Colonization and Revolutionary War

Valley Forge

One of the hardest battles George Washington and his troops fought wasn’t against the British. It was against the winter. In the fall of 1777, the British occupied Philadelphia, one of the most important colonial cities. Many congressmen wanted General Washington to reclaim the city. But Washington knew the Continental Army was not ready. Instead of attacking Philadelphia, Washington took his army to a plateau nearby, above the town of Valley Forge. There, he waited out the winter months.

The winter was **bitterly** cold. Colonists had hidden supplies for the army, but the British had raided their goods. The months from December 1777 to February 1778 were the hardest three months of the war. The troops had little food beyond the squirrels and small animals they could hunt in the forest. Many did not have uniforms, and many more lacked boots. A soldier’s feet would get so cold from walking **near** the snow and ice that his entire leg might turn black from frostbite. **Sometimes**, the frostbite was so severe that the soldier’s leg would have to be amputated.

The men lived in wooden huts. Each hut was one room and had a small fireplace. Twelve men shared a hut. They had just enough space to lie down, but they did not have blankets. The temperatures often fell below freezing. Many men became sick, and some died. Diseases such **as smallpox, dysentery, and typhus** killed as many as 3,000 men.The winter tested the loyalty of American troops. Some soldiers abandoned the army.

Washington did what he could to help his troops. A new man was put in charge of sending supplies to soldiers. He **has builded** bridges and improved roads so that food could reach the army. Another man helped Washington **train** the soldiers to fight the British more effectively. By spring, things began to improve rapidly for the troops.

The nation would never forget the **sacrifices** of the Continental Army at Valley Forge. Washington’s men grew to recognize him as a **strong**, caring leader. He led the army until the end of the Revolutionary War when Great Britain surrendered. Washington was looking forward to retiring to his home at Mount Vernon. But because he was so respected, colonists called him to duty. He became the first President of the United States.

1. It is most likely that the word train, as used in paragraph 4 means:
   1. a group of vehicles that travel on a track and are connected to each other and usually to an engine : a connected group of railroad
   2. to be taught the skills needed to do something
   3. an orderly series of events, actions, or ideas
2. As it is used in the passage, what does the word “sacrifices” in paragraph 5 most likely mean?
   1. the offering of animal or plant
   2. to cause the advance of in baseball
   3. the act of giving up something that you want to keep especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone
3. As it is used in the passage, what does the bolded word ‘bitterly’ in paragraph 2 most nearly mean?
   1. causing painful emotions
   2. very cold
   3. feeling or showing a lot of hatred or anger
4. It is most likely that the word strong, as used in paragraph 5 means:
   1. great in number
   2. having a lot of strength
   3. very bright
   4. very confident and able to deal with difficult situations
5. What change if any should be made to the bolded words in paragraph 3?
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. as, smallpox dysentery and typhus
   3. as smallpox, dysentery and typhus
   4. as smallpox dysentery and typhus
6. What change if any should be made to the bolded word in paragraph 4?
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. has built
   3. built
   4. builded
   5. has build
7. What change, if any, should be made to the underlined word in paragraph 2?
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. in
   3. on
   4. beside
   5. of
8. What change, if any, should be made to the underlined words in paragraph 2?
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. For example,
   3. Additionally,
   4. As a result,

Answer Key:

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. C
8. A