Worksheet: Crossing the Delaware

Directions: Today you will work in pairs to analyze a painting and a primary source, the recollections of a Revolutionary War veteran. Your goal is to develop an understanding of the conditions faced by Washington and the soldiers as they crossed the Delaware.

1. Describe the scene illustrated by the artist. What are the conditions?
2. Who are the people?
3. How do the people shown react to those conditions? (3 points)
4. Why is Washington placed in the center of the painting? What does his appearance tell you? What is the artist trying to say about Washington based on how he is depicted? (3 points)
5. What questions do you have about this painting?


1. Give specific quotes from Greenwood’s recollections that describe the conditions of the crossing.

2. In what ways are the images shown in the painting and the facts recounted in Greenwood’s recollections similar? Different?

3. If you were Washington, what actions would you have taken based on the conditions shown in the painting and in Greenwood’s recollections? Why?

4. How do you think the Battle of Trenton will affect the outcome of the Revolutionary War? (3 points)