Winter Into Strength

Hardship and leadership at Valley Forge

5.C.4.4.D "Describe the harsh conditions at the Valley Forge Encampment and how Washington's leadership created a cohesive, disciplined fighting force."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two hardships, circle two actions Washington took, and draw an arrow from one circled action to a sentence showing how it helped the army.

The Army at Valley Forge

1. In December 1777, George Washington's army camped at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, a nearby city, was held by British troops. Soldiers built small wooden huts, but cold air still slipped through gaps. Some men had worn-out shoes and walked on frozen ground with bare feet. Food deliveries often fell short. Hunger and cold weakened the soldiers, making it harder to train and stay ready to fight.

2. Sickness spread in the crowded camp, and many soldiers died during the months at Valley Forge. Washington could not make these problems vanish. He asked leaders for more food and clothing and put officers to work improving how supplies reached camp. He stayed with his troops and kept the army together through the winter instead of giving up the fight.

3. Washington also welcomed a new trainer, Baron von Steuben, to teach the soldiers. Von Steuben drilled small groups in marching, turning, and using their weapons. Those soldiers then taught others, so more units could follow the same commands. Practice gave the army a shared way to act, even when conditions were difficult. By spring 1778, the troops were more disciplined and better prepared to face the British.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did two hardships at Valley Forge make it harder for soldiers to stay ready to fight?

2. How did Washington try to help the army face its shortages?

3. Why did von Steuben teach small groups of soldiers first?

4. How did Washington's decision to stay and his use of training help the army become a stronger fighting force?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence diary entry as a soldier at Valley Forge. Describe two hardships, include two choices Washington made, and explain how your unit changed by spring.

ANSWER KEY

Winter Into Strength

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.4.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two hardships, circle two actions Washington took, and draw an arrow from one circled action to a sentence showing how it helped the army. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did two hardships at Valley Forge make it harder for soldiers to stay ready to fight?	**Hunger and cold weakened soldiers, making training and staying ready to fight harder.**
2	How did Washington try to help the army face its shortages?	**He asked leaders for food and clothing and had officers improve how supplies reached camp.**
3	Why did von Steuben teach small groups of soldiers first?	**The trained soldiers taught others, helping more units follow the same commands.**
4	How did Washington's decision to stay and his use of training help the army become a stronger fighting force?	**Staying with his troops helped keep the army together. Training helped units act together and become more disciplined.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the winter, my toes ached in worn-out shoes, and hunger made each day harder. Washington stayed with us and asked leaders to send supplies instead of letting our army break apart. By spring, von Steuben, whom Washington welcomed, had taught us to march and follow the same commands. Now our unit moves together and is more ready to face the British.

Accept other passage-supported hardships and leadership actions. Diary entries should connect Washington's choices to the army staying together or becoming more disciplined.