

Marquis de Lafayette - Lexile 800

Name _____

Early Life and Role in the American Revolution

Marquis de Lafayette was born in France on September 10, 1757. He is best known for being a major-general in the Continental Army under General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War.

Battles and Help from France

Lafayette fought in important battles like the Battle of Brandywine and the Battle of Rhode Island. He also went back to France for a short time to ask for help in the American Revolution. After returning to America, Lafayette helped stop British troops at Yorktown, giving General Washington more time to prepare for battle.

Working with King Louis XVI

In 1778, Lafayette went back to France to talk to King Louis XVI. He wanted the king to follow the example of America's freedom and government. The king respected Lafayette and made changes to the French government, like creating the "Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Rights of Citizens," which was similar to the U.S. Constitution. The king also made Lafayette a commander to help with the French Revolution.

Prison and Release

In 1792, things went wrong during the French Revolution, and Lafayette was captured while trying to escape back to America. He was a prisoner for over five years. In 1797, Napoleon Bonaparte helped get Lafayette released. However, Lafayette did not agree with Napoleon's government and refused to take part in it.

Return to the United States

In 1824, U.S. President James Monroe invited Lafayette to visit America again. During his visit, he toured all twenty-four states. After returning to France, Lafayette was offered the role of dictator, but he turned it down.

Later Life and Legacy

Lafayette passed away on May 20, 1834, and was buried in France. In 2002, the United States gave Lafayette American citizenship to honor his contributions during the War.

1. What is significant about Lafayette's visit to the United States in 1824?

- A) He helped write the U.S. Constitution
- B) He toured all twenty-four states to honor his past contributions
- C) He was invited to become the U.S. president
- D) He became a military advisor to President Monroe

2. How did Lafayette influence the French government?

- A) He convinced King Louis XVI to create the "Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Rights of Citizens"
- B) He took control of the French military
- C) He helped organize France's military efforts in the American Revolution
- D) He overthrew King Louis XVI to become ruler of France

3. Why did Lafayette go back to France during the American Revolution?

- A) To rest and recover from injuries
- B) To convince King Louis XVI to support the American Revolution
- C) To bring more soldiers to fight in America
- D) To help train American soldiers

4. How might Lafayette's actions during the American Revolution have influenced the relationship between France and the United States?

- A) Lafayette's efforts in securing French support likely helped build a long-lasting alliance between the two countries
- B) Lafayette's actions caused tension between France and the U.S.
- C) Lafayette's actions were mainly seen as a personal achievement, with little impact on the relationship
- D) Lafayette's actions led to France becoming less supportive of the United States

5. Why did Lafayette decline the offer to become dictator of France in 1824, even though he had played a major role in the French Revolution?

- A) He believed that true freedom comes from a government based on the people, not one man in power
- B) He thought it was a trap and refused to be involved in politics
- C) He felt that he had already achieved all he needed for France
- D) He wanted to spend more time in the United States

Answers:

1.) B

2.) C

3.) B

4.) B

5.) B