

Name: _____

Crossing the Delaware River

General George Washington knew there was a group of British soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey. He also knew that the soldiers were likely to attack the city of Philadelphia. Washington had an idea that could save the city and the people that lived there.

On Christmas night, in 1776, Washington and 2,500 of his men boarded small boats and crossed the Delaware River. It was a snowy day, the river was filled with ice, and his troops were cold and tired.

Washington and his men snuck up on the British soldiers and attacked while they were sleeping. Twenty-two British soldiers were killed, and another 900 were taken prisoner. Two Americans were also killed that day. This sneak attack became known as the Battle of Trenton.

It was a major victory for the American Continental Army and it raised their morale.



In 1851, Emanuel Leutze painted this picture of Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River.



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- Why did Washington's Army attack sleeping soldiers in Trenton?
 - Washington feared they would cross the river into New York.
 - Washington needed their food and weapons for his men.
 - Washington knew they were going to attack Philadelphia.
 - Washington did not like the people that lived in New Jersey.
- In which direction did Washington's army travel after crossing the Delaware River.
 - southeast
 - southwest
 - northwest
 - northeast
- Before the attack on Trenton, Washington and his men were...
 - south of Philadelphia
 - north of Philadelphia
 - east of Philadelphia
 - in Philadelphia
- During what season did the Battle of Trenton take place?
 - summer
 - autumn
 - spring
 - winter
- How many soldiers crossed the Delaware River with Washington? _____
- How many British soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? _____
- How many American soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? _____
- When did Emanuel Leutze paint a picture of Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River?
 - 25 years after it happened
 - 50 years after it happened
 - 75 years after it happened
 - 90 years after it happened

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Imagine you are General George Washington and today's date is December 24, 1776. You're planning to cross the Delaware River tomorrow night, on Christmas. The following morning, before the sun rises, you're going to launch a surprise attack on sleeping British soldiers in Trenton.



Your men are cold and tired. They just lost a battle in New York a few days earlier. Now they're glad the fighting is over and looking forward to a relaxing Christmas Day.

Write a speech to your men in which you tell them about your plan to cross the Delaware. In your speech, describe the plan. Tell your soldiers when they have to be ready, where they're going, and what they'll have to do. Include some positive, inspirational words to motivate them and raise their morale.

(Continue on another sheet of paper if you need more writing space.)

ANSWER KEY

Crossing the Delaware River

1. Why did Washington's Army attack sleeping soldiers in Trenton? **c**
 - a. Washington feared they would cross the river into New York.
 - b. Washington needed their food and weapons for his men.
 - c. **Washington knew they were going to attack Philadelphia.**
 - d. Washington did not like the people that lived in New Jersey.
2. In which direction did Washington's army travel after crossing the Delaware River. **a**
 - a. **southeast**
 - b. southwest
 - c. northwest
 - d. northeast
3. Before the attack on Trenton, Washington and his men were... **b**
 - a. south of Philadelphia
 - b. **north of Philadelphia**
 - c. east of Philadelphia
 - d. in Philadelphia
4. During what season did the Battle of Trenton take place? **d**
 - a. summer
 - b. autumn
 - c. spring
 - d. **winter**
5. How many soldiers crossed the Delaware River with Washington? **2,500**
6. How many British soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? **22**
7. How many American soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? **2**
8. When did Emanuel Leutze paint a picture of Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River? **c**
 - a. 25 years after it happened
 - b. 50 years after it happened
 - c. **75 years after it happened**
 - d. 90 years after it happened