

Lesson 9: Time to Outsmart the British

**Close Reading
of Chapter 5:
It's War!**





**Let's do a little review about
chapter 5...**

**At the beginning of the war
between the British and the
colonists, who seemed most
likely to win the war? Why?**



When George Washington wrote to the Continental Congress in December 1777 describing the state of the army, what was morale like? Why do you think that?



Chapter 5

It's War!

THE BIG QUESTION

At the beginning of the war between the British and the colonists, who seemed most likely to win the war, and why?

At the beginning of the war, the British were confident that they could defeat the colonists. The Continental Army, at least at first, was not exactly a force to be reckoned with. It was made up of farmers and shopkeepers. These soldiers knew how to shoot, but they didn't know how to march or fight in formation. They had almost no cannons and very few fighting ships. On the other hand, the British army and navy were among the largest and best trained in the world. The British had more soldiers, more cannons, and more ships, and they had much more experience. Besides that, the British had a plan that they thought would help them win the war: divide the colonies in half and fight them on two **fronts**.



Reread page 40.

Close reading



Chapter 5

It's War!

THE BIG QUESTION

At the beginning of the war between the British and the colonists, who seemed most likely to win the war, and why?

At the beginning of the war, the British were confident that they could defeat the colonists. The Continental Army, at least at first, was not exactly a force to be reckoned with. It was made up of farmers and shopkeepers. These soldiers knew how to shoot, but they didn't know how to march or fight in formation. They had almost no cannons and very few fighting ships. On the other hand, the British army and navy were among the largest and best trained in the world. The British had more soldiers, more cannons, and more ships, and they had much more experience. Besides that, the British had a plan that they thought would help them win the war: divide the colonies in half and fight them on two **fronts**.



Reread page 40.

The second sentence reads, 'The Continental Army, at least at first, was not exactly a *force to be reckoned with*.' What does that phrase mean? What is the author saying about the Continental Army? What evidence does the author give to support that claim?



Crossing the Delaware

Having retreated from Boston, the British turned their attention to New York City. They recognized the **strategic** importance of this port city. If their plan to gain control was to succeed, they needed to capture it. However, George Washington was equally aware of the importance of having control of New York City. He marched his troops there to **confront** the British army.

In the summer of 1776, the British and Continental armies engaged in a battle on Long Island and Manhattan Island. George Washington and his men failed to keep New York City out of British hands. By November 1776, having lost New York City, George Washington retreated along the Hudson River and then into New Jersey. Washington knew his army was simply not as strong as the British army. If he tried to challenge the British in a major battle, he knew he would lose. He would have to look for opportunities to attack when his enemies were not expecting it.

On December 25, 1776, that is exactly what Washington did. It was Christmas night, and the Hessian troops who were camped in Trenton,

New Jersey, had been on round-the-clock alert for over a week. They were exhausted. Finally, they had been allowed to sleep. Because they were not expecting an attack on Christmas night, many were unarmed.

Washington crossed the Delaware River from Pennsylvania and took the Hessians completely by surprise. More than 1,000 of them were forced to **surrender** in the sneak attack.

The victory at Trenton was extremely good for the **morale** of Washington's troops, but it was followed by a string of defeats. Washington and his men were defeated at the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777 and again at the Battle of Germantown in October. At Germantown, some of the soldiers in the Continental Army became confused and fired on their own troops. Because of these defeats, the British were able to capture Philadelphia. The Continental Congress was forced to break up and relocate to another city.

Farther north, a British army marched down from Canada, recaptured Fort Ticonderoga, and began to close in on the Continental Army fighting in this area. The Continental Army was in trouble. It was time to retreat and regroup—but the British were right behind them.

Emanuel Leutze's painting depicts the historic moment when General George Washington led Continental soldiers across the Delaware River to surprise Hessian troops who were hired to fight for the British.



Who won the battle on Long Island? How do you know?

The topic sentence in the third paragraph on page 42 says, "that is exactly what Washington did," what did Washington do?



Outsmarting the Enemy

The Continental Army also needed a plan. Fortunately, a man named Tadeusz Kościuszko had one. Kościuszko was a Polish engineer who had joined the colonists in their fight for independence. Kościuszko shared certain strategies that the Continental Army might use to slow down the British army.

At Kościuszko's suggestion, the Continental soldiers cut down trees and let them fall across roads as they retreated. They destroyed bridges, and they built dams so rivers would overflow onto the roads.

These **tactics** gave the soldiers time to set up defenses near Saratoga, New York. Kościuszko played an important role in that, too. He suggested the best defensive spots to build forts, thus preventing the British from continuing south to Albany. He also taught the Continental soldiers how to build strong defensive walls.

In September 1777, the British attacked the forts near Saratoga. Despite repeated efforts, they were not able to break through the Continental Army defenses. On October 17, the British general surrendered. More than 6,000 British soldiers handed over their weapons. The Battle of Saratoga was the first big victory for the Continental Army.

