

## ABOUT

### *the Author*

**D**REW CARLSON is a former magazine columnist, newspaper reporter, and editor, who currently works as the director of public affairs for the Federation of State Medical Boards in Dallas, Texas. This is his first published novel.



Drew says that *Attack of the Turtle* grew out of a short story he wrote five years ago about the fog that cloaked the Continental

Army's retreat across the East River after the Battle of Long Island in August 1776.

"I was fascinated by what I believe was the providential deliverance of Washington's army from almost certain destruction," Drew says. "Without that fog, the Revolution might well have ended then and there. This became what I call the 'fog chapter' in the book."



## PRaise FOR

### *Attack of the Turtle*

❖ Book Sense Children's Picks, Spring 2007

"The novel is based on actual events: although Nate's story is fictionalized, Bushnell did invent and construct the *Turtle*, the first submarine to be used in warfare . . . Nate makes for a sympathetic character and the plot is well constructed . . ."

— *Booklist*

## ATTACK OF THE TURTLE

Written by Drew Carlson

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5308-0 ❖ \$16.00

5.5" x 8.25" ❖ 157 pages ❖ Ages 8 and up

Black-and-white line illustrations

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If you have any suggestions for using *Attack of the Turtle* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

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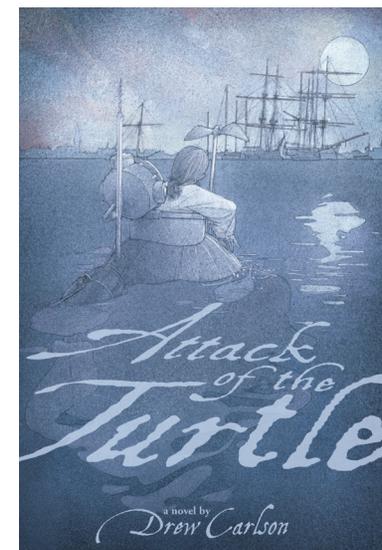
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## ATTACK OF THE TURTLE

Written by Drew Carlson



"So what is it?" I asked. "Does it fly? Swim?" David laughed. "Yes, Nate, in a manner of speaking it swims," he said. "It's called a submarine. It travels underwater."

## THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ American history
- ❖ Courage
- ❖ Independence
- ❖ Adventure
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Forgiveness

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers  
Discussion Guide

## VOCABULARY

Look up the following words in the dictionary:  
Patriot; Tory; stealth; foxfire; ballast;  
men-o-war; sloop; lobsterback



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Based on the title and book cover alone, what do you think the book is about?
2. Have you ever been bullied? If so, how did you respond? If not, how would you advise a friend who is being bullied?
3. What is your greatest fear? How do you deal with it?
4. Research the causes of the Revolutionary War. Why were the Americans and the British fighting? For how long? When and how did the war end?



## QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. David helps Nate overcome some of his fears. Besides assisting with the construction of the submarine, in what ways does Nathan also help David?

2. Nate lies about his age in order to join up with the Third Company and find his father, even though it is against the law. Do you think he was justified in doing this? Would you have done the same thing?

3. When Nate finds Butch Hyde among the Continental soldiers, Nate is surprised that he is able to forgive him. What do you think caused Nate's change of heart?

4. Do you think Nate is a coward for deserting the regiment at the end of Chapter 8? Why or why not?

5. If you were in Nate's place, do you think you would have piloted the *Turtle*? If not, what would you have suggested as an alternate plan?

6. What do you think would have happened if the bomb had actually blown up Admiral Howe's ship, the *Eagle*?

7. Complete this summary: This story is about a boy named Nathan Wade who . . .



## ACTIVITIES

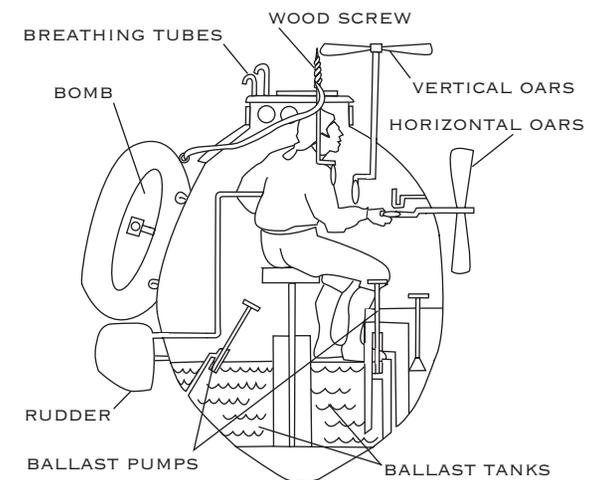
1. On a map, locate the places where the events in the story happened.
2. Do some research about modern submarines. Can you identify any mechanisms from the *Turtle* that are still being used today?

3. Create your own invention. Write a summary about what it does and how it works, and include a sketch or a diagram.

4. Research what everyday living was like in 1776. Make a list of things you take for granted that had not yet been invented at that time.



## DIAGRAM OF THE *American Turtle*



(see p. 141 of the book for more detailed information)