Women of the American Revolution

Women played a crucial role in the American Revolution. They prepared food, made clothing for soldiers, and served as nurses to the wounded. In addition to their traditional tasks, women played even more extensive roles during the war. With virtually every able man serving in the army, women were left to manage farms and businesses. As a result, many women began to hone their reading and writing skills and to make larger contributions to the nation’s economy, as well as its growing literary and suffrage movements. Four such women were Eliza Pinckney, Phillis Wheatley, Mercy Otis Warren, and Abigail Adams.

Even before the American Revolution, Eliza Pinckney had assumed responsibilities that traditionally belonged to men. When she was sixteen, her father left for Antigua, an island in the West Indies, where he served as Governor. While Pinckney’s father was away, her mother became seriously ill, and the young girl was left to manage the family’s three plantations (Stone 84). She experimented with unusual crops like ginger and alfalfa because she knew that crops were needed by the colonies that they could easily sell abroad. Her greatest business success was in growing indigo, a plant used to make blue dye for clothing and other products. Pinckney played an important role in the development of a successful indigo industry in the American South. She also studied law, drew up real estate contracts, wrote wills, and tutored slave children.

Both Phillis Wheatley, a poet and former slave, and Mercy Otis Warren, a playwright, created literary works that promoted education for African Americans and women. Wheatley was one of the first African Americans to have work published. Warren wrote the first history book about the American Revolution.

Abigail Adams, who later became First Lady as the wife of President John Adams, wrote letters that played a significant role in bringing women’s rights to the attention of the nation. During the American Revolution, she wrote to her husband John, “In the new code of law, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors! Do not put such unlimited power in the hands of the husbands!”

Each of these women played significant roles in the time of the American Revolution. They “helped start the process of thinking about the importance of women’s rights in a country that had been founded on the concept of equality and independence for all people.” Their words and actions created opportunities for women and have confirmed the female gender as a valuable asset to a new nation.
1. Based on the evidence from the text, from what point of view is the story told? Justify your answer.

A. The point of view is first person because the author is a character in the story.

B. The point of view is first person because the author uses pronouns such as I, me, myself, we.

C. The point of view is third person because the author uses pronouns such as they, she, and her.

D. The point of view is third person because the author uses first hand experiences.

2. Based on the excerpt from the passage, what is the text structure?

Even before the American Revolution, Eliza Pinckney had assumed responsibilities that traditionally belonged to men. When she was sixteen, her father left for Antigua, an island in the West Indies, where he served as Governor.

A. Sequential Order

B. Cause and Effect

C. Description

D. Problem and Solution

3. What is the meaning of the word significant?

A. Disapproving

B. Important

C. Unusual

D. Effective
Diving Deep

This week's big science news story is about James Cameron, the film director who directed both "Titanic" and "Avatar." On Monday, Cameron used a specially designed submarine to dive alone to the deepest place on Earth. The place is known as the Challenger Deep, off the coast of the Pacific island of Guam, and it is almost impossible to imagine how deep it really is. The Challenger Deep is 120 times deeper than the Grand Canyon and more than a mile deeper than the tallest mountain on Earth, Mount Everest, is tall.

Only two other people have ever made this dive. In 1960, Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard and U.S. Navy Capt. Don Walsh descended to the bottom in a bathyscape (a deep-sea diving craft) called the Trieste. Here are two sources that give different viewpoints of the diving deep into Challenger Deep.

(James Cameron writing on Twitter): Tweet: "Just arrived at the ocean's deepest point. Hitting bottom never felt so good. Can't wait to share what I'm seeing with you."

Account (U.S. Navy website): "Only two people have ever been to the deepest part of the world ocean, and Dr. Don Walsh is one of them. In 1960 Walsh, along with Swiss inventor Jacques Piccard, piloted the U.S. Navy's bathyscaph Trieste to a spot at the bottom of the Marianas Trench known as the Challenger Deep. Inside Trieste's seven-foot diameter cabin and with more than 16,000 pounds per square inch pressure outside, Walsh relied on the knowledge and skills of the ocean engineers and marine technicians who built the craft and supported its operation."
4. What will readers infer about the author’s purpose for writing “Diving Deep?”

