

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

From Valley Forge to Yorktown

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

Von Steuben taught the Continental soldiers how to march and stand in formation. He taught them how to advance on the battlefield. He also taught them how to use the bayonets attached to their muskets. Von Steuben trained a model company. Then, the members of this model company trained other companies.

The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

1. **Part A:** In this paragraph, what is the meaning of *model company*?

- A. a military company deserving to be copied by others
- B. a fashion company that employs people to model clothes
- C. a toy company that makes plastic parts to form model airplanes
- D. an art company that employs models to pose for portrait painters

Answer _____

Part B: Which sentence from the text best helps the reader determine the meaning of the term *model company*?

- A. Von Steuben taught the Continental soldiers how to march and stand in formation.
- B. He taught them how to advance on the battlefield.
- C. He also taught them how to use the bayonets attached to their muskets.
- D. Then, the members of this model company trained other companies.

Answer _____

2. Explain in your own words how one man, Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, was able to train so many men for battle in such a short amount of time.

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

In late September, Washington arrived at Yorktown with 4,000 French soldiers and 3,000 Continental soldiers. The Major General of the Continental Army was the Marquis de Lafayette. These new soldiers **reinforced** Lafayette's men who were already there. The French navy arrived as well, and one of the first things they did was drive away a **convoy** of British ships that were carrying supplies for Cornwallis and his men. That was when Cornwallis knew he was in trouble. He was cornered by the French and Continental armies, and the French navy had cut off his escape route as well as his supplies!

The French and Continental armies set up cannons and began firing on the British. For days the guns fired constantly. Washington gave orders to fire through the night so the British would not have any quiet time to rest or make repairs.

Cornwallis and his men could not protect themselves and, because of the position of the French **fleet**, they could not sail away. Eventually, on October 19, 1781, Cornwallis accepted that he had no choice but to surrender.



Louis-Nicolas van Blarenberghe, *The Taking of Yorktown*

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The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

3. **Part A:** In the first paragraph, what is the meaning of the word *reinforced*?

- A. enforced new laws again
- B. strengthened with new supplies or more people
- C. angered
- D. overpowered

Answer _____

Part B: Which sentence from the text best helps the reader determine the meaning of the word *reinforced*?

- A. In late September, Washington arrived at Yorktown with 4,000 French soldiers and 3,000 Continental soldiers.
- B. The French navy arrived as well, and one of the first things they did was drive away a convoy of British ships that were carrying supplies for Cornwallis and his men.
- C. That was when Cornwallis knew he was in trouble.
- D. He was cornered by the French and Continental armies, and the French navy had cut off his escape route as well as his supplies!

Answer _____

The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

4. **Part A:** In the third paragraph, what was the meaning of the word *fleet*?

- A. cannons
- B. generals
- C. army
- D. ships

Answer _____

Part B: Which phrase from the text best helps the reader determine the meaning of the word *fleet*?

- A. the French and Continental armies set up cannons
- B. the guns fired constantly
- C. they could not sail away
- D. no choice but to surrender

Answer _____