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Grade level: 8

Primary Source Citation: George Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851 by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutz, Metropolitan Museum of Art, http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/11417.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the painting located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description
1. What is powering the boats in the painting?
2. What cargo is included in the boats?

Level II: Interpretation
1. What is making the crossing difficult?
2. Were there any alternate methods to get the army across the river?

Level III: Analysis
1. Do you believe this image is an accurate portrayal of the crossing? Why or why not? Cite evidence from the painting.
2. What would you predict would have happened if the British/Hessians discovered George Washington’s plans and attacked during the crossing?