Differentiated Instruction Rationale

All students learn differently. Some learn best through auditory activities, such as skits, discussions, and debates. Others learn enjoy visual outlets, such as graphic organizers, drawings, and charts. Still others benefit from kinesthetic tasks that call for more hands-on experience, such as role playing activities and experiments. But the majority of students learn best when they are given a variety of activities that coordinate with all learning modalities.

For this reason, I created a differentiated lesson involving auditory, visual, and kinesthetic extension activities for classroom learning centers. In our fifth grade classroom, we have been exploring the American Revolution. As we sum up the unit, the students will rotate through learning centers that address each learning modality. They will participate in an auditory activity in which they create skits to convey what different groups of Virginians (women, African Americans, American Indians, etc.) did during the war era. This will be a helpful activity in allowing students to relate to the events and people of that time in history through verbal reenactments.

Learners will channel their visual learning abilities as they draw pictures about the accomplishments of famous Virginians in the American Revolution (Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Lafayette, etc.). In drawing and labeling these pictures, learners will have visual cues to remind them of what these Virginians achieved in the war effort.

Finally, students will complete an interactive Venn diagram about the battles of Yorktown and Great Bridge. Two overlapping circles on the floor will be the Venn diagram. Students will have to fill in slotted information cards using their textbooks and/or study guides and place them in the correct areas of the diagram to show similarities and differences between the two battles. In this way, kinesthetic learners will benefit from manipulatives and more tactile interaction with the material. Therefore, the differing learning needs of all students will be met through the various center rotations.

At each learning center, students will complete a portion of a slotted study guide that will help them review all the information for homework that was discussed during the various activities.