

Battle of Monmouth Courthouse - Lexile 800

Name _____

After spending the winter and spring at Valley Forge, the Continental Army was ready and better trained. George Washington, the leader of the Continental Army, found out that the British planned to leave Philadelphia and go back to New York because they were worried about a naval blockade. The British would have to march 100 miles through New Jersey, and Washington saw this as a great chance to attack them before they could reach New York.

On June 28, 1778, a hot afternoon, Washington sent 5,000 soldiers to attack the British as they left Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey, on their way to New York. The goal was to slow down the British until the main American army could catch up. General Charles Lee led the first attack, but it was a failure, and the American soldiers retreated. Washington was very angry and took charge himself, jumping into the battle and helping the soldiers regroup. He helped them stand strong against the British until the main army arrived.

The battle lasted all day, but neither side won. When it got dark, the fighting stopped, and the British left the battlefield to continue their march. About 500 American soldiers were hurt or killed, while around 1,000 British soldiers were injured or killed. Many soldiers died from heat exhaustion instead of fighting. Even though the battle was not a clear win for either side, it showed that the Americans could fight well in open battle.

The Battle of Monmouth was the last major battle in the Northern colonies. After this, the British focused on the southern colonies, where there were more Loyalists who supported them.

1. Why did George Washington see the British evacuation from Philadelphia as a good opportunity to attack?

- A) The British were vulnerable while leaving and traveling through New Jersey
- B) He wanted to capture Philadelphia from the British
- C) The weather was perfect for battle
- D) The British were too tired to fight back

2. What went wrong during the first part of the battle when General Charles Lee was in charge?

- A) The American soldiers were too tired to fight
- B) The British ambushed the American forces and forced them to retreat
- C) The American soldiers lost their weapons and couldn't fight
- D) The attack was unorganized, and the American soldiers retreated

3. How did George Washington help the Continental Army after General Lee's retreat?

- A) He ordered the soldiers to run away and avoid further fighting
- B) He took control of the retreat and led the soldiers back into the battle
- C) He sent the soldiers to get more supplies
- D) He called for a peace treaty with the British

4. What was one major reason that many soldiers died during the Battle of Monmouth, even though they weren't killed in combat?

- A) They were outnumbered and overwhelmed by the British
- B) They suffered from heat stroke because of the extreme heat during the battle
- C) They ran out of food and water
- D) They were injured by their own cannons

5. Why is the Battle of Monmouth historically seen as a draw, even though the Patriots did not stop the British from reaching New York?

- A) Both sides had equal numbers of casualties
- B) The battle was too short to determine a winner
- C) The British were forced to retreat because of the American's strong defense
- D) The Americans showed they could fight the British effectively in open battle, even though the British continued their march

Answers

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. D

Answers:

- 1.) D
- 2.) D
- 3.) C
- 4.) B
- 5.) B