



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
A NATIONAL TREASURE

# The Patriot Papers

PATRIOT n. [Fr patriote <LL. patriota, fellow countryman < Gr patriotes < patri, fatherland < pater, FATHER]

## George Celebrates Birthday in the Hollywood Hills

Smithsonian Exhibition Opens in Seattle in March

Driving down Wilshire Boulevard in sunny Los Angeles, I saw him suspended from a lamppost. As I looked toward the Hollywood Hills, there he was again. I could see his face through the fog. And it was George! . . . George Washington had come to LA to celebrate his birthday.

I followed the crowd to LACMA—the Los Angeles County Art Museum—to get a better look at George. And there hung the famous Lansdowne portrait. Gilbert Stuart painted it in 1796. “I thought it was going to be small,” said Patricia Vargas. “But it was huge!” She’s right. The 8-foot life-size painting is huge.

“Do you think George was a good man?” asked the man next to me. “Of course,” answered 10-year-old Gabe Wingert. “He started a country.”

Then people started to talk about the symbols in the painting—the rainbow, the blue sky, the sword, and the scroll. “What is that scroll on the desk?” “I think it’s the Declaration of Independence,” said Gabe. “No,” said his sister Linda. “I think those are his bills!”

Linda might be right. After all, it costs a lot to start a country, right, Gabe?



Photograph by Tia Powell Harris

### Coming Soon to a Museum Near You

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston:  
February 15–June 16, 2002

Las Vegas Art Museum:  
June 28–October 27, 2002

Los Angeles County Museum of Art:  
November 7, 2002–March 9, 2003

Seattle Art Museum: March 21–July 20, 2003

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts:  
August 1–November 30, 2003

Oklahoma City Museum of Art:  
December 12, 2003–April 11, 2004

Arkansas Arts Center: April 23–August 22, 2004

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004

On Presidents’ Day 2002, “George Washington: a National Treasure” began a nationwide tour in Houston, Texas, and George began to travel. He spent Presidents’ Day 2003 in Los Angeles, California. And on March 21, 2003, the exhibition opened at the Seattle Art Museum. How long will George be there? Where will George spend President’s Day 2004? When the tour is over, the portrait will return home to the National Portrait Gallery.

Join us at SAM or follow the tour at [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu). George Washington is eager to meet you.

## State of Tennessee Catches the Spirit and Declares George Washington Education Day

As George Washington travels the country, schools across America are catching the GW spirit. Tennessee caught the spirit and made December 17, 2002, George Washington Education Day. West Elementary School in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, celebrated the event with tricorne hats and a red, white, and blue-flocked Christmas tree. Then students in costume crossed the Delaware in a boat. They also acted out a living timeline showing classmates that it’s a myth that Washington’s false teeth were made of wood. They were really made from human teeth, cow’s teeth, and ivory! To top off the day, NPG left Tennessee its own copy of the portrait.



Photograph by Sarah Rogers

Ahoy mates! Kyle Byrd, Billy Vann, and Scotty Wilson get on board and re-create the famous crossing of the Delaware River.



Young GW reenactor Cody Hartley comes “face to face” with George.



“George Washington: A National Treasure” is organized by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, and made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

### About the Artist

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saunterstown, Rhode Island. He began to study painting in his early teenage years, while traveling around Europe. After painting the Lansdowne portrait, Stuart painted Presidents Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. His most famous portrait of Washington is recognizable today on the one-dollar bill and on postage stamps.

### Making Connections

Imagine you are an actor who portrays a historical figure. Who would you be? How could you talk, dress, and behave to be like this person? Create this character.

## Elementary School Teacher’s Edition

**Fellow educators:** *The Patriot Papers* was developed as a vehicle for enrichment in the classroom. As a teaching tool it seeks to put George Washington in context, realizing that while Washington influenced America, America also influenced Washington. The news of the day, the social scene, the fashion, the gossip, the political events, his family, and his contemporaries all had their impact. This interdisciplinary approach to studying Washington should serve a variety of subjects—literature as well as history, language arts as well as visual arts. Designed to coincide with national curriculum standards in both social studies and the language arts, *The Patriot Papers* provides opportunities to sharpen critical thinking skills, interpret primary source materials, arrange events chronologically, determine cause and effect, summarize and analyze historical events and ideas, and discover relationships between America’s early history and the present day.

The paper also encourages student involvement. We challenge all to become actively involved in service to country and share their efforts with students across the United States. We hope to publish student art and poetry, as well as stories of service, through our website and publication. *Pledge It Forward* and enjoy the journey.

—Felice Pulles, editor-in-chief

### Related national standards in historical thinking

- Chronological thinking
- Historical comprehension
- Historical analysis and interpretation
- Historical research

### Related national standards in language arts

- Reading for perspective
- Reading for understanding
- Applying knowledge
- Evaluating data
- Developing research skills
- Developing writing skills

## Writing to Learn

Students spend numerous hours *learning to write*, and we usually depend on the English teachers to instruct them. We forget that students can also *write to learn*. The very act of thinking an idea through in order to put it on paper leads to clarification of that idea. And as students write, more ideas emerge, questions find answers, and confusion finds clarity as words take shape and form. We need not always know the ending or the answer when we begin to write. The journey will often reveal it.

The activities suggested in **Writing to Learn** are intended for student exploration, to let students meander through inspirations, arguments, and ideas until they make meaning of their own. Initially, don't worry too much about form, structure, spelling, and grammar; it's only a work in progress. Ideas are best generated when words flow quickly. The mind can race far faster than the pen. Let it race and catch those ideas on the fly.

### Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

Ask students to create advertisements of their own using our authentic 18th-century advertisements as models.

- Advertise an unusual product
- Publicize an upcoming event
- Place a "Help Wanted" advertisement

## Making Connections

Find the dates to these main events. Many are in the newspaper. Construct a simple timeline that puts these major events in chronological order. Use images, drawings, or symbols to represent each event.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Boston: Boston Tea Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ France: Bastille stormed, French Revolution begins
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Revolution ends
- \_\_\_\_\_ Washington becomes first President
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gilbert Stuart paints Washington's portrait
- \_\_\_\_\_ President and Mrs. Washington move into residence on High Street in Philadelphia

### General Washington Rallies Troops at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, 1777-1778—General Washington struggles to keep his troops alive and well in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this winter. Inadequate shipments of food, clothing, and supplies have left the regiments in shambles. Poor hygiene and serious disease threaten the lives of all the soldiers camped there. General Washington has asked for more supplies, but has not been successful. While General Washington struggles alongside his men, his political enemies threaten to remove his power. Some critics feel that others are better suited to lead the Continental army.

### Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child

YORKTOWN, 1781—After losing two children in infancy and her daughter Patsy to epilepsy, Martha Washington lost her last child to camp fever. John Parke Custis, known as Jacky to family and friends, passed away on November 5 at Yorktown. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of Britain's General Cornwallis. Jacky leaves behind a wife and four children. General and Mrs. Washington will raise the younger two children, Eleanor "Nelly" Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, at Mount Vernon, their home in Virginia.

### Where's George?

M H K F H A M I L T O N T N Y  
O H T X E L G H I S S R Q O T  
U K E E S D C E M U A A P S I  
N P S M E I E A O U M L G R L  
T R C A Q T D R T R A W C E I  
V E L R E A E S A N G Q G F V  
E T L T N N T S S L B E I F I  
R C N H B R J D L C I Q S E C  
N Q O A E W O A U A Y S R J F  
O J I B R W B H B F F P T M O  
N H L K N N F R S Q Y N I S S  
L I P E N N S Y L V A N I A E  
G Y S H T A O Y T L A Y O L L  
M V F H Z C G R J N Q W Z G U  
X C T Y C V T Q H V G U Y L R

False teeth	Jefferson	Mount Vernon
Federalists	John Adams	Pennsylvania
George	Lansdowne	Rules of Civility
Gilbert Stuart	Loyalty oath	
Hamilton	Martha	

### Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

NEW YORK, 1789 (AP)—After months of debate to establish our new American government, the first official election was held on February 4, 1789. George Washington received all 69 electoral votes! Washington, who will be inaugurated on April 30 of this year, accepted the presidency, even though he wished to return to his estate at Mount Vernon and retire. "I was summoned by my country," said Washington. He and his wife Martha will soon move to the country's capital, New York City.

### Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

PHILADELPHIA, 1793 (AP)—President George Washington has won his second election to the presidency of the United States! The inauguration will take place on March 4 in Philadelphia, the new capital of the United States. However, Washington is doubtful about being the President again. He wrote to his friend Henry Lee that he accepted the presidency only "after a long and painful conflict in my own breast." He really wanted to return to Mount Vernon and retire. The next four years could be difficult. There are arguments over the interpretation of the Constitution. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson strongly disagree. President Washington fears this will divide the country.

### Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Western Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, 1794—Western Pennsylvanians have started a violent opposition to government taxes. They are launching the first major civil disturbance of President Washington's term in office. Last week, U.S. Marshal David Lenox was trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor in Westmoreland County. Military action will be taken, much to the regret of the President: The army is being organized from other northern states and they will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.

### WOULD YOU SIGN A LOYALTY OATH?

During the Revolutionary War, the British would have required you to sign an oath similar to this:

"I voluntarily take this OATH to bear Faith and true Allegiance to His MAJESTY KING George the Third; — and defend to the utmost of my Power, His sacred Person, Crown, and Government, against all Persons whatsoever."

Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown?

## The Patriot Papers

The Patriot Papers serves students of all ages. It is published quarterly by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, P. O. Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

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The opinions expressed in *The Patriot Papers* are not necessarily those of the Smithsonian Institution or the National Portrait Gallery.

Teaching materials to accompany the exhibition "George Washington: A National Treasure" are available to educators at no cost by visiting [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu) or by calling 1-866-NPG-KITS.



AT THE CITY ORDINARY,  
ON WEDNESDAY  
THE 28TH OF THIS MONTH:

Such Gentlemen  
& Ladies are  
respectfully invited  
to attend this  
delightful spectacle.  
To the amazement  
of all, tbe

### LEARNED PIG



counts, adds, &  
subtracts numbers  
& even  
identifies colors.

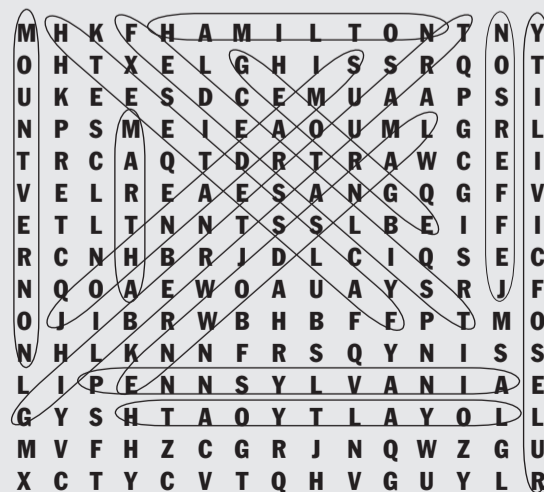
The Doors will be open  
at Six o'Clock.

