

# Caesar Rodney

Patriot? Delegate? Equestrian?



Quarter-dollar coin image from the United States Mint

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction

In 1999, Caesar Rodney galloped back into our lives to kick-off the U.S. Mint 50 States Quarter program. Many designs and subjects were submitted but Caesar Rodney was chosen. When you complete this workbook you will know why Caesar Rodney on horseback was chosen to represent Delaware, The First State. It could be because he was a patriot. Or perhaps it was because he was a delegate to the Continental Congress. Or maybe it was because he was an outstanding equestrian from the state of Delaware.

You will learn about Caesar Rodney by using both primary and secondary source documents. Primary documents are eye witness stories, maps or pictures made by someone who was there when the event took place. A secondary source document is written or drawn much later by someone who heard the story from another person. Textbooks and encyclopedias are examples of secondary sources.

Your first job is to define the three keywords in the following chart. Use a dictionary to find the definition. Write a sentence with each word using Caesar Rodney as the subject for each sentence.

**Patriot -**

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**Delegate -**

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**Equestrian -**

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# Eye-Spy Caesar Rodney

Look carefully at the portrait of Caesar Rodney in primary document #1. Describe Rodney in your own words. Then examine primary document #3 which is the Portraits and Autographs of all the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Now look for the other two Delaware signers: Thomas McKean and George Reed (Primary Document #2). Give directions below for finding all three portraits in the large collage (#3).


## Why did he ride a horse to Philadelphia on July 1, 1776?

Read the letter that Caesar Rodney wrote to his brother Thomas on July 4, 1776 (Primary documents #4 and #5). This letter is known as the "Thunder and Rain" letter. Also, read the letter that Thomas McKean wrote to Caesar Rodney's nephew, Caesar Augustus Rodney many years later. (Primary document #6)

Turn back to the cover for this workbook. Add some rain and thunder to Rodney's picture. Write some words around the picture to describe Caesar Rodney on that night so long ago. Look at the portrait again and re-read the letters to find adjectives to describe this man.

## What's in a name?

Examine the 1776 map of Delaware. (Primary Document #7)  
What is the name of the river and bay on this map?

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Now look at the map of Delaware and New Jersey created in 1780 (Primary Document #8). What is the name of the river and bay in the center of this map? How has it changed from the name on the map of 1776?

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The name "Delaware" today used for river, bay, and state can be traced back to Samuel Argall who got lost in a storm in 1610 and sailed into a strange bay. Thankful to be alive, he named the bay and the river after his governor, Thomas West, Lord de la Warr. That name stuck and became Delaware.

## Where did Caesar Rodney ride?

Survey the map of Delaware and New Jersey from 1780 again. (Primary Document #8) Find Dover and you will see two lines representing a road going through Dover and up the page to Philadelphia. Write down the names of all the villages and towns that the road goes through between Dover and Philadelphia. That would be the route that Rodney took.


## How fast did Rodney ride?

The 1780 map has no legend but modern maps indicate that Dover and Philadelphia are 81.5 miles apart. Round that distance off to the nearest tens. If Rodney's horse cantered or galloped at the average speed of 20 miles per hour, how long would it take him to make the trip from Dover to Philadelphia?

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How long would it take you to make the same trip today driving a car at 60 miles per hour?

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How long would it take you to make the same trip today walking at 4 miles and hour?

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## Rodney's Ride: Fact or Fiction?

Read the poem about Rodney's Ride. (Document #9). Compare the poem, a secondary document, to the letters and map which are primary documents. Record your comparisons in the Venn Diagram on the next page. Decide for yourself if the poem is fact or fiction and circle your answer in the title above.

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Poem

Both Primary and  
Secondary Documents

Letters and Map

# The Delaware Quarter

Why was Caesar Rodney chosen to represent Delaware on a U.S. coin and why is he riding a horse? Was it because he was an **outstanding patriot**? Was it because he was a **loyal delegate** to the Continental Congress from Delaware? Or was it because he was the very best and **fastest equestrian** in the colony of Delaware in 1776? Write your answer below. Add some words from your answer that describe Rodney to the workbook cover picture.


This workbook was designed by Dr. Ann B. Canning for the Eastern Regional Teaching with Primary Sources Program at Waynesburg University. <http://tps.waynesburg.edu>