



Instructions

1. Read the story.
2. Answer questions a - e.
3. Option 1 Illustrate a part of the story using story board templates (att)
Option 2 Write an alternative ending

Share! Email your work to Ann DuCharme aducharme@mvmuseum.org.

Or, if you prefer to work on paper, email Ann to arrange for pick up.

Story

In the summer of 1778 British General Charles Grey was ordered to conduct a raid on New Bedford and Martha's Vineyard. The purpose of the raid was to gather rations for the British troops in Rhode Island before winter set in

On the evening of September 4th, Islanders looked across Vineyard Sound toward New Bedford to see the skies filled with billowing black smoke and fire. Everyone assumed it was some destruction from the British, possibly a raid. Martha's Vineyard would soon find out that they were the next next target for Grey's Raid.

Six days later, the morning of September 10th, Vineyarders watched as 40 British Man of War ships filled Holmes Hole Harbor, each ship carrying over 100 red coats. Town leader Beriah Norton and 3 men rowed out to meet the intimidating Carysfort – which was Grey's ship. They hoisted a white flag to signal that they came in peace.

The meeting was brief; General Grey demanded 10,000 sheep, 300 oxen and all the guns and ammunition that Islanders had in their possession, to be delivered by 2:00 the next day. No threats were uttered at that time, but Islanders were terrified not to comply.

Panicked, Beriah wrote letters with Grey's demands and dispatched them to all the farming communities (which essentially was the entire Island), especially to what is now Chilmark and West Tisbury. It was a frantic night. Town leaders rode from house to house asking islanders to surrender their livestock and drive them to Holmes Hole. Many islanders obliged having had seen from afar what Grey did to New Bedford and Fair Haven - they knew the Island could not withstand such destruction. Nor could the Island hold off 4000 redcoats; we had no warships, no canons, no military training and very few weapons.

Many Islanders were reluctant; the animals were important to feed and clothe their families, especially with Winter coming. It was terrifying to think about. It's said that some Islanders rebelled against Grey's orders. The Allen Family on the South Road is said to have hoisted a large cow up a chimney to avoid it being taken by the British. Another woman is said to have hid a pig under her large tent-like petticoats so when the British came to her door they were disturbed when her skirts started to grunt, but they left her alone. Other children dared to hide the smaller lambs in secret crawl spaces of their barns.

The next morning Grey sent 450 soldiers to set up camp in Holmes Hole. This move was designed to further intimidate Vineyarders. He reminded everyone that the soldiers would leave them alone if complied with his demands. And he didn't back off. He was still demanding 10,000 sheep, 300 oxen and all their weapons.

Beriah Norton and all the farmers did the best he could but there was no way everything could be gathered and herded on to the warships by 2:00. It was already mass mayhem and confusion. The tiny town of Holmes Hole was a mess, noisy with baaing sheep trampling homes and gardens. Off shore, 20 more ships had sailed in to help carry away the livestock being taken. There were now 60 British warships in the harbor.

General Grey grew increasingly angry as he saw how long the process was taking. He was unhappy with the amount of guns and ammunition turned in. He sent soldiers to capture Beriah Norton and they put him in prison in Edgartown until more guns were collected. He also sent a warship and troops to Edgartown to collect all of the money in the county courthouse.

Back in Holmes Hole livestock were finally being loaded on ships. Each animal's value and owner were carefully written down, because Grey promised the Islanders they would eventually be paid. (These records are archived at the Martha's Vineyard Museum.)

General Grey ordered all soldiers to return to their warships and prepare to leave. His final act was to order the Island's salt works to be destroyed, but first he confiscated all the salt supplies stored there. This was a final blow. Salt was critical to store food safely, when refrigeration was not available.

Did Grey ever pay? Because the Island was technically neutral territory – not participating in the American Revolutionary War - the British were supposed to pay for what they took. The livestock was valued at over £10,000. Unfortunately, Beriah Norton spent the rest of his life – and much of his own money – travelling to New York and even London, writing letters petitioning for payback. He only ever obtained about one tenth the value of the stolen livestock.

It has been said that the winter of 1778 was one of the worst in history. Snow fall drifts measured up to the second story windows in some parts of the Island and thick ice prevented not only ice fishing, but not even shellfish could be harvested. The Islanders suffered terribly without their meat and wool. The Raid did not kill anyone directly, but some got sick and died that difficult winter. Many more raids occurred all along the eastern seaboard during the course of the war, but thankfully, none ever touched the shores of Martha's Vineyard.

Questions

- a. What 3 important events had already taken place in Boston by the time Grey's Raid took place?
- b. Do you think the people of Martha's Vineyard were loyal to England/The King or sympathetic with the colonists fighting for freedom or technically neutral?
- c. Specifically, where on the Vineyard would you have been able to smoke billowing from the fires and destruction in New Bedford and Fairhaven that General Grey did before he came to the Vineyard?
- d. Why did General Grey have the nickname – "Charles No Flint Grey"?
- e. What do we call Holmes Hole Harbor today?

Images

Islanders



Images from plimoth.org



British soldier



war ships



musket



sheep



oxen



farm



Option 1

Illustrate a graphic version of any of the following sequential moments .
Use attached templates for inspiration.

1. Vineyarders see smoke on the mainland,
 2. Grey's warships sail into Holmes Hole Harbor.
 3. Beriah Norton rows out to get Greys demand,
 4. Beriah send letters to farmers demanding sheep.
-
1. Farmers gather sheep and oxen
 2. Mass confusion ensues
 3. Vineyarders hide sheep creatively
-
1. Grey gets increasing angry - so few guns!
 2. Grey throws Beriah in jail
 3. Sheep and oxen start to arrive in Holmes Hole
 4. British soldiers camp on shore.
 5. Sheep and are finally all recorded and loaded
-
1. As Grey prepares to depart ,he orders salt works to be destroyed.
 2. Warships depart.
 3. Vineyarders have a very tough winter.
 4. Beriah tries for the rest of his life to get paid.

Option 2

Write an alternative ending to the story- anything you want. Change the course of history!

Thank you for trying this lesson!



	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="690 354 1487 705"></td></tr></table>			
<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="313 821 930 1682"><table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="313 821 930 1283"></td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="313 1283 930 1682"></td></tr></table></td></tr></table>		<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="313 821 930 1283"></td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="313 1283 930 1682"></td></tr></table>		
<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="313 821 930 1283"></td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="313 1283 930 1682"></td></tr></table>				



