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The Horse That Won a War

To camouflage something means to disguise it. From the ancient Greeks comes a legend of a camouflage so successful that it won a war!

The Trojan War began with the kidnapping of a beautiful woman. Paris, the son of the King of Troy, fell in love with Helen, wife of the King of Sparta. He kidnapped Helen and brought her to his home in Troy. The angry Greeks decided to bring Helen home and destroy Troy. For ten long, hard years, Trojans fought Greeks outside the walls of Troy, but neither side was able to conquer the other.

At last, a Greek leader thought of a way to get inside the strong Trojan walls. He ordered a huge and hollow wooden horse to be built. The horse was so tremendous that it could easily hold 100 Greek

soldiers. The wooden animal, with soldiers hidden inside, was placed outside the walls of Troy. The Greeks then made a big show of leaving Troy and sailing off in their ships.

The Trojans, seeing the Greeks leave, flung open the gates of their city and crowded around the great wooden horse. A wise priest warned that it was a trick, but the curious Trojans moved the horse inside the gates. They insisted it was not a trick. With their own eyes they had seen the Greeks depart.

That night, while the Trojans celebrated their seeming victory, a Greek prisoner managed to reach the horse and open a hidden door in its side. The Greek soldiers slipped quietly out of their hiding place, opened the gates of Troy, and signaled the Greek ships.

The city of Troy fell that night to the clever Greeks.

FIND THE ANSWERS

1. A Greek leader thought of a way to
 - a. trick a priest.
 - b. get inside the Trojan walls.
 - c. talk to the Trojans.
 - d. build a wooden gate.
2. The word in paragraph 2 that means *overcome by force* is _____.
3. The words “that it could easily hold 100 Greek soldiers” in paragraph 3 refer to the _____.
4. While it is not directly stated, the article suggests that
 - a. cleverness can be more important than strength.
 - b. everything that happened was Helen’s fault.
 - c. most wars last at least ten years or more.
5. The wooden horse was placed
 - a. outside the walls of Troy.
 - b. inside the Trojan ships.
 - c. outside the gates of Greece.
6. On the whole, the article tells about
 - a. signals used on Greek ships.
 - b. the trick that captured Troy.
 - c. a prince and a beautiful woman.
7. Which statement does the article lead you to believe?
 - a. The Trojans could not see very well.
 - b. Greek prisoners always hide in horses.
 - c. The Trojan priest could have saved Troy.
8. Why did the Greek leader use a trick to get into Troy?
 - a. He wanted the long, hard war to come to an end.
 - b. He wanted to see how many men would fit into a horse.
 - c. He wanted to keep his soldiers busy with work.
9. Think about the concept for this group of articles. Which statement seems true both for the article and for the concept?
 - a. You can’t fool people with tricks.
 - b. People should not be curious.
 - c. We cannot always believe what we see.

