GUIDED READING  *Struggling Toward Saratoga*

**A.** As you read this section, write answers to the questions about each of the Revolutionary War battles listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who won?</th>
<th>Why did they win?</th>
<th>What were the important results?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. New York</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Trenton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Philadelphia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Saratoga</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B.** Summarize the difficulties faced by each group of Patriots during the Revolutionary War?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patriots</th>
<th>What were some of the hardships they faced?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Soldiers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Members of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Civilians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C.** On the back of this paper, identify or define each of the following:

- Valley Forge
- inflation
- profiteering

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RETEACHING ACTIVITY  
Struggling Towards Saratoga

Section 3

Sequencing

A. Put the events below in the correct chronological order.

_____ 1. Washington leads his troops to victory at Trenton.
_____ 2. The colonists win the key battle of Saratoga.
_____ 3. The French arrive to aid the colonial war effort.
_____ 5. The Continental Army endures winter at Valley Forge.
_____ 6. The British take Philadelphia.

Matching

B. Match the description in the second column with term or name in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

_____ 1. Molly Pitcher a. lost Battle of Saratoga
_____ 2. Ethan Allen b. rising prices
_____ 3. Hessians c. colonial money
_____ 4. Gen. Horatio Gates d. was recognized for heroic war efforts
_____ 5. inflation e. helped raise money for Continental army
_____ 6. Continentals f. German mercenaries who fought for British
_____ 7. Gen. John Burgoyne g. leader of Green Mountain Boys
_____ 8. Haym Salomon h. led colonists to victory at Saratoga
PRIMARY SOURCE from Valley Forge Diary

After he reached the winter quarters where General George Washington camped with his army, the 27-year-old surgeon Albigence Waldo recorded in his diary the desperate conditions that he encountered at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. As you read this portion of Waldo's diary, think about what hardships the American soldiers faced.

December 21. Preparations made for huts. Provisions scarce. . . . Sent a letter to my wife. Heartily wish myself at home. My skin and eyes are almost spoiled with continual smoke. A general cry thro' the camp this evening among the soldiers, "No meat! No meat!" The distant vales echoed back the melancholy sound—"No meat! No meat!" Imitating the noise of crows and owls, also, made a part of the confused music.

"What have you for your dinners, boys?"
"Nothing but fire cake [a flour and water mixture baked over an open fire] and water, Sir."
At night: "Gentlemen, the supper is ready."
"What is your supper, lads?"
"Fire cake and water, Sir."

Very poor beef has been drawn in our camp the greater part of this season. A butcher, bringing a quarter of this kind of beef into camp one day, had white buttons on the knees of his breeches. A soldier cries out, "There, there, Tom, is some more of your fat beef. By my soul I can see the butcher’s breeches buttons through it."

December 22. Lay excessive cold and uncomfortable last night. My eyes are started out from their orbits like a rabbit’s eyes, occasioned by a great cold and smoke.

"What have you got for breakfast, lads?"
"Fire cake and water, Sir."
The Lord send that our Commissary of Purchases may live [on] fire cake and water till their glutted guts are turned to pasteboard.

Our division are under marching orders this morning. I am ashamed to say it, but I am tempted to steal fowls if I could find them, or even a whole hog, for I feel as if I could eat one. But the impoverished country about us affords but little matter to employ a thief, or keep a clever fellow in good humour. But why do I talk of hunger and hard usage, when so many in the world have not even fire cake and water to eat?

December 25, Christmas. We are still in tents when we ought to be in huts. The poor sick suffer much in tents this cold weather. But we now treat them differently from what they used to be at home under the inspection of old women and Dr. Bolus Linctus. We give them mutton and grog and a capital medicine once in a while to start the disease from its foundation at once. We avoid Piddling Pills, Powders, Bolus’s Linctus’s Cordials, and all such insignificant matters whose powers are only rendered important by causing the patient to vomit up his money instead of his disease. But very few of the sick men die.


Activity Options

1. Using details from Waldo’s diary, visualize what the winter camp at Valley Forge looked like. Draw a sketch to accompany this diary entry and share it with your classmates.

2. Waldo’s diary entries provide a vivid portrait of conditions at Valley Forge. Create a chart like this one listing specific sensory details that bring the sights and sounds of Valley Forge to life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sights</th>
<th>Sounds</th>
<th>Tastes</th>
<th>Smells</th>
<th>Touch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The War for Independence 83
Haym Salomon spent little over a decade in America, but he chose a crucial time and played a vital role. From 1778 until his death in 1785, he helped raise funds for the Continental Congress and made loans to many members of the army and government. He was owed large sums by the government he aided—sums never repaid.

Salomon was born around 1740 in Poland. He supported independence for that land, which suffered partition by other, stronger powers. In 1772 he left Poland for London and soon after arrived in New York. He joined in the agitation for American independence and in the fall of 1776 was arrested by British authorities as a spy. They soon released him, however, preferring to use him as an interpreter: because he knew German, he could communicate with Hessian mercenaries. Unknown to the British, Salomon acted as a double agent by persuading Hessians to desert. About this time, Salomon married.

In 1778 Salomon was arrested again, charged with joining a plot to burn the British fleet and warehouses. Condemned to death, he managed to escape by bribing his guard. He fled south, leaving his wife and an infant son behind. Reaching Philadelphia, Salomon sent a letter to the Continental Congress explaining his actions on behalf of the cause and requesting a job. None came, but with the help of local Jewish business people, he began a business in finance.

Over the next few years, Salomon—along with other Jewish merchants—helped Robert Morris finance the Revolution. He sold bonds issued by Congress, getting valuable Dutch and French money in return. By taking a small commission—only a quarter of one percent—he pleased Congress, which named him official broker of United States bonds. He was also named official paymaster for the French army in the United States and handled virtually all of the money that the Dutch gave the colonies’ struggling cause.

Salomon also assisted a number of important actors in the revolutionary cause. His loans—often with no interest charged—to James Madison prompted the praise quoted above. He loaned money as well to Thomas Jefferson, James Wilson, and Edmund Randolph, all members of Congress. He also made loans to Baron Friedrich von Steuben, General Thaddeus Kosciusko, and General Arthur St. Clair.

Salomon, though new to the colonies, tried to make the United States a welcome home for future Jewish immigration. In 1783 he joined with another Philadelphia Jew in asking the government of Pennsylvania to change a part of its constitution. The constitution required that new members of the state assembly “acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.” Salomon and his colleague pointed out that this oath would exclude Jews, which they argued was unfair given the contribution that the Jewish community had made. While the request was denied at the time, a new state constitution was adopted six years later that cut the oath. In 1784, a financier in Philadelphia criticized Jewish moneylenders for charging high rates. Salomon wrote a defense of the Jewish contribution to the cause of independence.

Early the next year, though, Salomon died, though he was only in his mid-forties. His health may have suffered from his imprisonment by the British. When he died, he was bankrupt, suffering from the lack of repayment of private as well as public loans. His family later claimed that the United States owed him almost $660,000. The exact amount is not known, as Salomon did not keep good records. While a Congressional committee in 1864 acknowledged that the claim had “undeniable merit,” it was never repaid.

Questions
1. What principles of the Revolution would appeal to Salomon and other Jewish people?
2. Describe Salomon’s contribution to the revolutionary cause.
3. Why did Salomon feel the need to defend the contribution of Jews to the Revolution?