

Activity 1**Document-Based Activity****The Revolutionary War****DOCUMENT 4**

Before You Read The following words in the document below may be new to you: *affliction*, *tributary*. You may want to use a dictionary to look them up.

I Have wrote you 3 Letters since your absence but whether you have ever received one of them I know not. The Post office has been in such a Situation that there has been no confiding in it . . .

"But tis a day of suffering says the Author of the Crisis, and we ought to expect it. What we contend for is worthy of the affliction we may go through. If we get but Bread to eat and any kind of rayment [garment] to put on, we ought not only to be contented, but thankful. What are the inconveniences of a few Months or years to the Tributary bondages of ages?" These are Sentiments which do Honour to Humane Nature . . .

There is such a Cry for Bread in the Town of Boston as I suppose was never before Heard, and the Bakers deal out but a loaf a day to the largest families. There is such a demand for . . . Rye, that a Scarcity will soon take place in the Country. Tis now next to impossible to purchase a Bushel of Rye. In short . . . there is very little selling. The meat that is carried to market is miserably poor, and so little of it that many people say they were as well supplied in the Siege [the occupation of Boston by colonial forces who were trying to drive out the British during 1775–1776].

—Abigail Adams

Letter to her husband, John Adams
March 8, 1777, Braintree, Massachusetts

1. What hardships did the Revolutionary War create for American civilians?

2. How did Abigail Adams feel about the difficulties she was facing?
