

Question Sheet for The Continental Army & Washington

1. Who is the author of the source? What was his position (his duty) at Valley Forge?
2. What sort of military action does the source describe that occurred on December 11? What does he note as the outcome of this action?
3. Next, look at the diary entry for December 13. In your view, is this entry critical or supportive of the commanding officers at Valley Forge? What evidence in the entry supports your conclusion?
4. Read the diary entry for December 14. In this entry, list at least four conditions described by Waldo that either he or other soldiers at Valley Forge are enduring. In your view, are these conditions that are unique to Valley Forge, or do you think soldiers in all conflicts experience the same thing?
5. After reading the excerpt for Waldo's diary, describe how you see his morale. List at least three examples from the reading to back up your description.
6. In your view, based on your reading and viewing of episodes from *Liberty!*, would Waldo's account be fairly consistent of the experience of the average soldier during the Revolutionary War? Write a paragraph explaining your view.

7. Do you think that the conditions Waldo discusses were common of both enlisted men and officers? Why or why not?

8. Assume that you were George Washington and received a copy of Waldo's diary. What concern, if any, would you have about the conditions stated in it?

9. In Episode #3, Pauline Maier notes, "...this means you have a different kind of an army. A more democratical army maybe, a more egalitarian army maybe. And in some ways it was a style of leadership that was going to be much more important for a republican government later on..." In your view, would this method of leading an army be more or less effective than the opposing armies' leadership styles described by the narrator of *Liberty*? Explain your view.

10. Why do you think George Washington had his officers read *American Crisis* to troops on the eve of the Battle of Trenton?

11. John Shy, in the end of Episode #3, looks at Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton as watershed events, noting, "From that point, he seems to be able to do no wrong. Washington, after these two little military victories, seems to exemplify the Revolution. He *is* the Revolution." Presume you are a soldier in Washington's army and are a veteran of the battles at Princeton and Trenton. Write a "letter" home to your parents describing how you see Washington's leadership in these battles. Use information from the episode as well as information from your textbook and other sources.