MR. FINNIE  
respectfully informs  
the gentlemen  
amateurs of FENCING,  
that he Proposes  
opening a

### FENCING ACADEMY

on the 5th of  
February on River  
Street, the second  
door from King  
Street, where that  
noble art will  
be taught every  
Tuesday, Thursday,  
and Saturday.

### Word find key





## November 1796

**RUNAWAY SLAVE.** Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. The girl, we hear, was lured away by a Frenchman who tired of her and left her stranded in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. President Washington has sent word that all will be forgiven if she returns to her mistress, but she has refused to come back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to her demand, setting her free would only reward her for running away and would spread discontent among the rest of his servants (as he calls them), who by being faithful are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway. Above all, the President cautioned that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest a mob or riot be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington she must get along without the services of Olney Judge.

## December 1790

**FREEDOM TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION.** President Washington has brought a handful of servants from Mount Vernon, but he will be faced with the difficulty of complying with the Pennsylvania law freeing adult slaves who have lived in Pennsylvania for six months in a row. It is believed that the President, therefore, will have to shuttle these servants back and forth and suffer the inconvenience of sometimes being without his cook, Hercules. Asked if he feared his slaves might take advantage of being in the North to run away, the President has privately conceded that “the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist.”

- \* George Washington was only 11 years old when he inherited 10 slaves from his father in 1743.
- \* By the time he was 22 years old, Washington owned approximately 36 slaves. At his death in 1799, Washington had 316 slaves at Mount Vernon, 123 of whom belonged directly to him. The remaining 193 were “dower” slaves—those he acquired through his marriage to Martha.
- \* Washington did not buy or sell any slaves after the Revolutionary War.
- \* Approximately 75 percent of the slaves at Mount Vernon worked in the fields. Of these, nearly 65 percent were women.
- \* Washington allowed his slaves to marry, although such arrangements were not legally binding at that time.
- \* In his will, Washington freed all of the slaves he owned. His personal valet, William Lee, was released with a payment of \$30 per year for the rest of his life, a considerable sum in those days.



## December 1790

**PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE,** 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Additions will be made to accommodate Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, Nelly, who is about twelve, and George Washington, who is about ten, as well as the President’s secretary and numerous servants.

George Washington and His Family by David Edwin, after Edward Savage, stipple engraving, 1798. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Throughout the coming months *The Patriot Papers* will address the issue of slavery during George Washington’s time. In view of Washington’s many attributes and accomplishments, it is difficult to acknowledge his role as slave owner. Guest historians will share their perspectives; we invite you to share yours. Hopefully, through dialogue, we will increase our understanding.

— F. A. Pulles, editor  
PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

## RUN AWAY FROM MY

PLANTATION, called *Newport News*, on the 17th of *January*, a very likely Negro Fellow named *Strawbury*, about thirty Years of Age, has lost one of his fore Teeth, and had on a Cotton Waistcoat and Breeches, Plaid Stockings, and Negro Shoes. The Negroes upon the Plantation saw him go away with two Sailors; he can read, and I imagine he will attempt to go out of the Country on Board a Vessel. I do hereby forewarn all Masters of Vessels from carrying him away, as they shall answer it at their Peril. Whoever brings the said Negro to me, in *York County*, shall have TEN POUNDS Reward if he is taken in this Colony, and TWENTY POUNDS if out thereof.

—WILLIAM DIGGES, Junior

## Possessions

Today, most of us own many more things than we really need to live on. When Washington was 11 years old, his family made an inventory (or list) of their possessions. Here is what they owned, besides their land:

- 16 pairs of sheets
- 17 pillowcases
- 13 beds
- A couch
- Desks
- Chairs
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- A looking glass (mirror)
- One silver-plated soup spoon
- 18 small spoons
- 7 teaspoons
- A watch
- A sword
- 11 china plates
- 20 slaves

How many of these same items are owned by your family today? Are you surprised to see “slaves” listed as part of the inventory of possessions? If you were to make an inventory of every item in your home, how long do you think the list would be? How many items would be unfamiliar to George Washington?

## Making Connections

## George’s Genealogy

George Washington’s family can be traced back all the way to the mid-1500s. Although George and Martha never had children together, there are numerous recorded cousins, and many people today claim to be related to our first President. How far back can you trace your family? Design a simple family tree.

## The White House

President John Adams was the first to live in the White House, even though construction was not complete. During the War of 1812, the British set fire to the White House, but it survived. The original stone walls, built two centuries ago, are still in place today. The White House now has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 levels, with 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 8 staircases, and 3 elevators. Draw a picture of the house you would want to live in if you were President, or design one special room.

## Extension activities:

## Playing with Possessions

- Possessions tell us a lot about a person. Have each student choose one item to represent each member of his or her family (including the student) and assemble these in a backpack or box. Then each student should choose one item that best represents the entire family. Encourage students to do this exercise with their families. Each student should be able to tell the class why he or she chose the one item that best represents him or her. (Each student could assemble a backpack or box with only his or her own items if families prove difficult.)
- Have students take an inventory of their bedroom. (It might be frightening but could be revealing of personality.)
- Students can be divided into groups and assigned a specific historical family to represent. The group would first research the family and then discuss issues and debate ideas representative of that family. They can also construct the same family backpack representing their historical family.

## For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon’s site at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org), the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at [www.hubbardhousemuseum.org](http://www.hubbardhousemuseum.org), or the Decatur House at [www.decaturhouse.org](http://www.decaturhouse.org).

