



Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys Printable Reading Comprehension

Grade Level: 5 | Word Count: 261 | Lexile 900

Ethan Allen was a bold leader during the years leading up to the American Revolution. Born in Connecticut in 1738, he eventually settled in the area now known as Vermont. At the time, the land was disputed between New York and New Hampshire, creating constant tension among settlers. Allen rose to prominence as the head of a militia called the Green Mountain Boys, who defended the rights of local settlers against outside claims.

The Green Mountain Boys gained fame not only for protecting Vermont settlers but also for their role in the Revolutionary War. In 1775, just weeks after fighting began at Lexington and Concord, Allen led his militia, alongside Benedict Arnold, in capturing Fort Ticonderoga from the British. The victory was bloodless but extremely important. The fort held valuable cannons and supplies, which the Continental Army later transported to Boston. These weapons helped force the British to abandon the city.

Although Allen was brave and outspoken, he was also considered reckless at times. Later in 1775, he attempted to capture Montreal without proper support and was taken prisoner by the British. After being released in a prisoner exchange two years later, he returned home to Vermont, where he remained an important political voice. He strongly supported Vermont's independence, both from Britain and from its neighboring colonies.

Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys became symbols of determination and local pride. Their early victories and fierce defense of Vermont land inspired many colonists. Today, Allen is remembered as both a patriot and a controversial figure—courageous, stubborn, and unwilling to back down from a fight.

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1. Why did Ethan Allen first become a leader in Vermont?
 - a) He wanted to fight against the British immediately.
 - b) He opposed Benedict Arnold's leadership.
 - c) He defended settlers' land from New York's claims.
 - d) He was elected governor of Vermont.

2. What made the capture of Fort Ticonderoga so important?
 - a) It was the first major American victory.
 - b) It provided cannons and supplies for the Continental Army.
 - c) It prevented the British from invading Vermont.
 - d) It gave Vermont independence from New York.
3. Which of the following best describes Ethan Allen's leadership style?
 - a) Careful and cautious
 - b) Reckless but courageous
 - c) Secretive and quiet
 - d) Weak and uncertain
4. What happened to Ethan Allen after his failed attempt to capture Montreal?
 - a) He became governor of Vermont.
 - b) He joined Benedict Arnold's army.
 - c) He was captured and held as a prisoner.
 - d) He fled to New York.
5. Compare Ethan Allen's success at Fort Ticonderoga with his attempt at Montreal. Which statement is most accurate?
 - a) Both missions were successful and strengthened Vermont's independence.
 - b) Fort Ticonderoga was successful because Allen had support, while Montreal failed due to lack of planning.
 - c) Both missions failed because of poor weather conditions.
 - d) Montreal was successful, but Fort Ticonderoga was not important.
6. What does the passage suggest about Ethan Allen's role in Vermont's history?
 - a) He helped shape its independence and identity.
 - b) He tried to keep Vermont part of New York.
 - c) He left Vermont to fight in Boston permanently.
 - d) He ended up forgotten after the Revolution.
7. Which main idea is BEST supported by the passage?
 - a) Ethan Allen's greatest legacy was his caution in battle.
 - b) Ethan Allen was remembered as a farmer and peaceful leader.
 - c) Ethan Allen's courage and stubbornness made him both effective and controversial.
 - d) Ethan Allen always succeeded in his military missions.

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1. c) He defended settlers' land from New York's claims
2. b) It provided cannons and supplies for the Continental Army
3. b) Reckless but courageous
4. c) He was captured and held as a prisoner
5. b) Fort Ticonderoga was successful because Allen had support, while Montreal failed due to lack of planning
6. a) He helped shape its independence and identity
7. c) Ethan Allen's courage and stubbornness made him both effective and controversial