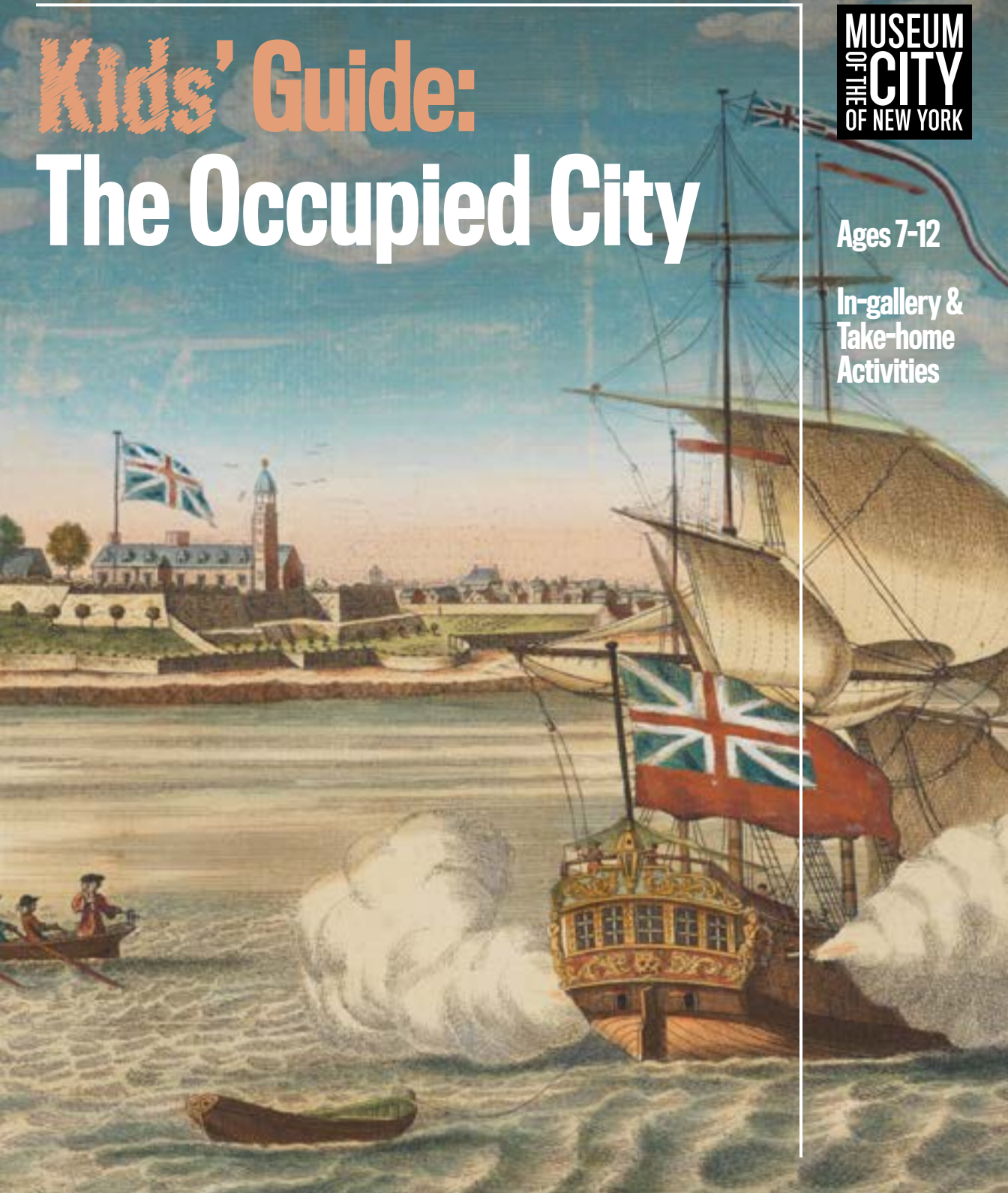


# Kids' Guide: The Occupied City

MUSEUM  
OF THE  
CITY  
OF NEW YORK

Ages 7-12

In-gallery &  
Take-home  
Activities



# Welcome to The Occupied City!

This year, the United States celebrates its 250th birthday, and we are marking the occasion in this special exhibition called *The Occupied City: New York and the American Revolution*, which tells the story of the people, places, and ideas that shaped the city during the American Revolution.

Did you know that New York City was the first place that nine colonies came together to protest British rule or that the city was home to British military headquarters? This exhibition uses the Museum's entire 3rd floor to introduce visitors, like you, to the important role New York City and its residents played in the battle to form the new nation.

