

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, its significance in the American Revolutionary War, and the challenges faced by Washington and his troops during this pivotal moment in history.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or markers
- A large bowl of water (to simulate the river)
- Small objects (like toy boats or figures) to represent troops
- A timer (to simulate the urgency of the crossing)
- Access to a quiet space for discussion and activities

Before starting the lesson, it would be beneficial for you to familiarize yourself with the basic timeline of the American Revolutionary War and the events leading up to the crossing of the Delaware River on December 25-26, 1776.

Activities

- **Storytime and Discussion:**

Begin with a brief storytelling session where you narrate the events leading up to the crossing of the Delaware. Discuss the challenges faced by Washington and his troops, including the harsh winter conditions and the need for a surprise attack on the Hessians in Trenton.

- **Simulated Crossing:**

Using the large bowl of water, create a simulation of the crossing. Have the student use small objects to represent soldiers and attempt to "cross" the river within a set time limit. Discuss the importance of timing and strategy in Washington's actual crossing.

- **Art Project:**

Have the student create a drawing or painting of the crossing scene, focusing on the elements of bravery and leadership. Encourage them to include details such as the weather, the boats, and the soldiers. This will help them visualize the event more vividly.

- **Reflection and Writing:**

Ask the student to write a short diary entry from the perspective of a soldier who crossed the Delaware. This will help them empathize with the experiences of those who participated in the event.

Talking Points

- "George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River was not just a physical challenge; it was a crucial strategic move in the Revolutionary War."
- "On the night of December 25, 1776, Washington led his troops across the icy river in the face

of many obstacles, including severe weather and the threat of enemy forces."

- "This surprise attack on the Hessians in Trenton was a turning point in the war, boosting the morale of the Continental Army."
- "The crossing exemplified Washington's leadership and determination to fight for independence, despite the odds stacked against him."
- "Can you imagine what it must have been like for those soldiers? What thoughts might they have had as they crossed the icy waters?"