

your answer by the battle of Flodden or Waterloo.

(1) Give a description of the nations who fought on each side, with the chief characteristics of each, as far as they were likely to affect the progress and result of the fight, and an account of their leaders.

Thus, in a lesson on the battle of Waterloo, there are on one side the allied troops, consisting of the British and Belgians under Wellington, and the Prussians (who came up late in the day) under Blücher. The British are mostly veterans of the Peninsula, the "heroes of a hundred fights," under their well-known and trusted leader, who said of them that they would "go anywhere, and do anything." They have the general stubborn and indomitable character of their nation, not knowing when they are defeated, and ready to die on the field to the last man rather than yield. The Belgians, a slower, but steadier race of men, are animated with a desire to do their best with their English comrades under the famous Wellington. The Prussians, under their somewhat slow but experienced leader, Blücher, are burning to avenge the defeats which they had formerly suffered at the hands of Napoleon.

(2) Draw on the black-board a plan of the battle-field and the surrounding country, showing the position of the opposing armies with respect to each other, and to the chief features of the district.

In a description of the battle of Waterloo it would be necessary to draw the high-road (through Waterloo to Brussels) which divided the allied troops from the French. The battalions of the two armies could be represented in their positions on each side of the road. Other points to be marked are the Château of Hougoumont, the Farm of La Haye Sainte, and the Farm of La Belle Alliance.

(3) Next describe the general progress of the battle, with the final result. This should be done as vividly as possible, referring to the plan at each point in the operations.

The battle of Waterloo was fought on

Sunday, June 18, 1815. The night before the rain had fallen in torrents, and the troops on both sides rose in the morning wet and weary. The battle began at eleven o'clock a.m., by a cannonade from the English. The French cavalry attacked the Château of Hougoumont with great fury; but, after various successes, ultimately failed to dislodge the English Guards who held it.

Napoleon sent his squadrons of cavalry against the English squares; but the latter held their ground with the most desperate tenacity, and the French horse recoiled from the showers of bullets and the points of the bayonets with which they were met.

Marshal Ney was for a time more fortunate in his attack on La Haye Sainte. He at first drove out the opposing troops; but was unable to maintain his position, owing partly to a failure of ammunition.

About four in the afternoon the head of the Prussian columns appeared emerging from a wood to the east of the battle-field. The attacks of the French had hitherto failed, and Napoleon, seeing fresh enemies advancing, determined on a last and desperate attempt to retrieve the fortunes of the day. He ordered an advance of the famous "Old Guard," a body of veteran troops who were deemed invincible, and had hitherto been kept in reserve. They were led by Ney up the slope occupied by the English troops. The latter awaited the attack, lying on the ground. When the French were at a distance of about fifty yards, Wellington ordered his men to rise and fire. They poured such a deadly volley into the ranks of the French, that the latter gave way, and fell back down the hill. Wellington, seeing that the crisis of the battle had arrived, ordered a general advance of the whole line. The English rushed on their enemies, who were thrown into confusion, and soon fled from the field. Napoleon, seeing that all was lost, turned his back and fled towards France with the remainder of his troops.

The Prussians had now arrived, and being comparatively fresh, undertook the pursuit of the fugitives, of whom thousands were killed or taken prisoners.