## Building Vocabulary

Define the terms “Federalist” and “Republican” as used in Washington’s time. What did each political party represent? Which parties did Jefferson and Hamilton support? Why? How do these terms relate to the Republican and Democratic parties of today?

### Vocabulary Words

**camp fever** 1. Typhus: an infection characterized by high fever, headache, and dizziness; a.k.a. camp diarrhea

**cede** vt. 1. To surrender possession of, formally or officially. 2. To yield or grant, as by a treaty.

**tippet** n. 1. A long, slender boa used like a scarf. It was considered a fancy accessory in the 19th century, usually made of swansdown or fur.

## Making Connections

### You as President

What qualities made George Washington a good President? What kind of person should be the President of the United States? Do you think you have what it takes to be a future President? Would you want to be President? Why or why not?

### The Portrait Puzzler answer key

1. Martha Washington
2. Alexander Hamilton
3. Thomas Paine
4. Benjamin Franklin
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. John Adams
7. Abigail Adams
8. John Hancock

## Making a Portrait Silhouette

### HERE’S WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A person to be your model
- Chair
- Light source: adjustable desk lamp or even a strong flashlight
- Tape
- White chalk or brightly colored gel pen
- Table
- Colored construction paper
- Black construction paper
- Sharp scissors
- White glue

THE PATRIOT PAPERS

PAGE 4

# PORTRAITS ON PARADE

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## The Portrait Puzzler:

### Who am I? FILL IN THE BLANK

☞ Although George and I never had children of our own, I bore 4 children and, sadly, buried them all.

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☞ I was the secretary of the treasury. I wanted a strong government with many businesses and banks. Thomas Jefferson and I disagreed about many things, and this began to divide the country.

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☞ I felt the colonies should be independent from England, and wrote this in *Common Sense*. I also felt that “these were the times that try men’s souls.”

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☞ I helped write the Declaration of Independence, and was involved in politics, especially in Philadelphia. I am most famous, however, for using a kite to show the nature of electricity and lightning.

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☞ I drafted the Declaration of Independence. As President, I doubled the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase.



JOHN HANCOCK



ABIGAIL ADAMS



JOHN ADAMS



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



THOMAS PAINE

☞ I served as the first Vice President of the United States and as the second President. I was elected to the presidency in 1796. My son later became President in 1825.

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☞ Aside from being a first lady, I fought for women’s rights, especially for women to have the same educational opportunities as men. I also strongly opposed slavery.

John Hancock by William Smith, 1775; Abigail Adams by Raphaelle Peale, 1804; John Adams by John Trumbull, c. 1793; Martha Washington by an unidentified artist, 1800–1825; Thomas Jefferson by Mather Brown, 1786. Gift of Charles Francis Adams; Benjamin Franklin by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, c. 1785. Gift of the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Alexander Hamilton by James Sharples, c. 1796; Thomas Paine by William Sharp, 1793. All images are details and are from the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

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## What Did George Really Look Like?

George Washington towered over most men of the time. Standing about 6 feet, 3 inches tall, with long arms and legs, huge hands and feet, and pale blue eyes, Washington attracted notice. When young, his hair was reddish brown, but it lightened as he aged.

As a young man he was strong and athletic looking, weighing about 175 pounds. Later in life, he weighed closer to 200 pounds.

Portraits of the 18th century captured a personality on canvas, much as photographs do today. Both the artist and the photographer try to show the real person through their art. But it is easier for a painter to hide flaws or alter unattractive features than a photographer. The Lansdowne portrait is considered quite realistic, but there are some things the portrait does NOT show about George Washington:

- His face was scarred from smallpox (especially his nose)
- He had a strong “Roman” nose
- Already in his 60s, GW had wrinkles in his skin and a bit of a stomach paunch
- He was wearing ill-fitting dentures that may have distorted his face
- He wore eyeglasses for reading

If you compare this portrait to portraits of other important people during the same time period, you’ll see some very serious faces. Most people did not smile for portraits the way we often are told to “smile” when we have our pictures taken. Portraits were a way to show status and dignity, and to communicate character. People valued a dignified, formal manner, especially in their President.

Look carefully at the Lansdowne portrait on page 1. Identify 3 things the portrait tells us about President Washington:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare this portrait with two others of Washington (you can find them in this paper!). Do you notice any similarities? \_\_\_\_\_

Any differences? \_\_\_\_\_

### Did You Know...?

- Washington came from a blended family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepsister?
- He was actually born February 11, not February 22? England changed its calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthdate to become February 22.
- His father died when he was 11 years old?
- He often had a bad temper but slowly learned to control it?
- He loved horseback riding, dancing, and farming?
- He was not always a good student?
- He did not always get along very well with his mother, who was bossy and controlling?
- His older half-brother Lawrence was one of the most important people in young George’s life?
- He had two stepchildren, but no children of his own?



## Six Reasons For Greatness

More than 200 years after his death, we still speak of George Washington's greatness. Why? What makes a person great?

1. By age 23, Washington was renowned for his physical courage: he continued to fight in one battle despite having 4 bullets pierce his clothing and 2 horses shot out from under him.
2. Washington risked his wealth, his reputation, and his life when he agreed to lead the fight against the British; had he failed, he would have been hung as a traitor!
3. Washington learned to "act like a fox, not like a wolf." He understood that to win the war against Britain, he had to outlast his enemy, not win every battle.
4. Washington agreed to become the first President of the United States, when he could easily have been the first king.
5. He was the only President to be elected unanimously, not once but twice!
6. He was the only Founding Father to free his slaves when he died, although this was not effective until after Martha Washington's death.

