

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

Nathan Hale

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." American patriot Nathan Hale spoke these words in 1776 as he was being led to the gallows to be hung by the British for being a spy. Captain Hale, only twenty-one years of age, undertook a dangerous mission to go behind enemy lines. During the Revolutionary War, the American colonists had lost several important battles to the British. Volunteers were needed to spy on the position of the British army. Hale volunteered to do this for his country. He was secretly dropped on the shore of Long Island and was able to pass all of the guards, except one. This last guard had Hale arrested. British General Howe, without waiting for a trial, immediately ordered Hale to be executed. Even though he was a very young man, Hale handled himself with dignity and quietly accepted his fate. Many of the British soldiers who witnessed Hale in his final hours admired him for these actions and for those very famous words he spoke.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)
 - A. Nathan Hale will always be remembered for his bravery.
 - B. Being a spy is dangerous.
 - C. The British were cruel to execute Nathan Hale.

2. Why did Hale volunteer to go on this dangerous mission? (Circle the answer)

3. Who were the American colonists fighting against during the Revolutionary War?

4. A word that means "to have great respect for" is:
 - A. position
 - B. fate
 - C. admire

5. Why did even the British soldiers admire Nathan Hale?

6. What word means "one who loves his country"? (Circle the answer)
 - A. volunteer
 - B. patriot
 - C. colonist