

## **Summary of First Patrick Book For Schools**

“Patrick: Adventures of an Early American Boy” is a historical fiction education book. The book meets nearly all of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) History and Social Science Standards for Essential Understandings. (See following pages). Intended for all young readers, the book’s target age by vocabulary is third through fifth grades. The book brings to life pre-Revolutionary War America through the eyes of ten-year-old Patrick. The son of a wheelwright, he learns in carriage rides to town about his father’s yearning for freedom from King George III. Patrick likes to throw stones across the stream on their farm at a target he carved in a tree. His best friend, Joshua, is older than Patrick and an aristocrat’s son. Yet Patrick teaches this older boy how to throw and not to be afraid of wildlife. Patrick is quick-witted, honest, brave, and resourceful, values that are tested when he encounters British redcoats intent on harming his family. While an entertaining read, the book also teaches young readers about the lives of early Americans and their yearning for freedom. The author hopes that young readers will have a greater appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy today by reading about the days when Americans did not have them.

Obtain the school ordering form from Alphographics.

**“Patrick: Adventures of an Early American Boy”**

**compared against**

**Virginia Department of Education  
History and Social Science Standards of Learning  
Curriculum Framework 2015  
(Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education,  
Richmond Virginia January 2016)**

**Standards/**

**Essential Understandings**

**Cites and quotes**

**2.1a:** “Identifying artifacts and primary and secondary sources includes viewing and using information sources to draw conclusions.”

The Patrick Book: Contains 30 illustrations demonstrating early life in America.

**2.1c:** “Graphs, diagrams, and pictures help students develop an understanding of people, places, and events in American history.”

The Patrick Book: Contains illustrations of forested areas, British soldiers in uniform, a sketch of an early American aristocratic house, wildlife (grown bear, copperhead, bobcat, turkeys, etc.), a horse drawn carriage, a town street scene, and many other illustrations. Extensive effort were expended to assure accuracy of these illustrations.

**2.1d:** “Asking a variety of questions extends learning and deepens understanding.”

The Patrick Book: Will stimulate questions about early American life, including but not limited to: 1) “Why could soldiers just come and hurt a family? 2) “Who is King George III?” 3) What role did Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine play in the American Revolution?” 4) What did George Washington do to before he led the Continental Army and became president?”

**2.1e:** **The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by...**  
**e) comparing and contrasting people, places, or events in American history...**

The Patrick Book: The book's presentation of early American life provides a solid basis for these comparisons and contrasts.

**2.1f:** **"[R]ecognizing direct cause-and-effect relationships;... A cause-and-effect relationship is a relationship in which one event (the cause) makes another event (the effect) happen."**

The Patrick Book: Teaches the cause of the colonist's dissatisfaction with the King and his redcoat soldiers and the effect it had in bringing about the Revolutionary War.

**2.1g:** **"g) making connections between past and present;.. Everyday life in the United States today is different from everyday life long ago."**

The Patrick Book: Illustrations such as Patrick reading by candlelight, and others, contrast life then and now. Pre-Revolutionary War life is in direct contrast to our modern world. Example: Patrick's father is a wheelwright. We no longer require that skill.

**2.1h:** **"h) using a decision-making model to make informed decisions; ...Choices involve getting more of one thing by giving up something else."**

The Patrick Book: The book presents many choices that involve serious consequences. Patrick's father decides to be one of the "Sons of Liberty" and is almost caned for it. Patrick decides not to move in the presence of a bobcat, to throw a stone at a bear to chase it away, face down Captain Tarleton, run for his life from the soldiers and remain in the woods for two days, chased by the British, to save his family and fellow colonists.

**2.1j:** **"j) defending positions orally and in writing, using content vocabulary... Developing fluency in social studies vocabulary improves comprehension of oral, written, and visual sources of information about United States history."**

The Patrick Book: Teaches pre-Revolutionary War history. Through conversations Patrick has with his father, the reader learns about the colonists' dissatisfaction with England. Words such as "quite," "insolent," "impudent," "wheelwright," and so forth describe the vocabulary of the time. The illustrations help to bring home an understanding of how America looked during this period.

**2.2** “Innovations in methods of communication and modes of transportation have changed the way that people live and work.”

The Patrick Book: The horse drawn carriage, lack of electricity, differences in clothing, use of horses, lack of cars and motorized vehicles, lack of a bicycle for Patrick, fireplaces to heat homes, and many other depictions of early American life all contrast then with now.

**2.3:** **The student will describe how the contributions of selected individuals changed the lives of Americans, with emphasis on:... b)Benjamin Franklin;... Selected individuals in the past made contributions that changed the lives of Americans.”**

The Patrick Book: Expressly mentions Benjamin Franklin, but also Thomas Paine. The story has a chapter devoted to Patrick’s meeting with George Washington. George Washington at that point in time is described as an Indian fighter with English General Braddock, not the Continental Army Commander and General he would later become.

**2.8: Terms to know**

- natural resources: Materials that come directly from nature
- human resources: People working to produce goods and services.

The Patrick Book: Describes Patrick and his father are sawing firewood from trees. Patrick’s father makes wheels for a living.

**2.11: “The student will explain the responsibilities of a good citizen, with emphasis on.. d) demonstrating self-discipline and self-reliance; e) practicing honesty and trustworthiness...”**

The Patrick Book: Describes Patrick’s values, honesty being one. When Captain Tarleton, the British Captain invading his family’s yard, inquires whether Patrick agrees with his father that he should be free of the King, Patrick says: “I cannot tell a lie. Yes, I agree with him.” Patrick’s self-reliance and self-discipline are on full display in the book, from his disciplined throwing style to lying quietly under a brush pile while a British soldier who is chasing him stands only feet away.

**2.12: The student will understand that the people of the United States of America a) make contributions to their communities;... c) are united as Americans by common principles; and d) have the individual rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as well as equality under the law... People share the principles of respecting and protecting the rights and property of others, participating in school and community activities, demonstrating self-discipline and self-reliance, and practicing honesty and trustworthiness.”**

The Patrick Book: Describes how the Sons of Liberty pursued freedom from tyranny, how the father’s yearning for freedom was shared by others, and how Patrick contributed to the colonists by allowing the British to chase him for two days. George Washington

thanks him for this contribution to the colonists' community with a gift. This Patrick book, and the next two in the trilogy, ascribe three values to Patrick: honesty, bravery, resourcefulness. One important insight by Patrick is that the colonists were *in fact* independent of England and its King. As he walks the main street of the town where his father worked, Patrick saw shops of his father, a wheelwright, the black smith, who made tools for the colonists, an apothecary (drugstore), gun smith, violin maker, lawyer, doctor, accountant, and so forth. He realizes that the colonists could make things, thereby make their way, and make it in their new world.