In December 1777, Washington and his tired men limped into the Pennsylvania town of Valley Forge. Washington had decided that his army would spend the winter there. In those days, armies scaled back fighting during the winter. That winter, Washington's army had to face another enemy—Mother Nature.

Mother Nature was not kind to the Continental Army during the winter of 1777 to 1778. It was a bitterly cold winter, and the soldiers were not prepared for it. Most of them did not have winter coats. Many did not even have shoes. Their injured feet left bloody footprints in the snow.

Mrs. Kelly

Sebastian

Grace

Conner

Karen

Arianna

Do you remember what personification is? What is an example of personification on page 44?

Instead of "Their feet hurt," the text states, "Their injured feet left bloody footprints in the snow." Which sentence is more powerful or effective?



"I am now convinced, beyond a doubt that unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place . . . this Army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these three things. Starve, dissolve, or disperse . . . [W]e have . . . no less than 2,898 men now in camp unfit for duty because they are bare foot and otherwise naked."

—George Washington

As the New Year dawned in 1778, things looked **bleak** for George Washington and the Continental Army. However, the tide was beginning to turn in their favor.



Among Washington's men at Valley Forge was a young French nobleman named the Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette was to have a prominent role in the Revolutionary War.

As the New Year dawned in 1778, things looked **bleak** for George Washington and the Continental Army. However, the tide was beginning to turn in their favor.

**Read the last paragraph on page 47.
What hints do we have about what
will happen as the Revolutionary
War continues?**



Pronoun–Action Verb Agreement

first, we need to talk about what pronouns are. Pronouns are words that can be used in place of a noun.

I, you, he, she, it, we, and they are pronouns.

Pronoun	Agreement in the Present Tense	Example
it, he, she	verbs ending in 's', 'sh', 'ch', 'x', and 'z', add -es	It catches on fire.
	verbs ending with 'y', change 'y' to 'i' and add -es	He dries the dishes.
	add -s	She hums a melody.
I, we, you, they	verb does not change	We prepare to go to school.



Pronoun–Action Verb Agreement

Pronoun Subject		Action Verb	Agreement
Singular	I	learn	I learn
	you	work	you work
	he	march	he marches
	she	dry	she dries
	it	sail	it sails
Plural	we	wash	we wash
	you	talk	you talk
	they	fight	they fight

Using only pronouns for subjects, write expanded sentences for five pronoun-action verb agreement statements from the chart.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

9.1

TAKE-HOME

Practice Subject-Action Verb Agreement

Fill in the correct pronoun for each noun. Complete the "Agreement" column, using the information provided. Remember to use the present tense (action is happening now) even though you may be writing about people who lived in the past. The first one has been done for you.

Subject	Action Verb	Agreement
the troops	prepare	the troops prepare
they	prepare	they prepare
the cannonball	fly	
	fly	
Thomas Jefferson	write	
	write	
the newspapers	say	
	say	
the ox	push	
	push	
the queen	cry	
	cry	
the representatives	debate	
	debate	
you (singular)	drink	
you (plural)	travel	
I	play	
we	listen	

Turn to Activity Page 9.1 (workbook page 89)

Let's do one together and then you can complete the rest of the page on your own.

We also need to look carefully at the directions for the back side!



You will have a little bit of time to work on this in class and the rest will be homework.



Prefixes: im– and in–

Remember that both prefixes mean "not"; Add im– to words that start with *m*, *b*, and *p*

possible	impossible	(not) able to happen
capable	incapable	(not) having the skill or ability
active	inactive	(not) working or doing something physical
correct	incorrect	(not) right
patient	impatient	(not) accept delays
perfect	imperfect	(not) as good as possible
practical	impractical	(not) likely to work/succeed



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

9.2

ACTIVITY PAGE

Practice Prefixes *im-* and *in-*

Write the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The colonists believed a peaceful settlement with Great Britain was _____ and not likely to happen.
(possible, impossible, capable, incapable)
2. It is _____ the soldiers confused Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill
(active, inactive, possible, impossible)
because they did not know the area.
3. My mom received _____ directions to the party, so we ended
(correct, incorrect, patient, impatient)
up at the wrong house.
4. I am usually very _____ while I wait at the doctor's office
(capable, incapable, patient, impatient)
because I bring a book to read.
5. Ichabod Crane is a(n) _____ master of witchcraft because he
(patient, impatient, perfect, imperfect)
has read so many books about witches.



**Turn to Activity page 9.2
(workbook page 91).**

**Choose the best word to
complete each sentence
and write it on the line.**

**Then turn to the back and
create a sentence use the
given word.**



**finish Activity pages
9.1 and 9.2.**

**Whatever you do not
finish in class you
need to take home
for homework.**

