Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Artist: Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863–1930)
In the painting: Thomas Jefferson (right), Benjamin Franklin (left), and John Adams (center)
Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Describe Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' famous picture on the attached page. Tell who is pictured and explain what is going on in the scene.


Does this scene take place before or after July 4, 1776. How do you know?


What is on the floor? Why?


What do you imagine Mr. Franklin is thinking?


What do you imagine Mr. Jefferson is saying?
General George Washington knew there was a group of British soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey. He also knew that the soldiers were likely to attack the city of Philadelphia. Washington had an idea that could save the city and the people that lived there.

On Christmas night, in 1776, Washington and 2,500 of his men boarded small boats and crossed the Delaware River. It was a snowy day, the river was filled with ice, and his troops were cold and tired.

Washington and his men snuck up on the British soldiers and attacked while they were sleeping. Twenty-two British soldiers were killed, and another 900 were taken prisoner. Two Americans were also killed that day. This sneak attack became known as the Battle of Trenton.

It was a major victory for the American Continental Army and it raised their morale.
Crossing the Delaware River

1. Why did Washington’s Army attack sleeping soldiers in Trenton?
   a. Washington feared they would cross the river into New York.
   b. Washington needed their food and weapons for his men.
   c. Washington knew they were going to attack Philadelphia.
   d. Washington did not like the people that lived in New Jersey.

2. In which direction did Washington’s army travel after crossing the Delaware River.
   a. southeast          b. southwest
   c. northwest          d. northeast

3. Before the attack on Trenton, Washington and his men were...
   a. south of Philadelphia  b. north of Philadelphia
   c. east of Philadelphia  d. in Philadelphia

4. During what season did the Battle of Trenton take place?
   a. summer          b. autumn
   c. spring          d. winter

5. How many soldiers crossed the Delaware River with Washington? _________________

6. How many British soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? ________________

7. How many American soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Trenton? ________________

8. When did Emanuel Leutze paint a picture of Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River?
   a. 25 years after it happened          b. 50 years after it happened
   c. 75 years after it happened          d. 90 years after it happened
Crossing the Delaware River

Imagine you are General George Washington and today’s date is December 24, 1776. You’re planning to cross the Delaware River tomorrow night, on Christmas. The following morning, before the sun rises, you’re going to launch a surprise attack on sleeping British soldiers in Trenton.

Your men are cold and tired. They just lost a battle in New York a few days earlier. Now they’re glad the fighting is over and looking forward to a relaxing Christmas Day.

Write a speech to your men in which you tell them about your plan to cross the Delaware. In your speech, describe the plan. Tell your soldiers when they have to be ready, where they’re going, and what they’ll have to do. Include some positive, inspirational words to motivate them and raise their morale.

(Continue on another sheet of paper if you need more writing space.)
Louisa May Alcott

By Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29, 1832. She was one of five children. Louisa spent most of her childhood in Concord, Massachusetts. She and her sisters spent lots of their free time acting out plays that Louisa had written. Many remarkable people lived in Concord during this time. Henry David Thoreau taught Louisa to love the natural world around her, and Ralph Waldo Emerson introduced Louisa to books.

Louisa’s first stories were published when she was just 16 years old. She published her first book at the age of 22. Louisa spent some time working as a nurse in a soldiers' hospital during the Civil War. She wrote and published a book about this experience titled, Hospital Sketches. This book became her first well known work. However, her most well known work was written in 1868 and 1869. Little Women was based on Louisa’s childhood in Concord with her sisters. Louisa was Jo, the heroine of the story. Little Women became so popular that it became part of a series. Louisa went on to write Little Men, Jo’s Boys and many other works.

Louisa May Alcott died on March 6, 1888. Over 100 years later, her books remain a childhood favorite.
1. What is Louisa May Alcott most famous for?
   a. working as a nurse during the civil war
   b. writing the book, Little Women
   c. writing the book, Hospital sketches
   d. writing plays that were acted out by her sisters

2. Place these events in sequential order.
   (Label each sentence 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th.)
   ____ Louisa worked as a nurse.
   ____ Louisa wrote Little Men and Jo’s Boys.
   ____ Louisa wrote plays and acted them out with her sisters.
   ____ Louisa May Alcott was born.
   ____ Louisa wrote her most famous book, Little Women.
   ____ Louisa’s first book was published.

3. How old was Louisa May Alcott when she died?
   a. 45  b. 55  c. 65  d. over 100
Born into a wealthy Illinois family with a long history of public service, Jane Addams wondered what she could do to help others. Jane remembered the Chicago slums she had seen as a child, and she thought she might want to open a place that would provide education and recreation to the poor.

In 1889, Jane and her friend Ellen Gates made Jane's dream a reality. They opened Hull House in Chicago.

Among its many activities, Hull House provided a place for poor immigrant families to play games, listen to poetry readings or take music or painting classes.

Jane Addams's public service didn't stop with Hull House. Jane worked for laws to end child labor and campaigned for women's rights. She served as president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and was chairman of the Women's Peace Party. Jane Addams won the Nobel peace prize in 1931. She died on May 21, 1935. All these years later, we still celebrate the service and life of Jane Addams.
1. According to the information in this passage, why is Jane Addams an important historical person?
   a. She fought against providing education and recreation for the poor.
   b. She worked hard to make life easier for the poor and she fought for women’s rights.
   c. She founded the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.
   d. She was a poor immigrant who dedicated her life to helping others in Chicago.

2. Jane Addams worked for laws to end child labor. What does this mean?
   a. She believed young children should work hard in school.
   b. She believed schools were forcing children to work too hard.
   c. She believed children shouldn’t be forced to work long hours to earn money for their families.
   d. She believed children should work longer hours and earn more money.

3. Which word best describes Jane Addams?
   
   compassionate  inconsiderate  greedy

   Why did you choose this word?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com
Founding of a Country

Artist: John Trumbull
A few of the men in the painting include: Thomas Jefferson (center, holding paper), Benjamin Franklin (to Jefferson's left), and John Adams (center, with his hand on his hip).
Describe John Trumbull's famous picture on the attached page. Explain what is going on in the scene.


Does this scene depict the First Continental Congress or the Second Continental Congress? How do you know?


What do you imagine Jefferson might be saying to the men in the room?