Is there anyone alive today who you think is great and will be remembered by history? Defend your choice.

## Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

TO MODERN PEOPLE, IT IS EASY TO THINK THAT MEDICINE IN THE COLONIES was unsafe. Many doctors at the time were self-trained. If he had lived today, George Washington could have been cured with antibiotics. But in 1799, could Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

During colonial times, no one knew how diseases were spread. One of the main theories focused on the need for a total balance of tension and fluids in the body. This delicate balance was essential to both physical and mental health. If there was too much or too little of any one fluid, a person could get sick. The doctors who tried to help George Washington used medical treatments that tried to balance the fluids.

Washington's doctors bled him several times. They may have thought that taking out extra blood would stop the swelling in Washington's throat. Unfortunately, they took out a lot of blood. That made it hard for George's body to fight the illness.

Doctors also made Washington gargle with vinegar, molasses, and butter. These were used to open up his throat. But his throat was too swollen and he had a lot of trouble swallowing. He almost choked a couple of times too.

Finally, doctors tried to make him vomit to take out any bad fluids. This can cause the body to lose too much water, and that can make someone sicker.

Even though Washington's doctors did a lot of things that modern doctors would not do, they tried very hard to help him. They used medical practices that were believed to be the most helpful. Washington knew that he was very ill. He died bravely.



*George Washington in His Last Illness*, an etching done in 1800 by an unidentified artist, is an example of the public's fascination with the death of its first American hero. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

## George Washington Dies at 67

AFTER RIDING OUTSIDE DURING VERY BAD WEATHER LAST THURSDAY and Friday, George Washington got sick on Saturday, December 14, 1799. An infection\* gave him a sore throat. He also had a fever, and it was hard for him to breathe.

The President's friend Tobias Lear writes that the President grew calm late in the evening and checked his own pulse. Then he died peacefully in his bed. His wife Martha was with him, as well as some servants, doctors, and friends.

A large funeral is planned for Wednesday, December 18, including gun salutes and a procession.

\* *Modern medicine concludes that this was epiglottitis, a bacterial infection.*

## The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President in 1783, he had only one tooth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth. As a result, many of them fell out before he was 30! Over the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. There is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth. His dentures were made of many things. They were often made from human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wire and a spring. This allowed the dentures to open and close. Throughout his life, Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington's cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the greatest of walnut lovers!



## Lost & Found

Find the following items in *The Patriot Papers*. Circle each item. Then count the number of times that object appears and list the number in the blank to the left. Some objects appear more than once.

1. \_\_\_\_ silhouette
2. \_\_\_\_ pig
3. \_\_\_\_ American flag
4. \_\_\_\_ globe
5. \_\_\_\_ music
6. \_\_\_\_ false teeth
7. \_\_\_\_ sword
8. \_\_\_\_ portrait
9. \_\_\_\_ black boots
10. \_\_\_\_ rainbow
11. \_\_\_\_ dollar bill
12. \_\_\_\_ inkwell
13. \_\_\_\_ medicine bottle
14. \_\_\_\_ pocket watch
15. \_\_\_\_ dancer
16. \_\_\_\_ bonnet
17. \_\_\_\_ military uniform
18. \_\_\_\_ star
19. \_\_\_\_ portrait pendant
20. \_\_\_\_ pictures of George Washington
21. \_\_\_\_ eagle
22. \_\_\_\_ ruffled shirt
23. \_\_\_\_ a fencing academy
24. \_\_\_\_ the word "patriot"

## Capture It in Words

The unidentified artist of the etching *George Washington in His Last Illness* captured the nation's sorrow when he added an inscription and verse beneath the picture. It reads:

**"G. Washington in his last illness attended by  
Doctors Craik and Brown."**

**Americans behold & shed a grateful tear**

**For a man who has gained your freedom most dear**

**And now is departing into the realms above**

**Where he may ever rest in lasting peace above.**

Write this verse out for the students. Ask them what it adds to the work of art. Why would Americans shed "a grateful tear"? Then let them choose 2 or 3 other pictures from this paper and try writing a title or verse of their own. They could even print out the best captions, mount them under photocopies of their paintings, and display them.

## Writing to Learn

Take any character from the past and write a journal entry, a page from a diary, or a letter from his or her perspective.

Make up your own *Rules of Civility* for the 21st century—on dating, on dining, on education, on politics.

## Time Travel

Take any modern personality, celebrity, or politician and send them back in time to comment on an event.

Use George Washington and other people mentioned in *The Patriot Papers* as characters for a skit. Act out what you think George Washington's first inaugural address would have been like. Or re-create a scene from Valley Forge using the information you know. Imagine what a typical dinner would be like for George and Martha, and act this out. How would this be different from a dinner with your family? Don't forget to use dress and language to make the skits more authentic.

### Cross-ing the Delaware answer key

Across

1. Civility
2. Lansdowne
3. Whiskey
4. George Washington

Down

1. Teeth
2. Federalists
3. Gilbert Stuart
4. Epiglottitis
5. Martha
6. Mount Vernon
7. Valley Forge

## Make Your Own Portrait of George

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Thin newsprint or tracing paper
- A new quarter (or one that is not worn down)
- Peeled crayon

### WHAT TO DO:

- Put a quarter on a sheet of thin newsprint or tracing paper.
- Hold the coin steady as you rub over it with the side of a crayon. **TIP:** If you find that the coin slips, you can put a circle of tape on the bottom of the coin to hold it to the desk.
- As you rub the crayon over the coin, you will begin to see the head of President Washington appear!

