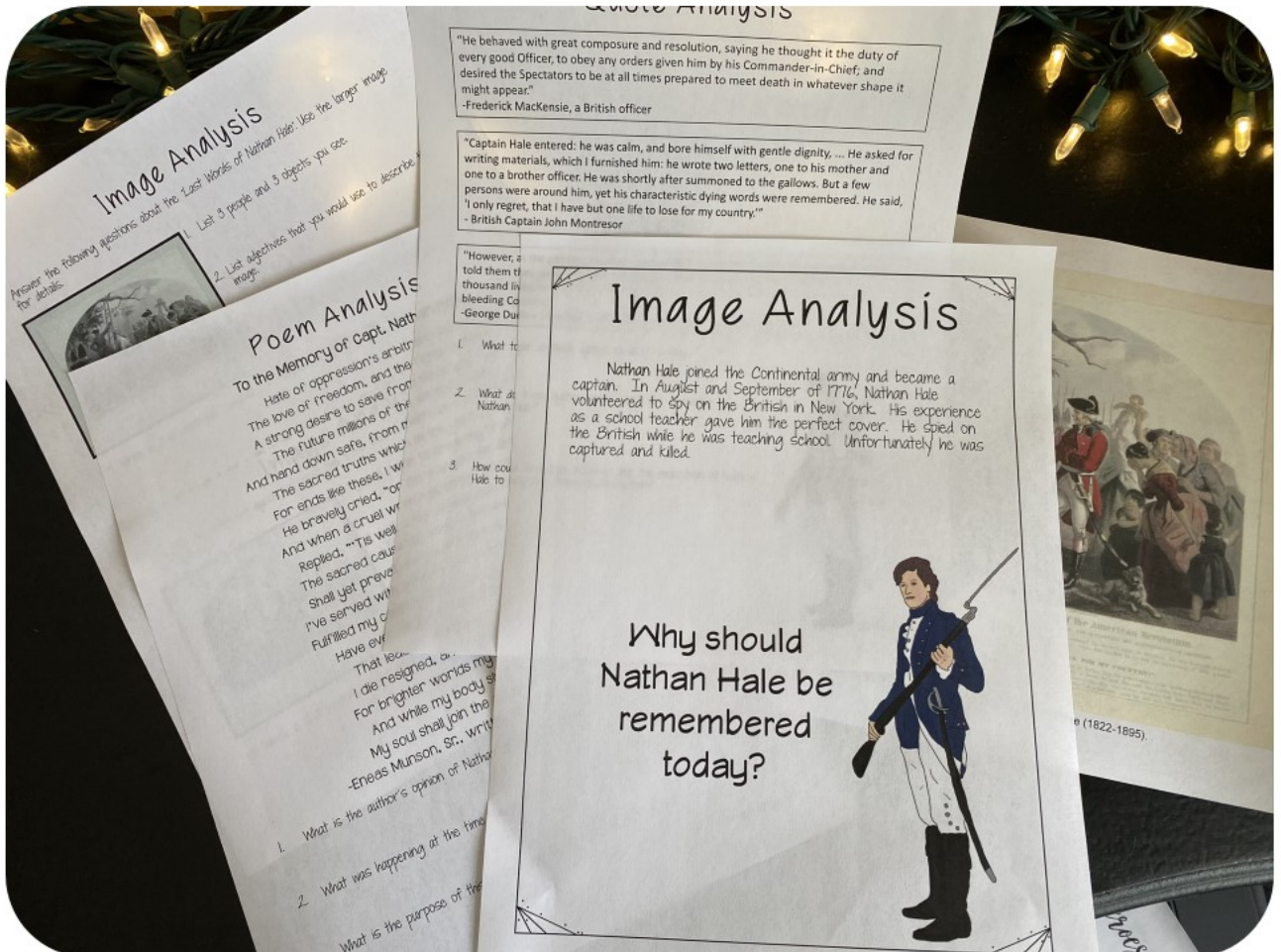


Nathan Hale

Primary Source Analysis and Structured Discussion



Teacher Tips for Expert Groups

Start off with an original home base group. I recommend groups of 3-4 students - you will need one student to research each topic. Have your home base group answer a few questions together to build a basic understanding of the topic.

Home Base Group



Assign each member of the group a different topic and send them to their expert group. Each expert group will research their topic and be prepared to share with their home base group.

Expert Group



Provide your students highlighters and allow them to highlight and annotate key evidence to answer questions and support their point of view. Give them a designated amount of time to read their documents and discuss the answers. Check their work and help students during this step if necessary.



It is important that you check the expert groups' research before you allow them to share in their home base group. You want to ensure accuracy and raise their level of concern during this step. Either monitor the groups during the research or have them formally check in with you.

Move students back to home base groups.

Home Base Group



Give students time to share their information from their expert groups. You can also debrief the class by creating an anchor chart based on their research. Debrief the activity by asking questions about the topic.

