



## A Lesson on Valley Forge by Michael Delancey

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading comprehension, Essay, Vocabulary

**Lesson Description:** Students will read the passage titled \"Valley Forge\" and answer the following questions about the passage. The questions will include vocabulary (worth 40 points), short answer (worth 30 points), and a 3 paragraph essay (worth 30 points). After everyone is finished, we will discuss what was read as a class for 30 minutes.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2e: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### Valley Forge by

**Content:** The United States today has been a country for more than 200 years, but in 1777 many people did not think it would become a country. George Washington was a great leader who was leading the army. The army was fighting for independence.

That winter was a time of challenge. George Washington and his army were living in a camp at Valley Forge. That was a good location. It was near trees so they could get wood to make fires to keep warm, and they could see far from a hill. That way, they could see if the other army was coming to fight them.

That other army was the British. They had many more guns and supplies than Washington's army. Washington's army had little food. They had some blankets, but many of the soldiers did not even have shoes or coats.

George Washington kept encouraging the soldiers. He told them to be brave, that they were fighting for freedom. Some days it was so cold and snowy he himself worried. But he did not tell the soldiers that. He was very brave.

The soldiers were not well trained. Many had been farmers before, so they did not know much about fighting. Washington used the time at Valley Forge to train them. He got help.

A soldier from Germany came to Valley Forge. He was named von Steuben, and he wanted to help. He organized a group of 120 leaders and showed them how to fight well. He showed the soldiers how to fight with guns. He showed them how to win a battle with the British. They trained other soldiers. Soon, the army was much better prepared.

When spring came, some soldiers had died. The others were ready to fight. They fought for their freedom. George Washington led them to win the war. And the soldier who helped them, von Steuben, helped them to that victory.

Today, Americans remember von Steuben with statues in many places. In Chicago, there is a high school named after that brave soldier.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** Independence **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "Independence" mean?

- A: Freedom
- B: Balance
- C: Character
- D: Shop

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "Independence" correctly.

- A: After walking around the block, Marshal could not find his independence.
  - B: I want to climb the hill the fastest so I can grab the independence.
  - C: After living alone in her house for two years, Kayla proved her independence to her parents.
  - D: My mom took me to the mall to find independence.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Challenge **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "Challenge" mean?

- A: Happiness
- B: Difficulty
- C: Sadness
- D: Speed

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "Challenge" correctly?

- A: I love to chaallenge with my dogs outside.
  - B: I want to challenge all my food at lunch today.
  - C: I have to challenge for the test today.
  - D: Becoming the top runner in the state was a great challenge, but I did it.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Supplies **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "Supplies" mean?

- A: Weapons
- B: Soldiers
- C: Rivers
- D: Resources

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "Supplies" correctly?

- A: The supplies are a great way to get around quickly.
  - B: I made sure to have all the supplies before we went out camping for the weekend.
  - C: The supplies are strong this time of year.
  - D: Supplies are the most important meal of the day.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Battle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "Battle" mean?

- A: Run
- B: Play
- C: Swim
- D: Fight

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "Battle" correctly?

- A: There was a great battle between the two sides.
  - B: You must battle upstream to cross the river.
  - C: Lets battle together during recess today.
  - D: I have to battle my food before I can watch TV.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why was it important for George Washington's camp to have a bunch of trees around?

Explain what the use for the trees, and why having fires around was important.?

2 - Why was it important for George Washington to not show his troops that he was worried?

Explain why it was important for George Washington to look brave and why his troops needed to see him that way.

3 - Why did George Washington need a German soldier to come to Valley Forge?

Explain the German soldier's name, what his task was, and why George Washington needed his help with the American soldiers.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Reflect on the passage that you just read and write a 3 paragraph essay. Include what it was like in the camp at the time, why it was important for Gearge Washington to keep his troops together, and why thier stuggle helped win the war. Be specific and use examples from the passage.?

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