**QUIZ:** On which paper bill can you see President Washington's face?

## In Other Words...

Mistress Goody's Column of Advice on subjects other than politics and war.

RESPECTFULLY BASED ON *THE RULES OF CIVILITY*  
—BY T. POWELL HARRIS

In 1745, in the colonial frontier town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, thirteen-year-old George Washington recorded *The Rules of Civility* in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. These "guidelines for the respectable gentleman" would influence him throughout his life. The rules stress etiquette, chivalry, and courtesy. Does that sound like something from the Dark Ages?

Fortunately, there is one who understands the rules well; in fact, she still recommends their use today. Let us recall a character from the past to help with our everyday problems. We give you the "Toast of George Town," our own Mistress Goody, always informed, always respectable, and very, very good.



MISTRESS GOODY

*Mistress Goody,*  
*My brother has a toothache every week. I'm getting tired of him complaining so much. He eats chocolate, candy, and ice cream all the time, and I know that's what the problem is. Don't you think if he stops eating junk food his toothaches will go away?*

**Rule 38: In visiting the sick, do not presently play the physician if you be not knowing therein.**

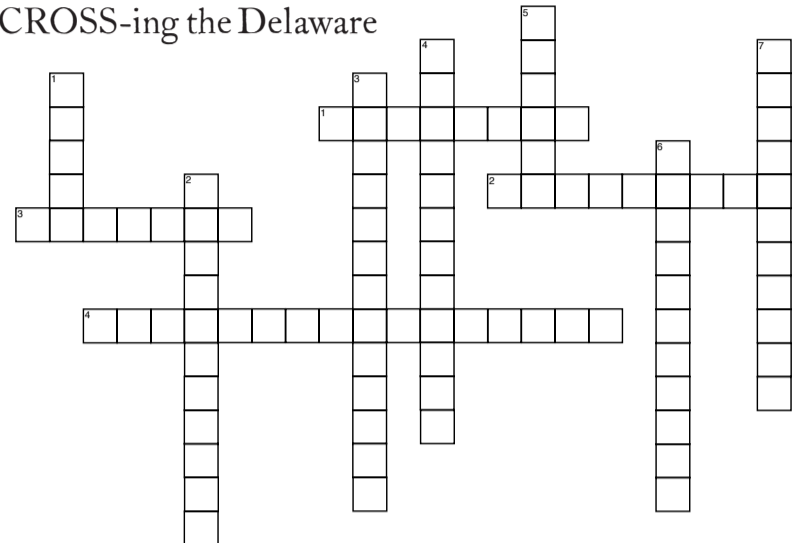
In other words . . . stop playing doctor and suggest that he see a dentist without delay.

*Mistress Goody,*  
*There's this really cool group of kids that I want to hang out with. Sometimes they do mean things to people. Like once I know they broke into a teacher's car. They didn't take anything. It was just a practical joke, sort of. My mom says I shouldn't want to be associated with anyone who might lead me into trouble one day, but I think it's all about a little fun. What do you say?*

**Rule 56: Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation. For 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.**

I think you get Mistress Goody's point!

## CROSS-ing the Delaware



### ACROSS

1. George Washington recorded the *Rules of \_\_\_\_\_* when he was thirteen years old.
2. The National Portrait Gallery's image of George Washington is often referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ portrait.

3. The violent opposition to the liquor tax is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Rebellion.
4. The first President of the United States

### DOWN

1. Washington had to wear a false set of these.

2. In the time of Washington, there were two political parties, the Republicans and the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The man who painted a famous portrait of George Washington in 1796.

4. George Washington died of this infection.

5. The first name of George Washington's wife.

6. The name of George Washington's home in Virginia.

7. In the winter of 1777–78, Washington struggled to keep his troops alive at \_\_\_\_\_.



*Mistress Goody,*  
*At the lunch table most everyone eats and talks at the same time. I think that's pretty gross. What do you think?*

The rules of dining etiquette are quite clear; let them guide your acquaintances in all their culinary endeavors (and in the cafeteria!).

**90th: Being set at meat, scratch not neither spit, cough nor blow your nose, except when there is a necessity for it.**

**100th: Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth, napkin, fork, knife; but if others do it, let it be done with a pick tooth. [i.e., a toothpick]**

Questions? Problems? Too much homework? Write to Mistress Goody for all the answers to love and life at [PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu](mailto:PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu).

## Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?



*Actor William Sommerfeld brings George Washington to your community for a 3-day trip back in time.*

Guess who's coming to town—direct from Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac? It's George Washington, and you can shake his hand. For 3 days he'll be visiting a museum near you,\* waiting to share his stories and dance the minuet. He looks like George Washington. He has white powdered hair. He's almost 6'3" tall. He walks like George and talks like George. He even signs his name like George. Come see for yourself! It's time to take a walk with Washington.

\*Parents, check your local museum for dates and details.



We interrupt this edition of *The Patriot Papers* news to bring you the nearly news—a collection of intimate historical glimpses into the past, captured in not-so-living color in *The Pudding Papers*. The complete episodic adventures can be viewed at your leisure at [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu). Our on-the-scene trusted correspondents include: Silas Silvertongue, our presidential reporter; Titus Blunt, our congressional correspondent; and our own Prudence Pudding, who provides social notes from all over. (We leave it for you to decide, dear reader, whether she is an upstart hussy or a man in disguise.) In the spirit of the freedom of the press guaranteed by our new Bill of Rights, we intend to act as a watchful eye and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a plate of gossip, but never a dish of scandal.