Quote Analysis

Nathan Hale joined the Continental army and became a captain. In August and September of 1776, Nathan Hale volunteered to spy on the British in New York. His experience as a schoolteacher gave him the perfect cover. He spied on the British while he was teaching school. Unfortunately, he was captured and killed.

Why should
Nathan Hale be
remembered
today?



A

Quote Analysis

"He behaved with great composure and resolution, saying he thought it the duty of every good Officer, to obey any orders given him by his Commander-in-Chief; and desired the Spectators to be at all times prepared to meet death in whatever shape it might appear."

-Frederick MacKensie, a British officer

"Captain Hale entered: he was calm, and bore himself with gentle dignity, ... He asked for writing materials, which I furnished him: he wrote two letters, one to his mother and one to a brother officer. He was shortly after summoned to the gallows. But a few persons were around him, yet his characteristic dying words were remembered. He said, 'I only regret, that I have but one life to lose for my country.'"

- British Captain John Montresor

"However, at the gallows, he made a sensible and spirited speech; among other things, told them they were shedding the blood of the innocent, and that if he had ten thousand lives, he would lay them all down, if called to it, in defence of his injured, bleeding Country."

-George Dudley Seymour's book, *Documentary Life of Nathan Hale*

1. What topic do these quotes have in common?
2. What do these quotes reveal about the character of Nathan Hale?
3. How could American colonists use the execution of Nathan Hale to help the American Revolution?



Poem Analysis

Nathan Hale joined the Continental army and became a captain. In August and September of 1776, Nathan Hale volunteered to spy on the British in New York. His experience as a schoolteacher gave him the perfect cover. He spied on the British while he was teaching school. Unfortunately, he was captured and killed.

Why should
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B

B

Poem Analysis

To the Memory of Capt. Nathan Hale

Hate of oppression's arbitrary plan,
The love of freedom, and the rights of man;
A strong desire to save from slavery's chain
The future millions of the western main,
And hand down safe, from men's invention cleared,
The sacred truths which all the just revered;
For ends like these, I wish to draw my breath,"
He bravely cried, "or dare encounter death."
And when a cruel wretch pronounced his doom,
Replied, "'Tis well, —for all is peace to come;
The sacred cause for which I drew my sword
Shall yet prevail, and peace shall be restored.
I've served with zeal the land that gave me birth,
Fulfilled my course, and done my work on earth;
Have ever aimed to tread that shining road
That leads a mortal to the blessed God.
I die resigned, and quit life's empty stage,
For brighter worlds my every wish engage;
And while my body slumbers in the dust,
My soul shall join the assemblies of the just.
-Eneas Munson, Sr., written soon after Hale's death

1. What is the author's opinion of Nathan Hale? What evidence supports your claim?
2. What was happening at the time the poem?
3. What is the purpose of this poem? Why do you think it was created?

Image Analysis

Nathan Hale joined the Continental army and became a captain. In August and September of 1776, Nathan Hale volunteered to spy on the British in New York. His experience as a schoolteacher gave him the perfect cover. He spied on the British while he was teaching school. Unfortunately, he was captured and killed.

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Last Words of Captain Nathan Hale, the Hero-Martyr of the American Revolution.

DESIGNED BY F. O. CHAMLEY. ENGRAVED BY AN REVIVER AND PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ADVENTURES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICANS.

Mind, by an intense love of country, the young and gifted Captain Nathan Hale, at the constant request of Washington, crossed the British lines in disguise. He was betrayed and condemned to die. When marched out to the place of execution, he was triumphantly asked for his "last speech and sentiments." Then, thus he rose up with an expression of brave patriotism and said:

"MY ONLY REGRET IS, THAT I HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO LOSE FOR MY COUNTRY!"

Should he dare reply the intemperate officer exclaimed: "Send the fellow up!"—being the fellow up! and, in a moment more, the spirit of Nathan Hale had passed away a noble martyr to American Liberty. That tragedy was enacted in the history of New York in a noble gallantly meeting its early American hero. On the 19th of the morning, at dawn the field. Then, with the Ladies, Misses, and Boys, surrounded. In front made the majestic figure of the young hero, and that of the British Major (Thomas) who were in his presence, but knew not his name. Hale had no part for the Bible, and had also learned his lesson in his hands, giving as a reason for his doing, "that the Bible might not know they left a man who could be with such firmness?"

"Last Words of Nathan Hale,"—Alexander Hay Ritchie (1822-1895).

Image Analysis

Answer the following questions about the "Last Words of Nathan Hale." Use the larger image for details.



1. List 3 people and 3 objects you see.
2. List adjectives that you would use to describe the image.
3. Is this image a positive or negative depiction?
What evidence can you use to support your claim?

4. Write a 2-3 sentence summary of what is happening in the image.

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