Molly Pitcher Printable Reading Comprehension   Name_____

Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was born on October 13, 1744, in a town near Trenton, New Jersey. She later moved to Pennsylvania. When she was only a young teenager, she married William Hayes, a barber. Hayes would join the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Mary McCauly is best known today for the role that she played in the 1778 Battle of Monmouth (N.J.) as a Continental Army camp follower and original "Molly Pitcher". Like many women of the day she carried pitchers of waters for thirsty soldiers or for their smoldering cannons. She probably earned the nickname from soldiers on the battlefield shouting "Molly! Pitcher!" Molly was a common nickname for women named Mary.

Mary earned her legendary status during the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse. After her husband collapsed from the 100-degree heat, or from being wounded, Mary bravely took over as the gunner and continued to fire the cannon herself throughout the scorching day. According to legend, a British cannonball flew between her legs and tore her skirt, to which she responded, "well, that could have been worse."

After the Revolutionary War came to a close, both William and Mary settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. After William Hayes' death, Mary married Revolutionary War veteran John McCauly. In 1822, Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was awarded a Revolutionary War pension by the Pennsylvania State Legislature for her service at the Battle of Monmouth. "Molly Pitcher" died on January 22, 1832, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1876, a special marker was laid on her grave commemorating her service as "Molly Pitcher" in the Revolutionary War. Mary's story may or may not be partly folklore. Some historians believe her story is the composite of several "Molly's" who helped on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War.

1. **Which of the following is not true about Molly Pitcher?**
   A. Her real name was not Molly
   B. She was married as a teenager
   C. She was married twice
   D. She was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse

2. **The story of Molly Pitcher…**
   A. Is definitely about Mary McCauly
   B. is probably all folklore
   C. may partly be folklore
   D. has been proven to be completely true

3. **Which of the following the passage suggest about the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse?**
   A. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was a victory for the Continental Army
   B. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse occurred on a very hot day
   C. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was a defeat for the Continental Army
   D. Most of the soldiers on the battlefield were women

4. **When did "Molly" move to Carlisle Pennsylvania?**

   A. Toward the beginning of the Revolutionary War
   B. Toward the end of the Revolutionary War
   C. In 1822
   D. After the death of William Hayes

5. **What is another way to write the sentence below without losing meaning?**

   Some historians believe her story is the composite of several "Molly's" who helped on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War.

   A. It is most likely that Molly Pitcher's story was made to inspire other women to help on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War
   B. Some historians believe that Molly Pitcher's story is actually the combined story of multiple "Molly Pitchers" during the Revolutionary War
   C. Some historians believe Molly Pitcher and Mary McCauly were different people
   D. Some historians believe Molly Pitcher helped on many battlefields

6. **What question is answered in the final paragraph?**
   A. Who was Molly's second husband?
   B. How did Molly show bravery in the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse?
   C. When did John McCauly die?
   D. Where was Molly Pitcher buried?

7. **Which of the following best describes how Mary got her nickname?**
   A. It was most likely because Mary was nearly hit by a cannonball
   B. It was most likely because Mary showed bravery on the battlefield
   C. It was most likely from the shouts of soldiers who needed water
   D. It was because those who were named Mary were nicknamed Molly