

## Serving in the Continental Army James Larrow, Sleepy Hill Middle School

**Directions:** Analyze the following documents. Use the documents and your knowledge of American History, to answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers will help you write a short essay related to the documents.

### Document A:



Painting of recruiting meeting in Boston.

1. What is taking place in the painting?
2. In your opinion, what is the man on the stage doing?
3. In your opinion, why did men volunteer for service in the Continental Army?

**Document B:**

**GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**What a Brilliant Prospect does this Event Present to every Lad of Spirit who is inclined to try his Fortune in this highly renowned Corps.**

**The Continental Marines**

**When every thing that swims the Seas must be a  
PRIZE!**

Thousands are at this moment endeavoring to get on Board Privateers where they will serve without pay or reward of any kind whatsoever, so certain does their chance appear of enriching themselves by PRIZE MONEY! What an enviable Station then must the CONTINENTAL MARINE hold,--- who with far superior advantages to these, has the additional benefit of liberal Pay, and plenty of the best Provisions, with a good and well appointed Ship under him, the Pride and Glory of the Continental Navy; surely every Man of Spirit must blush to remain at Home in Inactivity and Indolence when his Country needs his Assistance.

Where then can he have such a fair opportunity, reaping Glory and Riches in the Continental Marines, a Corps daily acquiring new Honors, and here, once embarked in American Fleet, he finds himself in the midst of Honor and Glory, surrounded by a set of fine fellows, Strangers to Fear, and who strike Terror through the Hearts of their Enemies wherever they go!

He has likewise the inspiring idea to know, that while he sails the Ocean to protect the Liberty of these states, that the Thanks and good Wishes of the whole American people shall send him forth on his mission and participate in his Glory. Lose no Time, then, my Fine Fellows, in embracing the glorious Opportunity that awaits you: YOU WILL RECEIVE

**Seventeen Dollars Bounty.**

And on your Arrival at Head Quarters be comfortably and genteely CLOTHED. And spirited young BOYS, of a promising Appearance, who are Five Feet Six Inches High, will receive TEN DOLLARS, and equal Advantage of PROVISIONS and CLOTHING with the Men. And those who wish only to enlist for a limited Service, shall receive a Bounty of SEVEN DOLLARS, and Boys FIVE. In fact, the Advantages which the MARINE receives are too numerous to mention here, but among the many, it may not be amiss to state --- that if he has a WIFE or aged PARENT, he can make them an Allotment of half his PAY which will be regularly paid without any Trouble to them, or to whomever he may direct, that being well Fed and Clothed on Board Ship, the remainder of his PAY and PRIZE MONEY will be placed in Reserve for the Relief of his Family or his own private Purposes. The Single Young Man, on his Return to Port, finds himself compelled to cut a Dash on Shore, with his GIRL and his GLASS, that might be envied by a Nobleman. Take Courage then, seize the Fortune that awaits you, repair to the MARINE RENDEVOUS, where on a FLOWING BOWL of PUNCH, on Three Times Three, you shall drink.

**Long Live the United States and Success to the Marines**

The Daily Allowance of a Marine when embarked is One Pound of BEEF or PORK. One Pound of BREAD. Flour, Raisins, Butter, Cheese, Oatmeal, Molasses, Tea, Sugar, &c. &c. And a Pint of the best WINE, or half a Pint of the Best RUM or BRANDY, together with a Pint of LEMONADE. They make Liberty in warm countries, a plentiful Allowance of the choicest FRUIT. And what can be more handsome than the Marines' Proportion of PRIZE MONEY, when a Sergeant shares equal with the Fleet Class of Petty Officers, such as Midshipmen, Petty Officers, &c. which is five shares each; a Corporal with the Second Class, which is Three Shares each; and the Private with the Able Seaman, one Share and a Half each.

Desiring Greater Particulars, and a more full account of the many Advantages of this Invaluable Corps, apply to CAPTAIN MULLAN at TUN TAVERN, where the bringer of a Recruit will receive THREE DOLLARS.

January, 1776

4. According to the above recruiting poster, why should people join the Continental Marines?
5. What is promised to a person who joins the Continental Marines?
6. How can a person take care of his wife or parents?
7. What is the major difference between enlisting for the entire war or a limited time?

## Document C:

### Quotes from Valley Forge

"An army of skeletons appeared before our eyes naked, starved, sick and discouraged," wrote New York's Gouverneur Morris of the Continental Congress.

The Marquis de Lafayette wrote: "The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything; they had neither coats nor hats, nor shirts, nor shoes. Their feet and their legs froze until they were black, and it was often necessary to amputate them."

A bitter George Washington — whose first concern was always his soldiers — would accuse the Congress of "little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers. I feel superabundantly for them, and from my soul pity those miseries, which it is neither in my power to relieve or prevent."

"We had nothing to eat for two or three days previous except what the trees of the forests and fields afforded us, but we must now have what Congress said, a sumptuous Thanksgiving to close the year of high living. . . . it gave each man half a gill (about half a cup) of rice and a tablespoon of vinegar!" Joseph Plumb Martin

8. At Valley Forge, what kind of conditions did the average soldier experience?
9. Who was George Washington's primary concern at Valley Forge?
10. Did congress succeed in supplying the soldiers?
11. According to Lafayette, what happened to many of the soldiers?
12. In your opinion, how did Joseph Plumb Martin feel about Thanksgiving?

**Document D:**



[Valley Forge--Washington & Lafayette. Winter 1777-78. Copy of engraving by H. B. Hall after Alonzo Chappel.](#)  
[ARC Identifier: 532877](#)

13. What were conditions like for the Continental soldier?
14. What do you think Washington and Lafayette are discussing?
15. What is the soldier (by the cannon) doing?
16. What do you think the soldiers are talking or thinking about?



**Document E:**

17. What are the troops doing?

18. Where do you think they are going?

19. Was this the primary form of transportation?

20. Did the soldiers carry a lot of gear? What type of equipment was carried?



**Document F:**

21. What is happening in the picture?
22. Why did armies fight in this manner?
23. Do you think it would take a lot of discipline to fight in this manner?

### **Essay Question**

**Directions:** Using the information in the documents provided, and your knowledge of the American Revolution, answer the question below in a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Describe what life was like for the common Continental soldier during the American Revolution. In your essay, include a discussion of why men joined to fight, what the government offer to entice men to join, what conditions the soldier's endured, and how they fought and traveled.