



## Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

### Tuscarora Heroes Monument

Subject Area: Language Arts/ Social Studies

**Grades 6-12**

**Subject Area**      Language Arts

#### **New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy**

Standard 1: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.

Standard 2: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

Standard 3: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

Standard 4: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

**Subject Area:**      Social Studies

#### **New York State Social Studies Learning Standards**

Standard 1

History of the United States and New York

##### **Students will:**

- Use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.
- Distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple timelines,
- Investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant.\
- Gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States,
- Prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural developments, issues, and events from New York State and United States history.

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### **Overview:**

The Tuscarora Heroes Monument site is located in the South corner of Portage and Center Street in Lewiston, New York

In the early morning of December 19, 1813, the citizens of Lewiston, New York, awoke to unimaginable horrors. The small frontier village, situated on the Niagara River on the border between the United States and Canada, suddenly found itself on the front line of a vicious international war -- the War of 1812.

The British-Canadians, along with their allies from the First Nations, ran down River Road toward Lewiston, armed with torches, guns and tomahawks -- intent on retribution and turning Lewiston into a pile of ashes.

On their own, the Lewiston citizens were practically defenseless. They could only run for their lives through the snow and mud in hopes of escaping the atrocities. Civilians were murdered in the rampage. Tormented parents found they were helpless in trying to save their children. One 7-year-old was shot and scalped in front of his mother's eyes.

At the moment when Lewiston citizens had lost hope and thought they would all become victims of a bloody and merciless massacre, local Tuscarora men ran down from their village atop the Escarpment and offered the first resistance the enemy had seen? Their ingenious and diversionary tactics gave the impression that "their numbers were legion."

Fearing a trap, the enemy stopped in its tracks. Despite being outnumbered 30 to 1, the Tuscaroras were able to buy the escaping residents enough time to get out of harm's way, saving dozens of American lives

It's one of the most remarkable stories in American history, and yet, it became a forgotten action during the "Forgotten War" of 1812.

While it is a rare example of Native Americans saving the lives of American citizens during a foreign attack, it wasn't until recently that the scope of the Tuscarora intervention in the attack was fully researched and recognized.

Surprisingly, there has never been any official expression of gratitude from the United States, New York State, Niagara County or the Town of Lewiston to the Tuscarora Nation. Until recently, most government officials had never heard the story.

A monument was constructed in the center of town that will showcase the brave actions of the Tuscaroras while reminding future generations that the friendship and guardianship of the Tuscaroras will be forever appreciated.

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Tuscarora Heroes Monument was unveiled at 6:30pm, on December 19, 2013 at Center Street and Portage Road, in Lewiston, New York. The date of the dedication marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack. Tuscarora Heroes Monument offers citizens a tremendous and rare opportunity to directly participate in honoring Native Americans who risked their lives to the citizens of Lewiston.

This is the largest War of 1812 Bicentennial monument project in the United States. The project cost a few hundred thousand dollars. Every penny raised toward that goal was put into the project. A 100% volunteer effort, the Tuscarora Heroes Monument is the only monument constructed by a community in thanksgiving and gratitude to Native Americans



Source: <http://www.tuscaroraheroes.com/>

### **The Artist**



[Shttp://lee389.wix.com/tuscaroraheroes#!/tuscaroraheroes-artist/cip](http://lee389.wix.com/tuscaroraheroes#!/tuscaroraheroes-artist/cip)

Susan Geissler

Susan is one of the foremost sculptors in America and is recognized for her excellence in creating realism, facial expressions and tableaus in both small and large scale bronze. A "hometown girl" Susan grew up in Lewiston, New York, and has received commissions from dozens of organizations, including Disney and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She was the artist for the Freedom Crossing Monument which is located on the Lewiston waterfront.

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### Activity:

Students will:

- Read Lee Simonson's *Tuscarora Heroes Book*.
- Access *Why the Tuscaroras Risked Their Lives to Help Their Lewiston Neighbors* at <http://tuscaroraheroes.com/>,
- Write a brief essay on how the Tuscarora saved the residents of Lewiston, New York during the War of 1812

### References

*Tuscarora Heroes Monument* at <http://tuscaroraheroes.com/>

Simonson, Lee. *Tuscarora Heroes Book*. Historical Association of Lewiston, 2010.

### Media References

April 8, 2013	<a href="#">YNN (Time-Warner News): Monument Honoring Tuscaroras Nearing Completion</a>
April 7, 2013	<a href="#">Associated Press: Albany Times Union: NY Monument to Honor Tuscaroras for Help in Battle</a>
April 6, 2013	<a href="#">Associated Press: Wall Street Journal: NY Monument to Honor Tuscaroras for Help in Battle</a>
March 26, 2013:	<a href="#">Niagara Frontier Publications: Tuscarora Heroes Time Capsule Arrives</a>
March 22, 2013	<a href="#">:: Channel 7 Eyewitness News: Monument Thanking Tuscarora Heroes</a>
March 10, 2013	<a href="#">Niagara Gazette: Lewiston's Tuscarora Heroes Monument Work Continuing as Collector's Piece is Revealed</a>
March 3, 2013:	<a href="#">Buffalo News: Keepsake Coin to honor Tuscaroras, Raise Funds for Monument</a>
February 12, 2013:	<a href="#">Niagara Frontier Publications: Tuscarora Heroes Coin Released</a>
September 10, 2012:	<a href="#">Canada.com: American town marks a dark episode from War of 1812</a>
August 10, 2011:	<a href="#">Syracuse.com: Funds to Boost War of 1812 Events in Lewiston</a>
March 26, 2011	<a href="#">Western NY Papers: Historical Federation includes Tuscarora Heroes</a>
April 23, 2010	<a href="#">Buffalo News: Lewiston Monument to mark Tuscarora Heroism in War of 1812</a>
April 23, 2010	<a href="#">Niagara Gazette: Tuscarora Monument to Commemorate War of 1812</a>