

**RESOURCE BOOK: WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE BY BLACKWELL PIERCE  
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**Essay Questions on WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE for Grades 6-12**

1. Describe the early life of William Richardson Davie and the influence on his contributions during the American Revolutionary War?

Follow up question: Why did the British commander Lord Cornwallis describe Charlotte, NC as a hotbed of hornets and what part did Davie play at the Battle of Charlotte.

2. Explain how Davie came to live in Halifax in 1785 and why Halifax was important during the Revolutionary War period, particularly in 1776.

Follow up question: Name two other historically significant people who lived in Halifax during the Revolutionary War period and briefly list their contributions.

3. What significant event in U.S. history did Davie participate in during 1787, and why was it important?

Follow up question: When did NC join the United States and describe the involvement of Davie and another Halifax resident, Willie Jones, the uncle of Davie's wife.

3. As governor of North Carolina in 1798, what challenges did Davie face, particularly in relation to international conflicts?

Follow up question: Describe Davie's contribution as a peace emissary to France.

4. Why is William Richardson Davie considered a "natural aristocrat," and how did his beliefs about education and society reflect this?

Follow up question: Was Davie an owner of enslaved people? What were his thoughts on slavery and manumitting enslaved?

5. What lasting educational legacy did Davie leave in North Carolina and what were his contributions to that institution?

Follow up question: In what years was Davie awarded a honorary degree and in what area?

6. How did Davie's contributions to both state and national history shape his reputation, and why might he be considered an influential figure of his time?

Follow up question: Many consider Davie a "Founding Father of the United States". Discuss two other "Founding Fathers" and their contributions.