*\*Editor's note—We apologize in advance for any improprieties, insults, or slanderous remarks on the part of our correspondents. They are, at times ill-mannered, sometimes indiscreet, and, at all times, want of wit.*



### Social Notes from All Over...

Patience Wright by an unidentified artist, etching, 1775. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

April 23, 1789

HE COMES! HE COMES! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot on the New York shore after an eight-day triumphal journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbelievable. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees before him.” Washington, it can well be believed, is more popular than the new government he is to head.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

RICKETT'S AMPHITHEATRE. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Rickett's dangerous feats on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy

firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Rickett, demonstrating his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, raised his glass to the health of “The Man of the People.” This produced an immediate clap of applause and a loud hurrah from every part of the Circus. Mr. Rickett has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the finest horseman of the age, saying “I delight to see the general ride, and make it a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; his seat is so firm, his management so easy and graceful, that I who am a professor of horsemanship, would go to him and learn to ride.”

June 1791

THE PRESIDENT ON TOUR. When he entered upon the duties of his office, George Washington decided he would visit all parts of the United States to please the citizens and to see how they felt about the new government. Silas Silvertongue, who is with the President's party, reports that they are nearing the end of their two-month journey of 1,887 miles. Towns have been in a bustle of preparation, and at every stop the citizens have come out to meet him with addresses of welcome. Ladies, some rouged up to the ears, have bedecked themselves with sashes and headbands painted with images of the President and patriotic slogans. The festivities include the ringing of bells, bands of music, cannon salutes, and **some very bad poetry**. (See poetry box, upper right.)

Philadelphia, September 1796

A visit to Mr. Peale's museum, Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one

### POET'S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

#### GEORGE

*There was a young General  
named George  
Who led troops in the Valley at Forge  
His horse was a dolly  
Who took bullets so jolly  
And now he has a horse no more.*

#### REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTS

*Colonists took action and dumped the tea  
They stood strong and would not flee  
Some fought at Lexington, some at Concord\*  
This threat to the British could not be ignored.*

\*Bostonians pronounce Concord — [kahn • kəd].

You're right, that's hard to rhyme!

We take no responsibility for the quality of the work herein. GOOD POETRY SOUGHT.  
Submit to [PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu](mailto:PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu)

fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalo. Peale's rooms are filled with monsters of the earth and sea, a rich array of birds, and a great collection of the bones, jaws, and teeth of tigers, sharks, and many other fearful animals. In one room are rattle, black, and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see Mr. Peale take out a black snake about four or five feet long, which he permitted to touch his cheek and twine itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboons, monkeys, and a six-footed cow. Mr. Peale is also a painter, and there can be seen in his museum more than a hundred portraits of the more noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.



Charles Wilson Peale, self-portrait, oil on canvas, circa 1791. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

## More Bad Poetry

During the 1770s “Poet's Corners” appeared in newspapers throughout America. Anonymous poems, songs, and satires commented on issues of the day. Americans also produced a great number of political **broadsides**—sheets of paper covered with anonymous poems, songs, and essays—that could be tacked up around the city, left on doorsteps, or even read to groups on street corners. Have your students try their hand at creating broadsides, writing political or social poetry, or drawing political cartoons. Here is a sample to get them started.

### REVOLUTIONARY TEA

*There was an old lady lived over the sea  
And she was an island queen.  
Her daughter lived off in a new country  
With an ocean of water between.  
The old lady's pockets were full of gold  
But never contented was she,  
So she called on her daughter to pay her a tax  
Of three pence a pound on her tea,  
Of three pence a pound on her tea.*

*“Now, mother, dear mother,” the daughter replied,  
“I shan't do the thing you ax.*

*I'm willing to pay a fair price for the tea,  
But never the three penny tax.”*

*“You shall,” quoth the mother, and  
reddened with rage,*

*“For you're my own daughter, you see,  
And sure 'tis quite proper a daughter should pay  
Her mother a tax on her tea,  
Her mother a tax on her tea.”*

## Extension Activities

- Design clothing for a historical character or for a historical novel or play.
- Research Peale's Museum and give a report on some of the odd animals that were included.
- Draw pictures that illustrate some of those peculiar animals in the museum.
- Research Rickett's Amphitheatre or the history of the circus and report back to the class.

## Making Connections

### Maxims

Benjamin Franklin is well known for writing or rewriting common-sense advice and perspectives on his life and times, as found in *Poor Richard's Almanac*, which was popular in his day and remains popular. Students enjoy deciphering the Franklin proverbs. Initiate a class discussion around some or all of the following:

- Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
- Never leave till tomorrow that which you can do today.
- Great talkers, little doers.
- No gains without pains.
- To err is human, to repent divine; to persist, devilish.
- He has lost his boots but saved his spurs.
- He that falls in love with himself, will have no rivals.
- He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.

# Writing to Learn

## Make Your Voice Heard

If you could have a conversation with George Washington, what would it be like? Compose a letter to Washington sharing your thoughts about the state of America during his presidency. Do you agree with the decisions he makes? What would you suggest he do differently? Next, compose a similar letter addressed to our current President. Send this one!

Or . . . pair up with a friend and write a dialogue between Washington and one of his contemporaries where you discuss the issues of the day.

Or . . . play today's TV correspondent and conduct a live interview with Washington. What does he think of America in 2003 and the current state of affairs?

## Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

Divide students into groups and let them brainstorm about possible service projects they could undertake.

Have your students write political poems on "America 2003" and submit them to **Patriot Papers@npg.si.edu**.

