

George Clinton Statue, Newburgh, NY, 1909

Lesson type: Worksheet

Historical Context

This is a statue of George Clinton by Henry Kirke Brown in Colden Square, Newburgh, New York. The inscription reads, "Member of Continental Congress 1775-1777; Brigadier General Continental Army 1777; Governor of the State of New York 1777-1795 and 1801-1804; Vice-President of the United States 1809-1912."

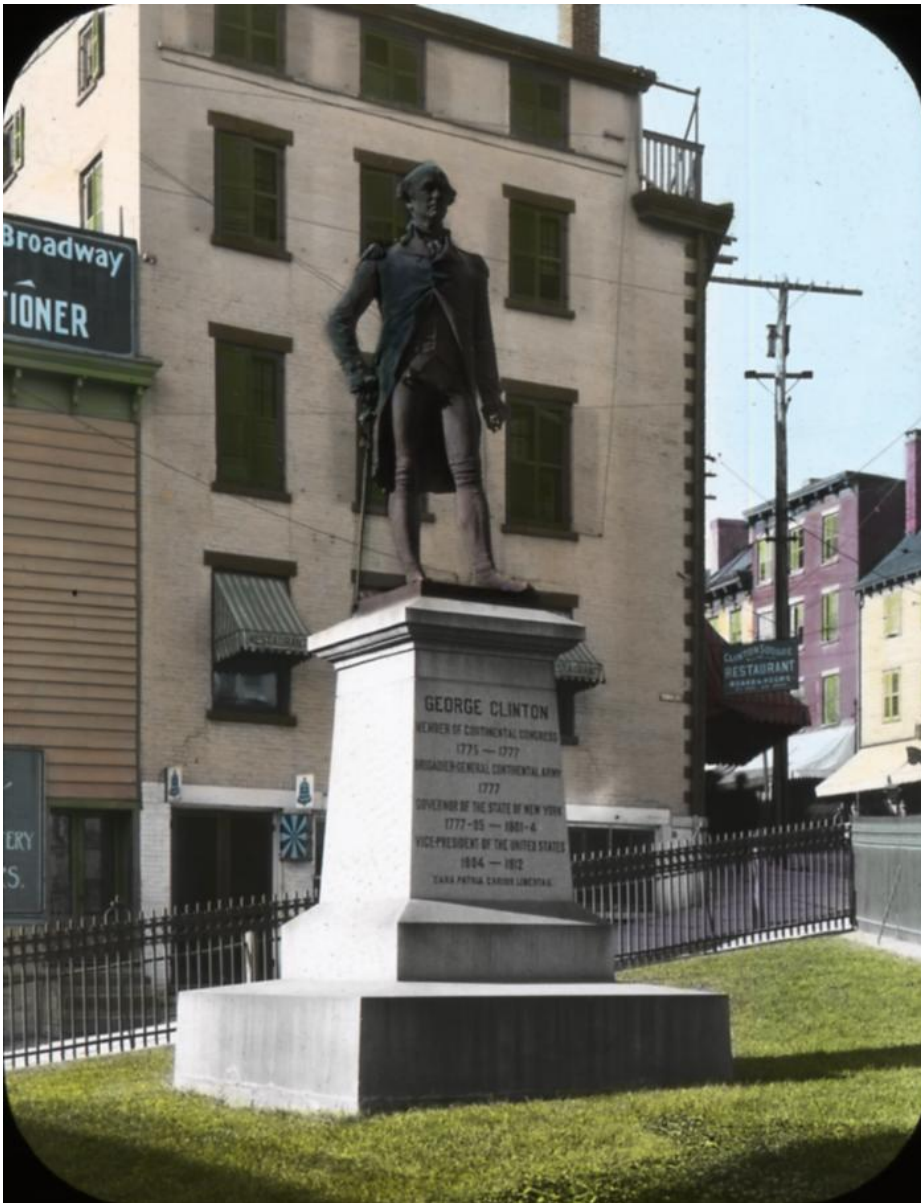
George Clinton was a true statesman and was involved in many levels of government. Born in 1739, he was elected to the New York assembly as a young man in 1768. He was a member of the second Continental Congress, and his name would appear on the Declaration of Independence if his military duties had not required him to leave Philadelphia before he could sign the document. He served as a brigadier general in the New York militia and the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Known as the Father of New York, Clinton was New York's first governor, serving from 1777-1795 and from 1801-1804, longer than any other New York governor to date. In 1804, he was elected Vice President of the United States under President Thomas Jefferson and was reelected in 1808, serving under President James Madison until his death in 1812. He is buried in the First Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Kingston, New York.

Essential Question

How do symbols and monuments unite people?

Check for Understanding

Describe the scene in the photograph and explain how this statue unites people.



Statue of George Clinton in Newburgh, New York State Archives, NYSA_A3045-78_D47_NeE

Document Description

Statue of George Clinton in Newburgh, New York. Photograph taken in 1909.

Questions

1. Why is George Clinton honored with a statue?

Historical Challenge

Is Governor Clinton's portrait carved in the Great Western Staircase at New York State's Capitol?
When was this statue made? It is a copy of another statue. Where is the original statue located?

Interdisciplinary Connections

English Language Arts: Write a persuasive essay explaining why George Clinton was such an important member of New York's government.

Resources

1. <http://www.newburgh-ny.com/rec/clinton-sq.htm>