The Mighty Army

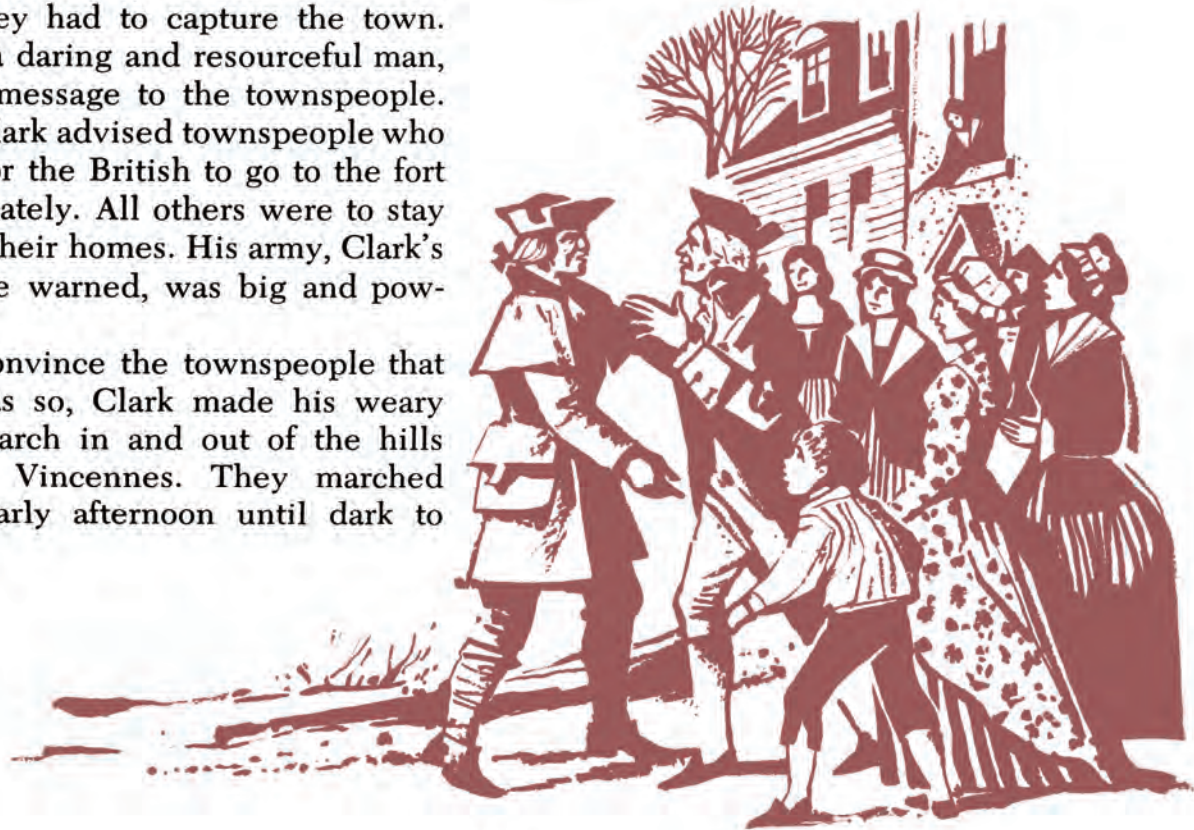
On February 23, 1779, a ragged group of men were approaching a fort held by British soldiers in Vincennes, Indiana. The men were Americans. Their leader was a man named George Rogers Clark. Clark and his small army of about 125 men were determined to capture the fort. To accomplish this task, they had marched across Illinois through mud and rain, fording dangerously swollen rivers on foot and by canoe.

The men were exhausted. They had almost no ammunition. By the time they neared Vincennes, they had been without food for two days. Yet before they could attack the fort, they had to capture the town. Clark, a daring and resourceful man, sent a message to the townspeople. In it, Clark advised townspeople who were for the British to go to the fort immediately. All others were to stay inside their homes. His army, Clark's message warned, was big and powerful!

To convince the townspeople that this was so, Clark made his weary men march in and out of the hills around Vincennes. They marched from early afternoon until dark to

give the townspeople the notion that Clark's army was so big it took that much time for all the men to reach Vincennes. Some men, on Clark's orders, also carried flags on long poles so that the banners were constantly visible in the town.

The townspeople thought Clark's army was a mighty one indeed! The town fell to Clark and his men and not a shot was fired. Clark and his men created the effect of a furious battle outside the fort. On February 25, the fort, which had enough supplies to hold out another six months, surrendered to the ragged American army!



FIND THE ANSWERS

- George Rogers Clark had an army of about
 - 2,000 men.
 - 900 men.
 - 125 men.
 - 400 men.
- The word in paragraph 4 that means *gave up* is
_____.
- The words “a daring and resourceful man” in paragraph 2 describe
_____.
- While it is not directly stated, the article suggests that
 - Illinois is always full of mud and rain.
 - Clark was a great leader and hero to his men.
 - it is not a good idea to put flags on long poles.
- The fort had enough supplies to hold out
 - one more year.
 - at least ten days.
 - another six months.
- On the whole, the article tells about
 - the capture of a fort against great odds.
 - the townspeople in Vincennes, Indiana.
 - an army that carried visible banners.
- Which statement does the article lead you to believe?
 - Crossing a swollen river on foot is a lot of fun.
 - All mighty armies are made up of 125 ragged men.
 - Most townspeople wanted Clark’s men to take the fort.
- Why did the people in the fort surrender to Clark?
 - They thought the townspeople wanted this.
 - They thought they were fighting a large army.
 - They didn’t want to stay in Indiana anymore.
- Think about the concept for this group of articles. Which statement seems true both for the article and for the concept?
 - Men fight better when they are exhausted and hungry.
 - Noise and confusion can make a few seem like many.
 - Clark and his men stayed inside the houses in town.