Throughout this guide, you will find interactive activities, discussion prompts, and a helpful glossary on page 13 to learn more about this historical moment. Grab a pencil to explore the exhibition on your own or with a loved one.



Use the locations next to the symbol to help find the objects. Start to the right of the cannons and work your way down.

Find the answer key on page 14.

## How to Read a Museum Label

Museum labels offer helpful information to understand more about the objects on display. Practice reading a label below.

📍 IMPERIAL CRISIS - COFFEEHOUSE



Object Name

Object Name in Spanish

Date Created

Materials

Who the object came from

Maker

*On table | Sobre la mesa*  
**Coffee pot**  
Cafetera  
1756–1760  
Myer Myers  
Silver and wood  
Gift of Mr. Edward A. Le Roy, 1980. (80.137)

# Make a Museum Label

Go around the gallery and locate an object that interests you. Sketch it in the space below and fill out the label.

**Object Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Object Name in Spanish** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date created** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maker** \_\_\_\_\_

**Material(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who the object came from** \_\_\_\_\_

# Gallery Detective: Imports and Exports

## 📍 REVOLUTIONARY WATERFRONT

The city's economy was driven by the goods coming into and out of its **port**. Hundreds of **imports** arrived monthly from across the British **empire**. Britain strictly controlled the movement of goods in its empire, limiting where New Yorkers could buy or sell their goods. **Use your museum detective skills to find these objects and answer the questions** in the table below about the goods imported and exported through NYC's port during the colonial period.



Object Name	What is it made from or for?	Import or Export?
1	.....	.....
2	.....	.....
3	.....	.....
4	.....	.....

# Looking Closely: No Stamp Act Teapot

## IMPERIAL CRISIS - COFFEEHOUSE

New York was a **colony** of Great Britain and was governed by British laws created by Parliament, a group of lawmakers in London, that impacted the lives of people across the British **empire**. In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, a law that required American colonists to pay a **tax**, or fee, on all printed materials. New Yorkers did not always agree with Parliament, but as colonists, they couldn't vote or help make the laws.

**Look closely** at the teapot.  
What do you notice about it?



Possibly Josiah Wedgwood, "No Stamp Act" teapot. 1766. Collection of the Kamm Teapot Foundation. Staffordshire creamware.

**Stamp or No Stamp?** Using the description of the Stamp Act on the left page, circle your best guess for whether the imports listed below would be stamped or not.

<b>sugar:</b>	<b>mail:</b>	<b>coffee:</b>	<b>teacup:</b>	<b>newspaper:</b>
yes / no	yes / no	yes / no	yes / no	yes / no

Think about an issue that impacts you or your community today. If you could write a 3–4-word chant or phrase, what would you say? **Write your message** for today and **sketch** the teapot's details below.



# Search the Image: Bowling Green Engraving

## AMERICAN OCCUPATION - TOPPLING THE KING

After hearing the Declaration of **Independence** read aloud on July 9, 1776, a group of **revolutionaries** gathered at Bowling Green to pull down the statue of King George III. Rebels spent many hours working to topple the 4,000-pound statue. This artwork is based upon that real-life event. **Look closely to see if you can find the 8 objects in this engraving.**



A man with feathers on his head

Two dogs

Two torches

A broken fence

10 tricorn hats

A crown

A scroll of paper

4 lanterns

# What Am I: "The Hard Winter"

## BRITISH OCCUPATION - CANVAS TOWN

Life in New York was not easy during the British occupation, and many people faced homelessness, rising costs, and **epidemics**. New York City and the northeast region also had a record-breaking cold winter in 1779-1780.

This object was **excavated** at a British **Revolutionary** War camp and was used by soldiers during the winter. **What do you think it could have been used for?**



I think this object was used for \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Fill in the Blanks: Patriot or Loyalist?

The British **occupied** New York City for 7 years and New Yorkers were divided on the issue: should the United States be an independent nation?

A **Loyalist** expressed loyalty to the British **government**, while a **Patriot** believed in American **independence** from Britain and supported the fight against British rule.

**Find the objects of these New Yorkers. Locate the label and fill in the blanks using the word bank.**



- ~~Enslaved~~
- Mohawk
- London
- Killed
- Informant
- British
- Revolutionaries
- Took over
- Enslaved
- Washington's army
- Colonial settlement
- King

## Liss

**BRITISH OCCUPATION - SPIES**

Liss (short for Elizabeth) was an enslaved woman who may have served as an \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

Her position within \_\_\_\_\_ made her presence appear ordinary, even invisible, to those in power. \_\_\_\_\_ people could overhear conversations, move between spaces, and relay intelligence without arousing suspicion.

