

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Women in the American Revolution

By Cathy Pearl

Men were not the only people to fight in the American Revolution. Women also fought in the war. They did many other things, too. Women helped the men to win the war.



Women were not supposed to be in the war. Men did not want them to fight. A woman's job was to take care of the home.

She was supposed to watch the children. But women found ways to help in the war. Some women fought. Other women sewed clothes and uniforms.

When the men left, women had to do their jobs. They learned how to be blacksmiths or carpenters. One woman became a doctor. Margaret Hill Morris knew a lot about medicine. People in the town went to her when they were sick. They trusted her. Every morning she went to see sick or wounded soldiers at their homes.

Women also fought in battles. One of the most famous is Molly Pitcher. Her real name was Mary Ludwig Hays. She was with her husband at the Battle of Monmouth. It was very hot. She would carry pitchers of cold water to the soldiers. She was in danger of being shot with every trip.

One time when she came back with water, she saw that her husband had been killed. He had been helping to shoot a cannon. Without him, the cannon could not be shot. Mary took his place on the cannon. She stayed during the whole battle. Other soldiers were happy with how well she did.

George Washington made her a sergeant because she was so brave. She is buried in Pennsylvania. There is a cannon next to her grave. There is also a monument that tells about her brave actions.

Another brave woman was Lydia Darrah. The British came to her home one night and had a meeting. Lydia stayed up and listened. She heard the British planning to surprise the colonists at White Marsh. She decided to warn George Washington.

The next day she said she had to get flour. She dropped the flour sack at the mill. Then she ran to the colonists. She told them what she had heard. Lydia was able to stop the British from winning. The British never found out what she had done.

Women gained some independence after the war. More were allowed to go to school. Some women went to work. Others worked to help people. They spoke against slavery. They worked to help people in mental hospitals. The fight for women's rights was beginning.

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### Questions

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Men wanted women to fight in the war.
  - A. False
  - B. True
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Who fought in the Battle of Monmouth?
  - A. Molly Pitcher
  - B. White Marsh
  - C. Lydia Darrah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What was Molly Pitcher made after the Battle of Monmouth?
  - A. A general
  - B. A sergeant
  - C. A soldier
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What did Lydia Darrah say she needed when she went to warn the colonists?
  - A. Flour
  - B. Tea
  - C. Sugar