## Tile game key

*George Washington — A MAN OF SERVICE; Mrs. Washington's runaway who stayed away! — OLNEY JUDGE; Mistress Goody Quotes...THE RULES OF CIVILITY; Faith Proctor — ON A FASHION FRENZY!; Patriot n. — FELLOW COUNTRYMAN*

## Wanted:

Original art, "bad poetry," stories of community service, pictures, or photos.

Feature your class on our website—send information to **PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu!**

## Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

*A Challenge from The Patriot Papers*

—F. A. Pulles, Editor-in-chief

The Portrait Gallery's Office of Education would like to recognize those who continue to care about community. We challenge you to *Pledge It Forward*—pledge time to your schools, youth organizations, senior centers. We'll feature your stories and photos on our website at [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu). Projects of particular merit will be published in *The Patriot Papers*. Get creative; get busy. And together, we can build a community of caring. Write to us at **PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu**.

## Get on the Bus, Gus... Make a New Plan, Stan

*LA Schools Support Local Communities. What's Your Plan?*

★ The kids from Malibu jumped on board. Kindergartners and teacher Lorraine Staab from **Webster Elementary School** in Malibu collect backpacks, lunch pails, pencils, crayons, and other supplies for the **School on Wheels**. They keep the wheels turning on this rolling school that tutors homeless kids in Santa Monica.

★ Kibbles and bits: These same kindergartners from **Webster Elementary** set out to be kind to animals. They sold dog biscuits and cat treats in little bags, 10 for a dollar. The kids collected enough money for the **Agora Animal Shelter** to buy a new surgical table. That's a lot of puppy treats and meow chow. Congratulations!

★ Another class at **Webster Elementary** is knitting 10-inch squares. They will sew them into quilts and give them to kids in Africa. Keep it up, Webster!

★ Virginia Goodrich's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class from **Monterey Hills Elementary School** in South Pasadena observed history week in the kitchen! To support the Rare Breeds program in Colonial Williamsburg, they used a recipe from the historic Raleigh Tavern and baked animal gingerbread cookies. Then they dressed in colonial costumes and sold their wares in the mock market square. Watch for the recipe in the next issue.



NPG salutes educators Ruth Greene, Lorraine Staab, and Kelly Cook for their creativity in the classroom

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

## The Power of the Penny Challenges the GW Dollar

*On Wisconsin! Hudson Middle School Raises \$4,000 in One Week*

The George Washington on the \$1 bill probably blinked when he saw his dollar mightily challenged by the penny. Students at Hudson Middle School in Hudson, Wisconsin, tested the power of the penny. In the spirit of Christmas, they set out to raise money for Toys for Tots. But in the spirit of the American Revolution, they "declared war" . . . on each other.

The Kids Who Care Club set up the week-long battle and gave each House a penny jar. (Each class has three Houses.) Then each House raced to collect the most pennies. The victor would win an ice cream party. But soon Houses went on the attack. Pennies tallied positive points. But silver change and



The Kids Who Care (back row, left to right): Maddie Giordana, Amal Habib, Kristin Pelzel, Cellie Svendsgaard, Trista Baskin, Katie Benoy; (front row): Usman Mohammad, Jessica Fink

paper money took points away. When the Knights slipped a quarter into the Nobles jar, the Knights lost 25 points. A dollar cost the House of Excalibur 100 points. "It's always more fun to sabotage the enemy," said club adviser Michelle Miller.

In the end, Excalibur, the Nobles, and the Knights were all victorious. And so was Toys for Tots. The

Kids Who Care Club raised \$4,000 in one week and went shopping for gifts. "In all my years of teaching I've never seen anything like it," said teacher Carol Gilbert. "The kids accepted the challenge and really got into the game." *The Patriot Papers* salutes you, Hudson. Thanks for **Pledging It Forward**.

★ Teacher Kristin Miller paired her students up with the **Audubon Society** to study wildlife and the environment. This year they studied the rain forest and created one of their own!

★ First graders at **Woodlake Avenue Elementary School** in Pomona found a great way to help a shelter for abused mothers and children. Their teacher, Sharon Rose, asked each student to donate a favorite book to the shelter. "It helps kids realize that many children don't have the same advantages as they do," said Rose. It's also a great way to share our love of reading."

★ In **Pomona**, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their parents volunteer at the local animal shelter, where they clean, wash, brush, and talk to the animals.

## Students Play Santa and Adopt Kids from the Star Tree

Students from West Elementary School in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, decided to play Santa over the holidays. They set up a Star Tree. It was covered with the names of kids who wouldn't find much under their Christmas tree. Then students, parents, and classes chose stars from the tree. Each star held the age of a child and the child's name.

Tina King's 4<sup>th</sup> grade chose 4 stars this year. The students brought in money. Then the **Special Santas** went shopping. Soon dolls, trucks, an Xbox, and even bicycles waited beneath the tree. "I think it's a good idea," said Tyler Cothron, "because I feel a lot better when I give something to somebody." Andy Coggins was more practical. "I think it's very nice to help people," he said, "because I would feel very bad if I woke up on Christmas morning with no presents under the tree."

So would we, Andy. *The Patriot Papers* salutes you and all of the stars at West Elementary for **Pledging It Forward**.

## Tile Game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

### George Washington

AN A M OF VIC E. SER

### Mrs. Washington's runaway who stayed away!

GE OL JUD NEY

### Mistress Goody Quotes...

ILIT Y. THE RULE CIV S OF

### Faith Proctor

ON A NZY! FRE HION FAS

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