

# What can you do on or by the Raritan?

## The Raritan River: A Crossroad of the American Revolution

### Mini Stories

 Visit a river area historic site!

### The Raritan River in the American Revolution

by *Crossroads of the American Revolution*,  
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Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission

**Boyd Park, New Brunswick,**  
**Sat. July 7, 8:00 p.m.**

- Watch birds and other wildlife
- Take a canoe or kayak trip
- Go fishing
- Relax, read and think
- Watch the seasons change
- Take photographs
- Learn what some are doing to help the river
- Paint or draw
- Take a walk or run
- Help in a river or stream cleanup
- Have a picnic
- Learn about what you can do to care for the river
- Go to a river festival
- Go for a bike ride
- Skip stones

In 1777, skirmishes were fought up and down the Raritan River. Continentals sought to limit British foraging and the British attempted to lure the Continentals from the safety of the Watchung Mountains. When General Washington eluded them, the British withdrew from the Raritan Valley to attack at Philadelphia."



Ports at Perth Amboy and New Brunswick were vital to British logistics. The Raritan River experienced much piracy and naval conflict and is rich with stories. British and French fleets, merchant vessels, and rugged privateers plying the Atlantic Ocean off New York and New Jersey were a constant source of concern, anxiety, and conflict.



Washington's Continental Army was forced to retreat from Cornwallis' chase from North Jersey through Woodbridge and New Brunswick and on to Trenton. Of the time, Thomas Paine wrote the stirring words, "these are the times that try men's souls."



Raritan River Area Revolutionary War Hot Spots.

Proprietary House, Perth Amboy

Buccleuch House, New Brunswick

Nettie-Bodine House, Piscataway