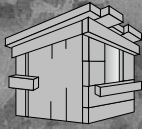


MAGIC TREE HOUSE®



Name: _____

Directions: Read and discuss the following poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Then answer the questions below on the lines provided.

The Concord Hymn

by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1837)

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
Here once the embattled farmers stood;
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps,
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream that seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone,
That memory may their deeds redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit who made those freeman dare
To die, and leave their children free,—
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raised to them and Thee.

Where is Concord located? _____

What was "the shot heard round the world"? _____

Why was the battle of Lexington and Concord so important? _____

Why did Emerson write this poem 52 years after this battle had taken place? _____

What message do you think Emerson wants to convey through his poem? Why do you think he called his poem a "hymn"? _____

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ANSWER KEY The Concord Hymn

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The shaft we raised to them and Thee.

Where is Concord located?

In Massachusetts.

What was "the shot heard round the world"?

The first shot fired at Lexington and Concord.

Why was the battle of Lexington and Concord so important?

It marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

Why did Emerson write this poem 52 years after this battle had taken place?

To pay tribute to the minutemen who fought and died for our freedom.

What message do you think Emerson wants to convey through his poem?

That we should never forget the sacrifices made by those who died so that we may enjoy freedom.

Why do you think he called his poem a "hymn"?

To make it more like a prayer.

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