

Answer Key to Guided Reading and Scaffolding Questions on the Student Resource Pages

Student Resource Page 3 Guided Reading Questions

- 1 To whom was George Washington writing?
(He was writing to himself in his journal.)
- 2 Where was he?
(He was outdoors surveying land and inside—out of the rain and to eat dinner and go to bed.)
- 3 What did George Washington do before “returning to the Penningtons”?
(He worked hard, surveying land.)
- 4 What did George Washington do that was unlike his companions?
(He took off his clothes before getting into bed.)
- 5 Did Washington have a good night’s sleep? What was his bed like?
(Not at first, but once he lay like his companions, he fell asleep. His bed was uncomfortable. It was made of straw, had no sheets, and only had one thin blanket filled with bugs.)
- 6 What was Washington’s attitude?
(Frustrated. He knew he was young and inexperienced, but he was determined to learn from his mistakes. He makes a decision to “fix” his mistake.)
- 7 What decision did Washington make at the end of the March 15th journal entry?
(To sleep outside before an open fire.)
- 8 What happened the next day?
(He went to Frederickstown, toured the town, returned to where they were staying, ate supper, and slept well in a feather bed with clean sheets.)

Student Resource Page 6 Guided Reading Questions

- 1 To whom was George Washington writing?
(He was writing to himself in his journal.)
- 2 What time of year was it? What was the weather like?
(It was winter, and it was very cold.)

- 3 Who was involved in this incident?
(George Washington was traveling with Christopher Gist, his guide on the trip.)
- 4 What did Washington have to do when he got to the river? How was he able to do it?
(The river was not frozen as expected, so he and Christopher Gist had to build a raft with only a “poor” hatchet.)
- 5 What happened to Washington in the river?
(He fell in ten feet of water trying to stop the raft. He then grabbed hold of one of the raft’s logs.)
- 6 Where did Washington spend the night? How did he get there?
(He and Gist spent the night on an island. They waded there because their raft could not make it to the shores of the river.)
- 7 What happened to the river the next day?
(The river was frozen, so they were able to walk on it.)
- 8 Did the weather affect Washington’s body?
(He does not mention being affected by the weather but points out that Gist suffered from the extreme cold.)

Student Resource Page 8

Guided Reading Questions

- 1 To whom was George Washington writing?
(Richard Corbin was a person of authority. Washington wrote to him for a military promotion.)
- 2 Was Corbin a stranger to Washington?
(No. Washington had talked to him in Green Spring, Virginia, sometime earlier.)
- 3 What did Washington want?
(He wanted to obtain a military commission higher than that of major so that he would be on the level of the chief officers of the expedition to the Ohio River Valley.)
- 4 Did Washington feel he was capable of commanding all the forces?
(No. Washington recognized that he was young and inexperienced and that commanding all of the forces would be too important a position. He also confessed that he had a duty to his country NOT to take a position he is not qualified for.)
- 5 What did Washington want Corbin to do for him?
(Washington wanted Corbin to use his influence to help him gain the promotion, by mentioning his qualifications when decisions were being made to appoint the officers for the expedition.)

- 6** Did Washington feel capable of serving as lieutenant colonel?
(Yes. Washington felt that under the right commander he would work hard and not do anything wrong and therefore would be worthy of the promotion.)
- 7** Does Washington appear confident, ambitious, and optimistic?
(Yes. This letter was a “pitch” for a promotion to lieutenant colonel. He was confident enough in his abilities to point out his weaknesses [his youth and inexperience]. He was ambitious enough to take the initiative in writing to Corbin, and he was ambitious to be of equal rank with his fellow officers. The tone of the letter seems optimistic, as Washington reminds Corbin that he had given him reason to be hopeful.)

