

Name _____

What's the Big
Idea, Ben Franklin?

Vocabulary

- Read the Vocabulary Words and their definitions. Write the word in parentheses () that best completes each sentence.

edition: copies of a book, magazine, or newspaper that are printed at the same time

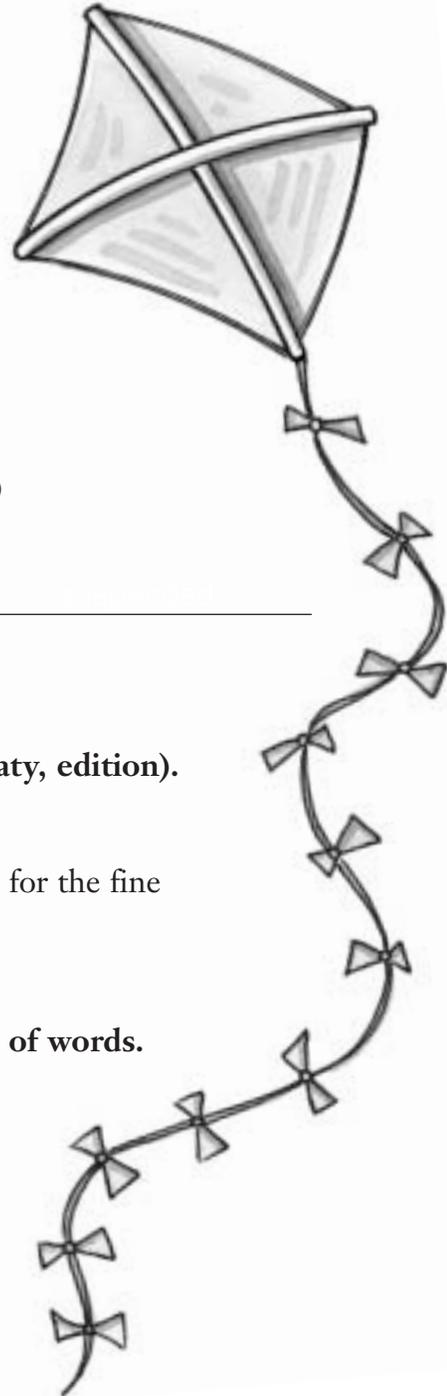
suspended: held up and left hanging

honors: glory or credit for fine or brave acts

contraption: a machine, often odd or funny

repeal: to stop or withdraw something, such as a tax

treaty: an official agreement between countries



1. Readers enjoyed the first (**treaty, edition**) of Ben's book. _____
 2. Some of Ben's silly-looking (**honors, contraptions**) were really useful. _____
 3. Ben's kite was (**suspended, repealed**) in the air. _____
 4. Ben wanted the British to (**treaty, repeal**) the tax laws. _____
 5. The war ended when both sides signed a peace (**treaty, edition**). _____
 6. Our nation gave Ben many (**contraptions, honors**) for the fine work he did. _____
- Write the Vocabulary Word that goes with each pair of words.
7. peace, agreement, _____
 8. awards, medals, _____
 9. invention, machine, _____
 10. cancel, withdraw, _____



Think of a book title that includes one or two Vocabulary Words. Draw a book cover to go with your title. Write the title on your drawing.

- Read the paragraph. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each question. The underlined words will help you answer the questions.

The fight for American independence was an ordeal. In 1782 the war was almost over. However, the battle was still going on in New York. The army there needed more soldiers. A young woman named Deborah Sampson heard about this. She thought of nothing but independence and freedom. She made a suit of men's clothing. She tied her hair like a man. Then she volunteered for the army. She felt smug about finally being able to help her country.

- 1 Which idea does the word *ordeal* express?
- A** Achieving American independence took a long time.
- B** Achieving American independence was not too hard.
- C** American independence was not achieved.
- D** Achieving American independence was very difficult.

**Tip**

Find *ordeal* in the passage. An ordeal is a hard or severe test or experience. Which answer choice comes closest to that meaning?

- 2 Which idea does the word *volunteered* express?
- F** Deborah joined the army, but she did not care about it.
- G** Deborah willingly and gladly went into the army.
- H** Deborah was forced into the army.
- J** Deborah joined the army, but it wasn't her first choice.

**Tip**

Find the sentence with *volunteered*. It mentions that Deborah could only think of independence and freedom. How do you think she felt when she volunteered for the army?

- 3 To express a more positive connotation, which word should the writer substitute for *smug*?
- A** satisfied
- B** thrilled
- C** content
- D** important

**Tip**

Think about how Deborah feels about her country. Which answer choice gives the strongest sense of being happy and excited?

