

The Story of Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, Connecticut, on June 6, 1755. At age 14, he enrolled at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. While at Yale, he became close friends with Benjamin Tallmadge, a fellow Yale student who would later become George Washington's head of intelligence during the Revolutionary War. Hale graduated from Yale with honors and became a schoolteacher in nearby East Haddam and later in New London. When the war began, he joined the Connecticut militia and became a first sergeant. In 1776, he was promoted to captain in the Continental Army's 7th Connecticut Regiment.

In August and September of 1776, during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, Hale volunteered to spy on British troop movements. Disguised as a schoolteacher, he was captured by British forces near present-day Queens following the torching of New York City. British officials, suspicious of Hale's schoolteacher facade, pretended to be Patriots and succeeded in convincing him to reveal his espionage (spy) activities. He was then questioned by British General William Howe. After interrogating Hale, Howe felt he had uncovered enough evidence and Hale was hanged the following day. According to eyewitness accounts, Hale's composure in the moments before his execution was astounding. His final words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," have been immortalized forever. Today, statues of Nathan Hale can be seen at the Nathan Hale Homestead, Yale University, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Andover Academy in Massachusetts.

1. Which of the following was NOT true about Nathan Hale?

- A. He went to Yale University
- B. He would become George Washington's head of intelligence
- C. He was a schoolteacher
- D. He was in the Continental Army's 7th Connecticut Regiment

2. Nathan Hale agreed to...

- A. spy on the Patriots during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights
- B. convince the British he was a spy for the Patriots
- C. convince the Patriots he was a spy for the British
- D. spy on the British during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights

3. What does interrogating mean in the following sentence?

After **interrogating** Hale, Howe felt he had uncovered enough evidence and Hale was hanged the following day.

- A. Destroying
- B. Questioning
- C. Lying about
- D. Tricking

4. Which of the following best mirrors Hale's famous quote?

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,"

- A. I wish I have never been a spy
- B. I wish more people lost their lives for their country
- C. I wish I had more than one life I could fight with
- D. I wish I did not decide to lose my life for my country

5. Why were people astounded before Hale was executed?

- A. They were so sad
- B. Nathan Hale was so calm
- C. They did not believe he was a spy
- D. There was no evidence against him

6. What is the main difference between the first and second paragraphs?

- A. The first paragraph tells about Hale's childhood and the second paragraph tells about his adult life
- B. The first paragraph describes his childhood and the second paragraph describes how he was captured as a spy
- C. The first paragraph tells about how he became involved in the Revolutionary War and the second paragraph tells how he was captured as a spy.
- D. The first paragraph tells about the history of Yale University and the second paragraph tells about how he was captured as a spy.

7. Which question is NOT answered in the story above?

- A. Where did Nathan Hale serve as a schoolteacher?
- B. Who decided there was enough evidence against Nathan Hale?
- C. Were there people who witnessed the execution?
- D. Who recorded Hale's famous last words?