

## **Molly Pitcher - Lexile 800**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was born on October 13, 1744, near Trenton, New Jersey, and later moved to Pennsylvania. When she was a young teenager, she married a man named William Hayes, who worked as a barber. During the Revolutionary War, William joined the Continental Army.

Mary is most famous for her role in the 1778 Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey. At that time, she helped the soldiers by carrying pitchers of water to quench their thirst or cool down the cannons. This earned her the nickname "Molly Pitcher" because "Molly" was a common name for women named Mary, and soldiers would shout, "Molly! Pitcher!" when they needed water.

Her legendary moment happened during the Battle of Monmouth. When her husband either collapsed from the heat or got hurt, Mary bravely took over his job of firing the cannon. Despite the heat, she worked hard all day. One famous part of her story says a British cannonball flew between her legs and ripped her skirt, and she calmly said, "Well, that could have been worse."

After the war, Mary and William settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. After William died, Mary married another Revolutionary War soldier named John McCauly. In 1822, the state of Pennsylvania gave Mary a pension for her service at the Battle of Monmouth. She passed away on January 22, 1832, in Carlisle. In 1876, a special marker was placed at her grave to honor her role as "Molly Pitcher" in the war. Some historians think her story might be a mix of stories about several women who helped soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

### **1. What was Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly best known for during the Revolutionary War?**

- A) Leading a group of soldiers into battle
- B) Being a nurse in military hospitals
- C) Carrying water to soldiers and manning a cannon at the Battle of Monmouth
- D) Writing letters to the Continental Army generals

**2. Why did Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly get the nickname "Molly Pitcher"?**

- A) She was the first woman to join the Continental Army
- B) She was a famous spy for the Continental Army
- C) She carried pitchers of water to soldiers and their cannons during battles
- D) She was known for making pitchers for the soldiers' camps

**3. What happened to Mary's husband, William Hayes, during the Battle of Monmouth?**

- A) He became a general in the army
- B) He collapsed from the heat or was wounded, and Mary took over his job
- C) He was captured by the British
- D) He decided to leave the army to protect his family

**4. Historians debate whether Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly's story as "Molly Pitcher" is entirely true. What is one theory about her story?**

- A) Her story is completely fictional, with no real historical events behind it.
- B) Her story may be a mix of stories about several different women who helped on the battlefield.
- C) She was the only woman to serve in the Continental Army during the war.
- D) Her role was exaggerated, but she never actually helped during any battle.

**5. Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly's actions at the Battle of Monmouth helped challenge traditional gender roles. What impact might her story have had on how women were viewed during the Revolutionary War?**

- A) It showed that women were better suited for supporting roles, such as cooking and cleaning, rather than fighting.
- B) It highlighted that women could play an important role in battle and that their contributions were crucial to the war effort.
- C) It led to women being recruited into the army as soldiers in the same way as men.
- D) It made people believe that only women from wealthy families could contribute to the war effort.

## Answers

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

## Answers:

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