

Worksheet: *The Crossing* (2000) – George Washington and the Battle of Trenton

Movie Summary:

The film *The Crossing* tells the story of George Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776. This event leads to a surprise attack against Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey, marking a crucial turning point in the American Revolutionary War.

If you don't know an answer or have further questions, please ask George himself. You can find him here: [ChatGPT - George Washington](#)

Part 1: Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main historical figure in *The Crossing*?
 2. What major event does the movie focus on?
 3. Why was the crossing of the Delaware River a significant moment in the Revolutionary War?
 4. Describe the conditions of Washington's army before the crossing.
 5. What was Washington's plan after crossing the Delaware?
 6. What challenges did Washington and his troops face during the crossing?
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Part 2: Analysis and Critical Thinking

7. Why did Washington decide to cross the Delaware River despite the dangers?
 8. How did the timing of the attack (Christmas night) play a role in the success of the mission?
 9. What leadership qualities does Washington demonstrate in the movie? Provide two examples.
 10. What do you think the movie suggests about the role of risk in leadership?
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Part 3: Historical Context and Impact

11. How did the victory at Trenton affect the American Revolutionary War?
 12. How accurate is the movie's portrayal of the crossing and the Battle of Trenton? Mention one area where the film stays true to history and one area where it might be dramatized.
 13. If you were one of Washington's soldiers, what might have been your biggest fear or concern during the crossing?
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Discussion Questions

14. What do you think motivated Washington and his troops to endure such hardship?
 15. In your opinion, what is the most important lesson that can be learned from *The Crossing*?
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Answers

1. George Washington, the Commander of the Continental Army.
2. The crossing of the Delaware River by Washington and his troops on Christmas night, 1776.
3. It was a surprise attack on the Hessians in Trenton, which boosted American morale and was a pivotal moment for the Continental Army.
4. The Continental Army was demoralized, poorly supplied, and facing harsh winter conditions, with soldiers lacking proper clothing and food.
5. Washington planned to launch a surprise attack on the Hessian forces stationed in Trenton, New Jersey.
6. They faced freezing temperatures, strong currents, and ice in the river, making the crossing dangerous and difficult.
7. He believed a surprise attack was necessary to revitalize his troops' morale and secure a strategic victory.
8. The Hessian forces were unprepared, partly because they were celebrating Christmas and did not expect an attack.
9. He showed resilience by pressing on despite difficult conditions and bravery by leading his troops through the crossing.
10. The movie suggests that effective leaders sometimes need to take calculated risks to achieve important goals, especially in dire situations.
11. The victory boosted morale, increased enlistments, and helped solidify support for the Revolutionary cause.
12. The film accurately depicts the hardships of the crossing but may dramatize interactions and conversations for narrative effect.
13. Possible fears could include the danger of freezing temperatures, the risk of drowning, or uncertainty about the success of the mission.
14. They were driven by a desire for independence and the belief in freedom, along with loyalty to Washington.
15. Answers will vary but may include lessons about courage, resilience, strategic thinking, and the impact of determined leadership.