

GRADE 4 READING - AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Alexander Hamilton: A Journey of Vision and Legacy

I was born on January 11, 1755, in Charlestown, the capital of the Caribbean island of Nevis. Growing up, I faced numerous challenges, including the loss of my father at a young age. However, my resilience and thirst for knowledge propelled me forward.

I was fortunate to receive an education that sparked my interest in law and politics. At the age of 17, I left the Caribbean and embarked on a new chapter in my life. I arrived in New York City, where I pursued my education and became involved in the fight for American independence.

During the American Revolutionary War, I joined the Continental Army and quickly rose through the ranks. My strategic insights and leadership skills caught the attention of General George Washington, who became my mentor and lifelong friend.

After the war, I dedicated myself to building a strong and stable United States. Alongside James Madison and John Jay, I authored the Federalist Papers, a series of essays advocating for the ratification of the United States Constitution. These essays became influential in shaping the country's political landscape.

In 1789, President Washington appointed me as the first Secretary of the Treasury. In this role, I established the foundation for America's financial system, including the creation of a national bank and implementing policies to strengthen the economy.

Throughout my life, I faced numerous challenges and controversies, including political rivalries and personal hardships. However, my unwavering dedication to the principles of a strong federal government, economic stability, and equal opportunity shaped my legacy.

1. When was Alexander Hamilton born?

- A) January 11, 1755
- B) February 22, 1732
- C) July 4, 1776
- D) December 25, 1642

2. Where was Alexander Hamilton born?

- A) New York City
- B) Philadelphia
- C) Charlestown
- D) Boston

3. What does the word "resilience" mean in the passage?
 - A) The ability to adapt and recover from challenges or hardships
 - B) The quality of being intelligent and knowledgeable
 - C) The act of being courageous and daring
 - D) The skill of effectively communicating and persuading

4. What role did Alexander Hamilton play during the American Revolutionary War?
 - A) General
 - B) President
 - C) Diplomat
 - D) Soldier

5. Who became Alexander Hamilton's mentor and lifelong friend?
 - A) Thomas Jefferson
 - B) Benjamin Franklin
 - C) George Washington
 - D) James Madison

6. What are the Federalist Papers?
 - A) A series of essays advocating for the ratification of the United States Constitution
 - B) A collection of speeches given by Alexander Hamilton
 - C) A book about Alexander Hamilton's life
 - D) A set of laws proposed by Alexander Hamilton

7. Which role did Alexander Hamilton serve in President Washington's administration?
 - A) Secretary of State
 - B) Secretary of War
 - C) Secretary of the Treasury
 - D) Vice President

8. What were some of Alexander Hamilton's principles and achievements?
 - A) Advocating for a strong federal government, establishing a national bank, and shaping America's financial system
 - B) Writing poetry, composing music, and leading scientific research
 - C) Exploring new territories, negotiating peace treaties, and founding educational institutions
 - D) Designing architectural landmarks, promoting environmental conservation, and advocating for human rights

9. What is the purpose of this passage?
- A) To explore the life and accomplishments of Alexander Hamilton
 - B) To discuss the history of the American Revolution
 - C) To analyze the economic policies of the United States
 - D) To highlight the role of George Washington in American history

Answers:

1. A) January 11, 1755
2. C) Charlestown
3. A) The ability to adapt and recover from challenges or hardships
4. D) Soldier
5. C) George Washington
6. A) A series of essays advocating for the ratification of the United States Constitution.
7. C) Secretary of the Treasury
8. A) Advocating for a strong federal government, establishing a national bank, and shaping America's financial system
9. A) To explore the life and accomplishments of Alexander Hamilton

Explanations:

1. The passage states that Hamilton was born on January 11, 1755.
2. The passage states that Hamilton was born in Charlestown.
3. The word resilience in the passage is to describe Hamilton's pathway in life as hard but his hard work determined his success, as he was resilient.
4. Passage states that he joined the Continental Army as a soldier.
5. Passage states that during his time in the military, he noticed George Washington and his leadership skills that led them to be lifelong friends.
6. Passage states that Hamilton, Madison, and Jay worked on the Federalist Papers that helped set the foundations for the United States government.
7. Passage states that In 1789, President Washington appointed Hamilton as the first Secretary of the Treasury.
8. Passage states that Hamilton established the foundation for America's financial system, including the creation of a national bank and implementing policies to strengthen the economy.
9. The passage describes Hamilton's life and his achievements, from working with George Washington in the military to contributing to America's financial foundations.