Subject	Social Studies / American History
Topic	**Exploring the Overconfidence Bias and the American Revolution**
Materials	Overconfidence Bias Scenario Cards (teacher-created)
Standards	
Objective	By the end of the lesson, students will be able to: ● Define Overconfidence Bias ● Identify examples of Overconfidence Bias in the context of the American Revolution ● Understand the negative consequences of Overconfidence Bias ● Develop strategies to mitigate its effects.
Warm Up (5 minutes)	**Introduce the concept of Overconfidence Bias** ● Definition: A natural tendency to overestimate our abilities, knowledge, or likelihood of success. ● Explain that people with Overconfidence Bias may believe they are more skilled or knowledgeable than they actually are. ● Give an example of Overconfidence Bias in real life. For example, a student might not study for a big test because they are confident they know the material when they actually do not. Or, when someone who has just started taking guitar lessons thinks they are already an amazing guitarist. In reality, they are still just a beginner with a lot to learn.
Short Lecture (10 minutes)	Introduce specific examples of Overconfidence Bias during the American Revolution. ● Explain why Overconfidence Bias can be detrimental, such as leading to poor decision-making, underestimating risks, and ignoring valuable input from others. ● King George III badly overestimated the resolve of the colonists. He dismissed the colonial resistance as a mere "riot" that could be easily put down by British military force. ● John Adams was overconfident that breaking away from British rule would be relatively easy and swift. While Adams recognized there would be a struggle, he seemed to underestimate just how long, bloody, and economically draining the conflict would become for the colonies.
Group Activity (15 minutes)	**Divide the class into small groups of 4-5 students.**

	● Provide each group with a set of Overconfidence Bias Scenario Cards related to events in the American Revolution (e.g., the British underestimating the resolve of the American colonies, the Continental Army overestimating its military strength, etc.) ● Ask each group to discuss the scenarios and identify instances of overconfidence bias and its potential consequences. ● After 10 minutes, have each group share one scenario and their analysis with the class.

Assessment (10 minutes)	**Lead a class discussion about strategies to overcome Overconfidence Bias based on the examples discussed.**
	● Ask students to reflect on a time when they experienced Overconfidence Bias in their own lives or witnessed it in others. Have them share their reflections with a partner or in small groups.
	● Wrap up the discussion by summarizing key takeaways about Overconfidence Bias and its impact, as well as strategies to mitigate its effects.
	    ○ Seek out and consider contrary evidence: Actively look for information or perspectives that challenge your initial assumptions or beliefs. This can help balance out an overly optimistic or self-assured view. Be open to evidence that contradicts your position, and try to consider it objectively.
	    ○ Practice self-questioning and self-critique: Regularly examine your thought process and conclusions. Ask yourself what assumptions you're making, what evidence you might be overlooking, and what potential biases or blind spots you might have. Be brutally honest in evaluating your abilities and limitations.
	    ○ Seek out expert opinions and advice: Don't rely solely on your own judgment, especially in areas where you lack expertise. Consult with knowledgeable professionals, teachers, or family members who can offer a more objective and informed perspective. Be willing to defer to those with greater expertise.