A. The author wrote the passage to persuade the reader to become interested in learning more information about the ocean.

B. The author wrote the passage to inform the reader about the deepest place on Earth.

C. The author wrote the passage to entertain the reader with a story about diving deep into the Earth’s deepest area.

D. The author wrote the passage to help the reader visualize the deepest part of our Earth.

5. Based on the evidence from the text, is the tweet from James Cameron on Twitter a firsthand account or a secondhand account? Justify your answer.

6. Based on the evidence from the text, is the U.S. Navy website a firsthand account or a secondhand account? Justify your answer.
7. Based on evidence from the text, what information did James Cameron's tweet give the reader?

A. The tweet gave the reader a firsthand experience about his experience in going to the deepest part of the earth.

B. The tweet gave the reader a firsthand experience about Dr. Walsh's deep dive.

C. The tweet gave the reader a secondhand experience about traveling alone to the deepest part of the earth.

D. The tweet gave the reader information about how to prepare for a deep dive.

8. Based on the passage, what is the meaning of the word descended?

A. Go in an upward direction.

B. Go in a downward direction.

C. To go sideways.

D. To rise vertically.

9. If the reader wanted more information about Challenger Deep, what source would the reader use?

A. Encyclopedia

B. Glossary

C. Newspaper

D. Dictionary
George Washington

A soldier who knew him said that George Washington was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." As a young man, Washington fought for the British in the French and Indian War. Virginia was one of the original 13 colonies, and Washington went to defend its western frontier. Well built and more than six feet tall, he was incredibly strong, fiercely courageous, and respected by all who knew him. Out of admiration for him, as both a soldier and a man, an Indian chief and a French general let him go free after they had captured him. When our War of Independence began, George Washington was chosen to lead the Continental Army. Persistence (never quitting) allowed Washington to win the war he fought from 1775 to 1781. His soldiers were volunteers—they weren't paid, clothed, or even fed regularly. Yet Washington inspired them to keep fighting. He took troops and crossed the freezing Delaware River on Christmas. His surprise attack on a garrison, or military post, of soldiers led to victories at Trenton and Princeton (in present-day New Jersey). The general and his men endured the hardships of a winter encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Planting false information about his plans, he tricked the enemy into moving its army. Under General Cornwallis, the British surrendered on October 19, 1781. With independence won and his job done, Washington returned to Mt. Vernon and his wife, Martha Custis Washington. Now there was the peace to consider. Realizing the new country needed a strong basis for its government, Washington fought to have a constitutional convention. Chosen to be its leader, no one worked harder to get the Constitution of the United States ratified (officially approved by the states). Popular as always, Washington was unanimously chosen to be our first President. He took office on April 30, 1789, in New York City. Washington's main job during his two terms in office was to organize the government and figure out how to make our country work. Washington refused a third term, which set a two-term precedent, (broken only by FDR during World War II). In 1798, when war with France threatened, George Washington, at age 66, was again asked to lead the army. Thankfully, that war never got started. The very next year, while inspecting his Mt. Vernon estate on horseback, he got caught in a drenching rain, took sick, and died (December 14, 1799). The whole nation mourned. George Washington truly was "first in the hearts of his countrymen," as well as the father of his country.
10. Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the text structure of the passage?
   A. Cause and Effect
   B. Simple Procedure
   C. Compare and Contrast
   D. Sequential Order

11. Based on evidence from the text, what is the genre of the passage?
   A. Autobiography
   B. Biography
   C. Realistic Fiction
   D. Science Fiction

12. Which of the following correctly divides the word incredibly into syllables?
   A. In/ cred/i/ bly
   B. In/ cre/ di/ bly
   C. In/ cred/ ib/ ly
   D. In/ cr/ ed/ i/ bly

13. Based on evidence from the text, is the passage a firsthand source or a secondhand source? Justify your answer.

14. What will readers infer about the author’s purpose for writing “George Washington?”
   A. To persuade the reader to actively research other presidents.
   B. To inform the reader about George Washington’s life.
   C. To describe the qualifications of running for president.
   D. To entertain the reader with a story about George Washington’s life.