

A Famous Painting: More than Meets the Eye?

Did you know that the famous painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware to Trenton on Christmas night in 1776 contains many hidden meanings and symbolisms?

Created by German artist Emanuel Leutze nearly 70 years after the event took place, this painting was originally intended to inspire German reformers in Germany. Its popularity led it overseas to the United States in 1851.

The details of the boat symbolize a number of characteristics. For one, the boat is much smaller than real Durham boats, which was meant to emphasize the soldiers. Also, the boat in the painting was meant to display unity among the soldiers towards the goal of liberty.

Notice the diversity among the twelve figures in the main boat. It is thought that these figures represent different regions and cultures at the time.

In the painting below, see if you can uncover any hidden meanings in the painting, from the artist's use of color, to the weather, to the shapes of the objects!

