**The Revolutionary Story At Morristown**

National Park Service/National Park Foundation video (2:24)

<https://findyourpark.com/get-inspired/revolutionary-story-morristown>

**Web site text:**

**When you think of the Revolutionary War, chances are places like Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Virginia come to mind. But did you know that New Jersey secured its place in history as the "crossroads of the American Revolution?" Its central location proved crucial to General Washington's strategy in securing independence from the British Empire.**

[Morristown National Historical Park](https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm) preserves the sites of the Continental Army’s winter encampment of 1779-80. Here, 10,000 soldiers endured the coldest winter on record without access to supply lines for food and clothes. They not only survived the nearly 20 snowstorms and frozen seaports that plagued the region that season – they banded together and persisted under Washington’s leadership.

Produced by the National Park Service and [National Park Foundation](http://www.nationalparks.org/?_ga=2.40677922.1258390132.1600024117-927083692.1599849875) as part of the #FindYourPark/#EncuentraTuParque movement, this video shows how this profound story of American perseverance is honored year-round at this remarkable New Jersey site.

**Video text:**

Hello. I'm standing a place that was crucial to winning American independence.

Where American perseverance led to American victory.

*[CAPTION: Eric Olsen, Park Ranger/Morristown National Historical Park]*

Where they fought against the weather, as I do now.

This is…**Morristown National Historical Park.**

When people think of the American Revolution, they usually think of those other places—Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia. But New Jersey was pivotal in winning the War of Independence. That's why it's known as the “Crossroads of the American Revolution.

Morristown was crucial to New Jersey's role. especially when George Washington and his men camped here. That's right…THE George Washington.

This is the office where he commanded the army.

This is the room he slept in.

This is the kitchen, where meals for General Washington and his staff were cooked.

General Washington chose this place because it was 30 miles away from the British in New York City-- far enough away that they couldn't easily be attacked, but close enough that they could keep an eye on the enemy.

Here 10,000 soldiers chopped down over 2000 acres of trees to construct what would have been one of the biggest cities in eighteenth-century America.

Morristown also had the natural resources the army needed to construct a winter camp including timber, water and dry ground.

But that winter turned out to be the worst winner in American history. Northeastern seaports were frozen solid. At one point there was a blizzard that lasted for four days and the snow drifted to over six feet high. In a world without snowplows, crucial supplies didn't arrive for days. One soldier said he went for four days without getting anything to eat. Some soldiers began stealing from neighboring farms. Some desperate soldiers ate old shoes—others ate tree bark

Despite the hardships, less than one hundred men died, and the majority of the men stayed and continued to serve.

American independence wasn't just won because of victories on the battlefield. It was won in places like Morristown where the soldiers stayed. They persevered.

**Example Questions for Students:**

What does perseverance mean?

*Perseverance is not giving up. It is persistence and tenacity, the effort required to do something and keep doing it till the end, even if it's hard. From https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/perseverance*

American perseverance led to American \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(victory)*

New Jersey is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(Crossroads)* of the American Revolution.

Washington chose Morristown because it was 30 miles from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(British)* in New York City.

How many soldiers built the camp in Jockey Hollow? *(10,000)*

The soldiers constructed one of the biggest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(cities)* in eighteenth-century America.

Name one of the natural resources Morristown had that the army needed to construct a winter camp.

*(timber, water, dry ground.)*

Give one example that helps demonstrate how difficult that winter was.

*Northeastern seaports were frozen solid. At one point there was a blizzard that lasted for four days and the snow drifted to over six feet high. In a world without snowplows, crucial supplies didn't arrive for days. One soldier said he went for four days without getting anything to eat. Some soldiers began stealing from neighboring farms. Some desperate soldiers ate old shoes—others ate tree bark*

Despite the hardships, less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(one hundred)* men died.