

Guns for General Washington
Theme 3
5th Grade Challenge Reading

Name _____

Date _____

Before Reading

This historical narrative tells the story of how a group of rebel soldiers managed to transport a huge supply of weaponry more than three hundred miles in the middle of the winter of 1775 – 76. Read pages ix to xi to understand how the author used real accounts of the events to create a story.

Think about the following questions:

- What was happening at this time period in American history?
- What difficulties would you expect that soldiers might encounter in doing this task?
- Why do you think the author chose to tell the story as a narrative rather than in expository form?

Discuss the questions with your group.



Vocabulary:

Stalemate: a situation in which neither of two opponents can move; a deadlock

Discipline: systematic training aimed at producing order

Garrison: a permanent military post, or the troops stationed at such a post

Convoy: vehicles traveling together

Munitions: war materials, such as weapons and ammunition

Chasm: a deep crack in the earth's surface; an abyss or narrow gorge

Audacious: fearlessly daring; bold

Using these words write at least three sentences that you think might appear in this book.

1. _____

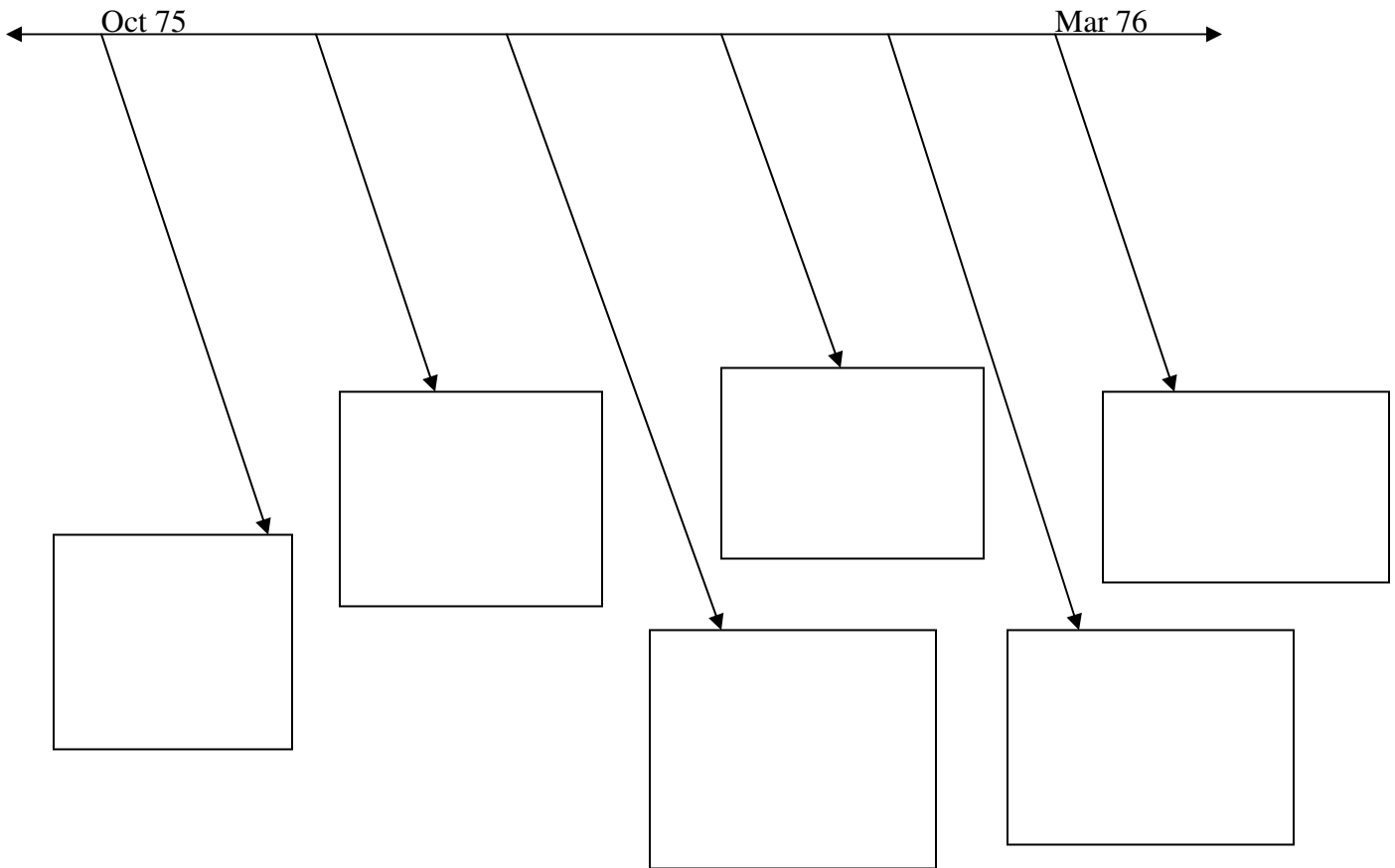
2. _____

3. _____



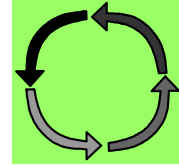
During Reading

Make a timeline of important events in the book starting with October 1775 and ending with March of 1776. Include at least 6 specific events on your timeline.



After Reading

Think about the significance of this incident in American history. Why was it important? Suppose you were the author of a history book today. What would you say now about why this was an important event? Look in your history book. Is the event mentioned? If so, how much space is devoted to it? Rewrite an article for a history book about this episode.



Colonel William Knox led rebel soldiers in bringing artillery from New York state to Boston. In the process, the Americans faced many challenges.

This is an important episode for us to remember today because _____