Student Resource Page 11

Guided Reading Questions

- 1** What were Washington’s goals in taking troops from Virginia into the Ohio country?
(To seize the fort at the point where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet before the French did.)
- 2** Why did he fall back to the Great Meadows?
(The French had already seized the fort at the Forks of the Ohio. Washington and his men went to Great Meadows because it was a good place to find food for the horses, to set up a fort to defend themselves, and a good location if they had to attack the French fort.)
- 3** What caused the French to attack Washington at the Great Meadows?
(According to Washington, the French came to look at his camp and to assess the British strengths and position. When Washington learned that they were there, he attacked.)
- 4** What happened on the morning of July 3, 1754?
(The French and their Indian allies attacked with shouts and yells. Washington and his men fiercely counterattacked. The French then changed that plan of attack and took up several positions in the forest. Washington and his men counterattacked in the best way possible.)
- 5** Where were Washington and his men situated? Where was the enemy?
(Washington and his men were on the fields [meadows] inside a man-made fort and in trenches. The French and their Indian allies were located in the surrounding woods and hills.)
- 6** What happened when it rained?
(The trenches filled with water, and Washington’s ammunition and supplies became wet and ruined. All that remained dry was a little food and a few bayonets.)
- 7** What happened at the end of the battle?
(Washington had no choice but to surrender. He and his men could not defend themselves and their food supply would not last much longer.)

Student Resource Page 14

Guided Reading Questions

- 1 Why did Washington want to warn Colonel Mercer?
(He was concerned because he heard gunfire and then silence. Washington probably was worried too, because it was dusk and visibility was not good.)
- 2 Why did Mercer's troops attack Washington's troops?
(Some of Mercer's troops had not gotten word that Washington's troops were approaching. They mistook them for the enemy.)
- 3 What did Washington do to stop the "friendly fire"?
(Realizing that one group of Virginians was firing on another, he ran between the two sides with his sword raised. Using his sword, he hit the gun barrels up so that the soldiers were firing into the air instead of at one another.)

Student Resource Page 16

Scaffolding Questions

- 1 How did Washington feel about the men who served under him?
(He felt close to them and told them that if need be he would help them in the future.)
- 2 How would this affect his success later in life?
(Washington's feelings toward the people who served under him—as commander in chief of the army and country—made him a compassionate leader. People tended to be loyal to him because of his concern.)

Student Resource Page 17

Scaffolding Questions

- 1 Why was Washington uneasy about accepting this position?
(Washington recognized that it was an important position and that it was an honor to be chosen for it, but he was unsure that he was the right person for the position. He pointed to his abilities and military experience.)
- 2 How would this attitude affect Washington's success?
(Washington was humble and realistic at the same time. He was also more concerned with the "cause"—serving his country—than with satisfying himself.)

Student Resource Page 18

Scaffolding Questions

- 1 Why do you think Washington felt an obligation to his troops?
(He felt that the army had suffered hard times and needed monetary support, clothes, and food. He also feared that the army might not be kept together much longer without these.)
- 2 How would this sense of responsibility affect Washington's success?
(Washington's concern for both his troops and the cause made him a compassionate, realistic, and successful leader.)

Student Resource Page 19

Scaffolding Questions

- 1 How did Washington view the position of president?
(He felt that it was an honor to serve the people. He also felt that it was an honor that they believed in him. As a result he felt obligated to the people.)
- 2 How would his view affect his success?
(Washington was concerned with his responsibilities and was intent on doing a good job—for the country and its people. Again, he appears compassionate, selfless, and realistic at the same time.)

Student Resource Page 20

Scaffolding Questions

- 1 What does Stuart's painting tell you about Washington?
(It shows a stately, confident Washington in a somewhat realistic and symbolic setting. Washington is shown as a leader, in a fancy suit, holding a sword, and surrounded by pen, papers and books. He is also not looking at the viewer but away - as if he is thinking of important matters. Unlike earlier paintings, Washington is shown in full figure, not in uniform, in action, or on horseback. This painting was also done by Stuart as a gift to an important British friend of the American cause. The painting points to the importance of Washington in the cause.)
- 2 What does this say about Washington's success?
(This painting shows a powerful man who has reached a pinnacle of success. He was secure in his reputation and abilities. Washington served his country for most of his life. He appears satisfied, that his country is now on a firm path. His job was done and he could retire, which he did the following year.)