

History Trek History Mystery
Mount Independence State Historic Site
Orwell, Vermont

1. Upon my surface there is a map
Of the land of Mt. Independence where Lake Champlain does lap.
Where a Connecticut soldier kept his gunpowder dry,
When a British invasion they did try.
What am I? _____
2. I'm big and black and made of steel.
People see me in the museum with only one wheel.
In my day I was shot a lot.
Easy to move, I am not.
I was too heavy for the Americans to take,
So, I was tossed and then found in the lake.
What am I? _____
3. When hungry and bored a soldier's wish
Is to go in a boat and catch big fish.
He who has me must keep me hidden,
Since by Gates's orders I'm strictly forbidden.
I am a _____.
4. Colonel _____
_____ is my name.
I came here not to seek fortune or fame.
My orders were clear:
Protect all we hold dear.
Head to the "strong ground"
They call Rattlesnake Hill.
Use the rugged terrain that's been found,
And create a great fort we will defend with a thrill.
5. Here at Mount I, I'm still a hero
Battle action and gunfire I don't fear-o.
I'll fight gallantly with swords, ships, or even a
spear-o
But I'll end up reviled like Emperor Nero
And become a despised, great big ZERO.
I am _____.
6. Two stories tall
And built of wood,
I'd fight for my country
If I could.
But what I can and am happy to do
Is safely house our soldiers in blue,
As they watch over the Mount and the lake
And prevent the British our country to take.
What am I? _____
8. Walking the frozen lake from Mount I to Fort Ti
Was, oh, quite a trip.
It was so cold and so icy
I was afraid I would slip.
My boots! Such a sad state,
All tattered and worn.
Hearty thanks to my mess mate
Who brought his _____
_____ from home.
9. On David Rusco's powderhorn I am called the
"citadele." I'm perched up above the lake, face
north, have earthen banks, hold cannons that protect
the gun battery and soldiers below, and can shoot at
enemy ships in the lake.
What am I?

10. Walls of logs set deep in the ground,
Loopholes cut all the way 'round,
I'm placed up high for a good fight,
And am shaped like a _____ but cast no
Light,
With a parade ground in the middle
Where soldiers drill to be fit as a fiddle.
I am the _____.

11. I've got boards for my belly,
And cribs for my feet.
That wagons can cross me
Is really quite neat.
From Vermont's Mount I
To New York's Fort Ti.
I was built by Colonel Baldwin,
The great _____ am I!

12. October 1776
We set sail south on the lake,
Our goal—Mount I and Fort Ti to take.
But the wind was amazingly strong
Our fleet's trip it did prolong.
As we drew near
The sight caused us great fear.
Cannons galore
And ready soldiers by the score.
Soon it would be winter and cold,
Remaining with no food would be too bold.
Quick! No more time for this bad poem,
Now let's turn tail and head for home.
What side are "we" on? _____
Who was the leader of this expedition?

Where were they coming from and where was
home? _____

12. I studied military engineering at school,
And tried to be helpful as a rule.
From Poland to America I did come
Where daily they issued soldiers a gill of rum.
To General Washington I offered my skill,
And in 1777 was sent to Mount Independence
Where in June with 500 men we worked with a
will,
Designed and quickly built the three southern
defenses.
Who am I? _____

13. One if by land
And two if by wagon.
It was quite a feat
When the British began draggin'
Cannons up my slopes.
Belching fury and fire
They broke the soldiers' desire
And dashed the American's hopes.
I am _____.

14. Hey diddle diddle
St. Clair played and fiddled,
While British cannon
Appeared in the middle
Of the Mount overlooking I & Ti.
When the men woke at first light
And saw such a terrible sight,
St. Clair made the decision to fly
And give his men another chance to fight.
Under cover of darkness and into the night,
Mount Independence was
_____ on the 6th of July.