

## **Noble Train Reading Comprehension - Lexile 800**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

On May 10, 1775, Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen, and the Green Mountain Boys took over Fort Ticonderoga without a fight. They got lots of weapons, which were important for the Patriots. But the fort was far away in New York, and the weapons needed to be moved 300 miles to help the Patriots in Boston.

That same year, George Washington became the leader of the Patriot army in Boston. He knew they needed more weapons, so he asked Henry Knox, a 25-year-old bookseller, to bring the weapons to Boston. On December 5, 1775, Knox got to Fort Ticonderoga and picked 59 weapons, including big cannons, that weighed 60 tons in total.

We know about Knox's trip because of his diary, but it's not complete. On December 17, Knox said he had 42 sleds and 80 oxen to carry the cannons. By Christmas, he crossed the icy Hudson River near Albany, but the snow slowed him down. It took two more weeks to move the cannons across the river. Some cannons even fell into the ice, but they were pulled back out. After crossing the mountains, Knox reached Framingham, Massachusetts, on January 25. He got to Cambridge, near Boston, two days later. The whole trip took 10 weeks!

On March 4, 1776, Patriot soldiers took control of Dorchester Heights, a group of hills near Boston. Washington ordered the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to be placed on these hills to threaten the British ships in the harbor. At night, 2,000 Patriot soldiers moved the cannons into place and made defenses. They used haystacks to hide the noise.

The British planned to attack, but a snowstorm helped the Patriots. The storm gave British General William Howe time to think, and on March 17, 1776, the British decided to leave Boston and sail to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Boston was safe for the Patriots!

### **1. Why did the Patriots need to move the weapons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston?**

- A) To use them in a battle against the French.
- B) To trade them with other countries.
- C) To store them safely away from the British.
- D) To help break the British blockade of Boston Harbor.

**2. How did Henry Knox manage the heavy weight of the weapons during the journey to Boston?**

- A) He used a ship to carry the weapons across the ocean.
- B) He used horses and wagons to transport the weapons.
- C) He ordered the weapons to be carried by soldiers on foot.
- D) He relied on a fleet of sleds and oxen to carry the cannons and weapons.

**3. What was one of the major challenges that Henry Knox faced during his journey?**

- A) The lack of enough soldiers to help move the weapons.
- B) The weapons constantly breaking during the journey.
- C) The freezing weather and snow, which slowed down his progress.
- D) The British forces attacking his group along the way.

**4. How did the Patriots manage to secretly set up the cannons on Dorchester Heights without the British noticing?**

- A) They moved the cannons during the day to confuse the British.
- B) They used haystacks to hide the noise of the preparations and worked at night.
- C) They waited for a storm to hide their movements.
- D) They moved the cannons in small groups to avoid detection.

**5. What was the impact of the Patriots' positioning of cannons on Dorchester Heights in March 1776?**

- A) The British decided to fight the Patriots directly at Dorchester Heights.
- B) The British retreated from Boston because they were threatened by the cannons.
- C) The Patriots lost their cannons to the British in a counterattack.
- D) The British decided to block the Patriots from using the cannons in the harbor.

**Answers:**

**1.) D**

**2.) D**

**3.) C**

**4.) B**

**5.) B**