Patriot or Loyalist?

## Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant)

**BRITISH OCCUPATION - CHAOS IN THE REGION**

The \_\_\_\_\_ leader Thayendanegea supported the \_\_\_\_\_, seeking to defend his nation's lands against white \_\_\_\_\_. In 1776, he travelled to \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the \_\_\_\_\_ and pledged his nation's support.

Patriot or Loyalist?

## Margaret Corbin

**BATTLE FOR NEW YORK - COMBAT AND COMBATANTS**

Margaret Corbin was one of thousands of women who travelled with \_\_\_\_\_. After most of her husband's regiment were \_\_\_\_\_ at the Battle of Fort Washington, she \_\_\_\_\_, halting the enemy's advance.

Patriot or Loyalist?

# Picture This: Evacuation Day

## 📍 EVACUATION DAY: CELEBRATION

On November 25, 1783, George Washington returned to New York with the Continental Army to celebrate America's victory over Britain in an event called **Evacuation** Day. Washington and his troops marched from northern Manhattan to Fort George in lower Manhattan, the former headquarters for the British military in North America.



**Picture This:** Make a small “frame” with your index fingers and thumbs. Focus on one section of the artwork in the gallery and describe its details until someone else can guess what part you’re looking at.



# Glossary

**Citizen:** a person who belongs to a country and follows and is protected by its rules

**Colony:** an area over which a foreign nation or state extends or maintains control

**Empire:** a big group of lands and people all ruled by one leader or government

**Enslaved:** to be owned by another person against one's own will and forced to work without pay for the benefit of another person

**Epidemic:** an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many people at the same time

**Evacuation:** the process of moving out of a place, particularly a military zone

**Excavate:** to dig out and remove

**Export:** to send to another country for selling

**Import:** to bring something into a country from another country for selling

**Inauguration:** a special day when someone officially starts an important new job in government, like the president or mayor

**Independence:** being free to make one's own choices and not subject to control by others

**Government:** a group of people that makes rules, or laws, and works to maintain safety and fairness for all people

**Loyalist:** someone who remains loyal to a political government, especially in times of major change

**Occupy:** to take hold, possession, or control of

**Patriot:** a person who loves their country and supports its interests

**Port:** a harbor town or city where ships may take on or send out goods or merchandise

**Revolutionary:** someone who believes in taking apart an existing government through armed struggle

**Tax:** money that people pay to the government for things everyone uses, like schools, roads, and parks

If you were to describe **freedom** in one sentence, how would you define it?

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## ANSWER KEY:

### PAGE 5: Gallery Detective

1. Folding fan, Whale bone, Export
2. Sugar tongs, Silver\*, Import
3. Saucer; Chinese manufacture porcelain; Import
4. Fabric samples; Silk, lace, and other fabrics; Import

### PAGE 7: Looking Closely

Sugar – No Stamp  
Mail – Stamp  
Coffee – No Stamp  
Teacup – No Stamp  
Newspaper – Stamp One

### PAGE 9: What Am I

This object is called an ice creeper or spike. British soldiers would attach the spike to the bottom of their shoes to prevent slipping in the snow during the “Hard Winter.”

### PAGE 10-11: Fill in the Blanks

**Liss:** Fill in the Blank: Enslaved; informant; Revolutionaries; enslaved; Likely Patriot – Liss is believed to have been a Patriot. She was enslaved by the Townsend family, who were involved in George Washington’s group of spies called the Culper Spy Ring. Historians have limited documents that have been saved about Liss but do believe that she supported the Patriot cause.

**Thayendanegea:** Fill in the Blank: Mohawk; British; colonial settlement; London, King; Loyalist – Native people were divided during the Revolution. Native leaders, like Thayendanegea, were interested in protecting their land, which had belonged to their communities for generations but was stolen by European colonial leaders. The British promised to protect Native land.

**Margaret Corbin:** Fill in the Blank: Washington’s army; killed; took over; Patriot

*The Occupied City: New York and the American Revolution* is made possible with support from our presenting partners, an Anonymous Family Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Kenneth C. Griffin and Griffin Catalyst. Special thanks to our benefactors, Elizabeth K. Belfer, Matt and Marisa Brown, The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom, The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council. Additional support provided by advocates, The Achelis and Bodman Foundation, Chris Brown, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), Heather and William Vratos, Daryl B. Uber, and other generous donors. Support for curatorial and collections work on this exhibition is provided by the Laura and Ray Johnson Fund and by Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe.

Museum of the City of New York’s Family Programs are made possible, in part, by the Rochlis Family Foundation, The Eshe Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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