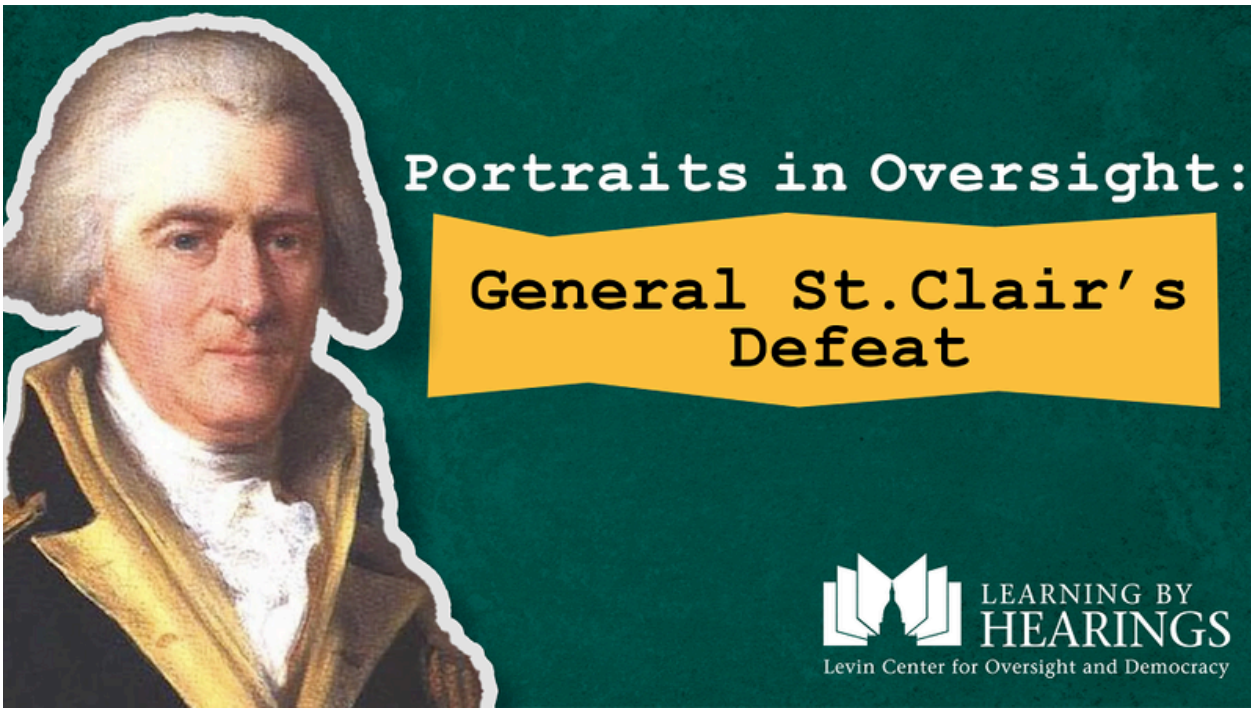
General St. Clair's Defeat

bit.ly/LbHStClairsDefeat Runtime: 8:54



Video Guides

Guide A: Best for checking understanding of key events and details. Includes answer key with video timestamps.

Guide B: Best for active note-taking and connecting evidence to the video's big ideas. Does not include answer key, as student responses will vary.

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General St. Clair's Defeat

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHStClairsDefeat

Comprehension Questions

1) What happened when Native American forces attacked General St. Clair's army, and what was the result?

2) Why did Congress decide to investigate St. Clair's defeat instead of leaving the investigation entirely to the president?

3) What problems did the congressional investigation uncover that contributed to the army's defeat?

4) How did the investigation establish an important precedent for checks and balances in the United States government?

Discussion Questions

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. The Constitution does not describe Congress' oversight powers – or the executive branch's duty to cooperate with a congressional investigation, but the two branches worked out their differences as envisioned by the checks and balances built into the Constitution.
2. President Washington and congressional leaders could have swept the incident under the rug. Instead they made the bold decision to conduct an investigation that exposed serious problems, and they fixed them using reforms that strengthen the country.
3. This investigation demonstrated a fundamental idea that Congress and the Executive Branch are co-equal branches of the government – neither rules over the other – and they are required to respect each other and collaborate to solve problems.

Which of these is the most important or lasting, and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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LEARNING BY HEARINGS

General St. Clair's Defeat ANSWER KEY

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHStClairsDefeat

Comprehension Questions

1) What happened when Native American forces attacked General St. Clair's army, and what was the result?

Native American forces attacked St. Clair's camp by surprise and defeated his army. More than 650 soldiers were killed, and the defeat exposed serious weaknesses in the military operation.(1:43)

2) Why did Congress decide to investigate St. Clair's defeat instead of leaving the investigation entirely to the president?

Members of Congress believed the legislative branch should help investigate the executive branch as part of the Constitution's system of checks and balances. They formed a special House committee to examine the causes of the defeat. (3:22)

3) What problems did the congressional investigation uncover that contributed to the army's defeat?

The investigation identified negligence by a contractor and a military quartermaster, as well as failures by the War Department to distribute all the funds allocated to the regiment. As a result, soldiers and suppliers went unpaid. (6:06)

4) How did the investigation establish an important precedent for checks and balances in the United States government?

The investigation established a precedent for Congress to oversee the executive branch. It demonstrated that the two branches could hold each other accountable and work together to address national problems. (7:50)

Discussion Questions

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. The Constitution does not describe Congress' oversight powers – or the executive branch's duty to cooperate with a congressional investigation, but the two branches worked out their differences as envisioned by the checks and balances built into the Constitution.
2. President Washington and congressional leaders could have swept the incident under the rug. Instead they made the bold decision to conduct an investigation that exposed serious problems, and they fixed them using reforms that strengthen the country.
3. This investigation demonstrated a fundamental idea that Congress and the Executive Branch are co-equal branches of the government – neither rules over the other – and they are required to respect each other and collaborate to solve problems.

Which of these is the most important or lasting, and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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General St. Clair's Defeat

Guide B: Evidence Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you watch the video, record facts, examples, or statements that support each takeaway.

https://bit.ly/LbHStClairsDefeat

Takeaway	Fact, example, or statement to support it
The Constitution does not describe Congress' oversight powers – or the executive branch's duty to cooperate with a congressional investigation, but the two branches worked out their differences as envisioned by the checks and balances built into the Constitution.	
President Washington and congressional leaders could have swept the incident under the rug. Instead they made the bold decision to conduct an investigation that exposed serious problems, and they fixed them using reforms that strengthen the country.	
This investigation demonstrated a fundamental idea that Congress and the Executive Branch are co-equal branches of the government – neither rules over the other – and they are required to respect each other and collaborate to solve problems.	

Which takeaway was most compelling or convincing? Circle or highlight your answer. How does this investigation (and its consequences) still impact our lives today?

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