**Valley Forge DBQ – Discussion Questions Suggestioned Responses**

**Hook Exercise**

**Directions**: Answer the following questions from the point of view of Levi Zendt.

1. To which army are you going to sell your foodstuffs and why?

2. If most of your neighbors do as you do, what impact will it have on the American army at Valley Forge?

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| **Reasons and Impact – Suggestions** |
| **Continental Army** | **British** |
| Strengthen the Patriots to help them win | Want to keep strong customers |
| Family members who are selling need $$ | Strengthen the strong – end war sooner |
| Greater need of supplies – British are better funded | Size of army is bigger – need more food |
| Support provides encouragement | Angry at Patriots |
| Gives energy to fight illness | Fight harder and stronger and win faster |
|  | King George pays more $$ |

**Background Essay Questions**

1. In December of what year did Washington and his troops arrive in Valley Forge? - 1777

2. How many miles is Valley Forge from Philadelphia? – 18 miles

3. Define:

* **Continental Army** – Patriots who volunteered – Ragtag Soldier
* **Desert** – to leave, abandon, quit without permission
* **“Scarlet Fever”** – female fascination with British soldiers in their redcoats
* **Quartered** – British soldiers are sheltered or housed and fed by colonists or Patriots
* **Valley Forge** – place where Washington and Continental Army Spent their winter
* **Quaker** – a religious group who hated war, lived simply off the land, peaceful, and not advanced with the times

4. What is the main idea of the quotation by Washington’s Chief of Engineers?

* Paris was more excited about the war because they wanted to stop Britain’s power.

**Understanding the Question and Pre-Bucketing**

1. What is the analytical question asked by this Mini-Q?

* Valley Forge: Would you have Quit?

2. What words in the question, if any, need to be devined?

* The word **QUIT** needs to be changed to re-enlisted
* This document in not about a soldier deserting his responsibility or running away. The decision that needs to be made when asked by General Washington is whether or not you as a soldier would be willing to re-enlist after you 9 months of service has ended, or do you want to go home.
* Both answers are worthy responses.
* Going home after your 9 months of service does NOT mean you are a quitter! It means that you either need or want to go home.

3. Rewrite the question in your own words.

* Valley Forge: Would you have re-enlisted for another term of service or would you have gone home?

**Prebucketing**

This is simply a strategy of arranging and organizing your decision.

In the top 2 buckets, you would write the two choices:

1. Re-enlist or 2. Go Home

Then, in the bottom 3 buckets, your would label:

Reason 1, Reason 2, and Reason 3.

These bottom buckets will be filled in with your 3 different reasons that you have learned about through the analyzation of the following primary source documents: Documents A. B. C. D.

**Document A – Estimates of Illness and Deaths**

1. Is this document a primary or a secondary source?

* It is a secondary source – it was created by researchers in 1974 at the University of Michigan which is not in the same time period.

2. On February 1, 1778, how many soldiers at Valley Forge were sick? What % is this?

* About 4,000 sick soldiers - 50% of the soldiers or 33% of the total soldiers who began

3. What is a low estimate of the number of American soldiers who died at VF? - 1,800

4. How could this document by used to argue for **quitting – (changed to going home**)?

* The health and survival odds were not good. In February 1778, a soldier’s chance of being sick enough not to be able to report for duty were one out of two. One’s chance of dying due to illness was high. It was likely over 10%. That’s too high. I’d GO HOME!

5. How could this document be used to argue for **Re-enlisting**?

* Argument for hanging on: Of course soldiers were sick. We all get colds in February. The bottom line is that deaths were around 10%. If I went off to war for a cause I believed in and was told I had a 90% chance of making it through one of the toughest challenges like Valley Forge, I’d have hung in there.
* TRUE PATRIOTS NEVER QUIT!

**Document B - Engraving**

1. In what year was this engraving done? - 1866

2. Who are the men at the left? The men at the right? The man in the middle?

* Continental Congress stand on the left, the bedraggled Continental army soldiers
stand on the right, George Washington stands in the middle.

 3. What do you suppose the man in the middle was saying?

* “These are brave men fighting for our nation’s independence. They need your
help.”

 4. How could this document be used to argue for quitting (going home)?

* It is cold; some of the men are barefoot; the Congressmen look a little too well-
dressed, which might cause resentment.

5. How could this document be used to argue for staying or re-enlisting?

* The General is on our side; there is hope now that Congress will do more, especially when it becomes clear that these Congressmen are working with, not
against Washington.

**Document C - Diary**

1. Do you believe this document is an accurate picture of camp life at Valley Forge? Why?

* Opinion. The detail is believable. Cross-referencing is a test of accuracy. For example, we know from the Background Essay that the huts had no windows and that ventilation was poor. In the same vein, Waldo’s description of clothing is the same as with Document B, the engraving.

2. What hardship described by Waldo most gets your attention?

* Student choice - bare feet visible through holes in shoes, smoky conditions, no meat, poor clothing, nasty cookery

3. Make one inference about the quality of ventilation in the soldiers’ huts.

* Ventilation must have been poor. Smoke was a complaint in each entry.

 4. How could this document be used to argue for quitting (going home)?

* It is the front edge of winter. We have smokey huts, tattered clothes, and no meat. Our surgeon wishes he was home. So do I.

5. Is there any way this document could be used to argue against quitting?

* Sure, it’s tough but I’m surrounded by men with what our surgeon calls a “spirit
of Alacrity.” These soldiers are amazingly positive. I’m proud to server with them and will definitely stay!

**Document D – Thomas Paine**

1. When was this document written and who was the author?

* Thomas Paine

2. What is meant by the line, “These are the times that try men’s souls”?

* It is tough conditions like these at VF that test our basic beliefs and character.

3. Who are “The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot”?

* “The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot” are people who only support the cause when things are going well.

4. What is “tyranny” and what does Paine compare it to?

* Tyranny is rule by a dictator or king who has all the power. Paine compares tyranny to Hell.

5. What does Paine mean when he writes, “What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly”?

* We don’t value what we don’t pay or suffer for.

6. What is the main idea of this document?

* Don’t be a summer soldier. When the going gets tough, true patriots don’t quit; they stay and fight for their freedom.

7. Your opinion