

# Interactive Timeline Activities

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## George Rogers Clark 1752-1818

George Rogers Clark was born in **1752** in Albemarle County, Virginia. Kentucky was a rich and abundant wilderness before the American Revolution. This made it attractive to both American Indians and frontiersmen like George Rogers Clark.

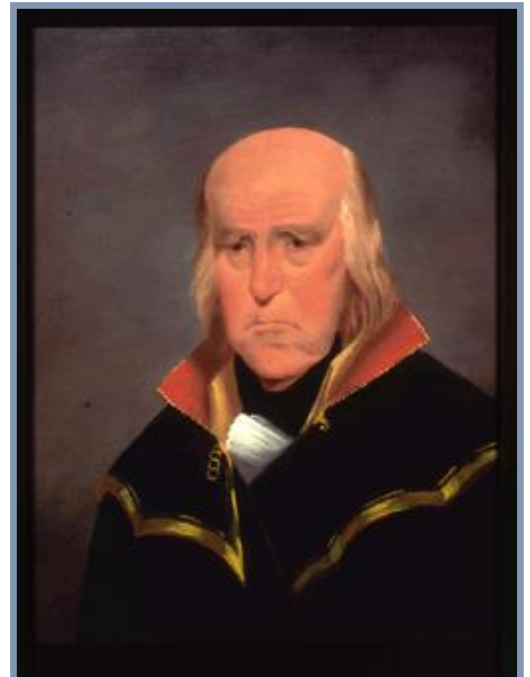
When the Revolutionary War broke out in **1776**, the settlers found themselves caught without protection from Indian raids that were backed and encouraged by the British army. Kentucky was a county of Virginia when Clark convinced Virginia's Governor Patrick Henry to send his small army to capture the British outposts north of the Ohio River. This would lessen the threat of Indian attacks on Kentuckians.

In **1778**, Clark traveled down the Ohio River to the Falls of the Ohio with his army of volunteers and about 20 families. Arriving in May of **1778** Clark chose an island near the Ohio River falls which was named Corn Island. Clark established a fort there which marks the founding of Louisville.

Launching a successful campaign into the north, Clark captured British posts at Kaskaskia and Cahokia on the Mississippi River and Vincennes on the Wabash River. British General Henry Hamilton marched from Detroit and recaptured Vincennes. Settling in for the winter of **1778-79**, Hamilton planned to reclaim the two Mississippi posts in the spring. Clark never gave him that opportunity. In a daring move, considered one of the boldest in American military history, Clark took fewer than 200 men on foot across 175 miles of flooded, frozen plains to recapture the British fort at Vincennes. This dangerous mission took almost three weeks. Convinced they were outnumbered Hamilton surrendered, which ensured American control of the Northwest Territory—a region that includes the current states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

After the war, Clark laid out the town of Clarksville, Indiana, in **1783**. Living in the Louisville area, Clark spent the next 20 years helping to resolve problems of land grants for his soldiers and serving on Indian commissions. In **1803** Clark moved to the Indiana Territory, where he built a log house overlooking the falls.

In **1809** Clark fell into his fireplace, which resulted in his leg being amputated. Clark then moved to Locust Grove to live with his sister Lucy Croghan and her family where he remained until his death in **1818**.



General George Rogers Clark,  
Portrait by Joseph Bush, 1816

**Timeline Activity:** Using the above biography, have the students create a timeline using the events in George Rogers Clark's life.

**Additional Activity:** Have the students create a timeline of five events from their own life; write or draw a picture to represent the events listed.

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Create a timeline with the information below:

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1809, George Rogers Clark moves to Locust Grove

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1795, Construction on Locust Grove is completed and the Croghan family moves in

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1792, Kentucky becomes a state

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1776, Declaration of Independence signed

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1789, George Washington becomes our first President

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1778, George Rogers Clark founds the city of Louisville

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1818, George Rogers Clark dies at Locust Grove

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1814, The White House is burned by the British during the War of 1812

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1789, William and Lucy Croghan marry

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1818, George Rogers Clark's enslaved body servant, Kitt, is freed by Clark's will

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1806, Lewis and Clark return from their expedition and visit Locust Grove

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**Activity:** Print out both pages. Have the students arrange create a timeline in chronological order based on the events above.



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