The size! Painted in 1796 by artist Gilbert Stuart, the portrait was given as a gift to the British Marquis of Lansdowne. That’s why it’s often called the “Lansdowne” portrait.

This national tour is taking the portrait to the people. At the Las Vegas Art Museum, 15,000 students visited “George.” They now wear stickers that say, “I saw the President today.” Students in Lexington, South Carolina, hosted the first “George Washington State Education Day.” And in Pasadena, Texas, kids even drew their own pictures of the portrait.

Excitement in Houston, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles

Coming Soon to a Museum Near You

Las Vegas Art Museum: April 23 - August 22, 2004
The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: November 7, 2002 - March 9, 2003
Arkansas Arts Center: March 21 - July 20, 2003
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: April 23 - August 22, 2004
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: December 12, 2003 - April 11, 2004
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: May 28 - October 27, 2004
The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004

The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, acquired Gilbert Stuart's 1796 Lansdowne portrait of George Washington in 2002 as a gift to the nation through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Join the tour now and learn more about our first President. Or check out our website, www.georgewashington.si.edu. George Washington is eager to meet you.

Related national standards
- 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

Related national standards in historical thinking
- Chronological thinking
- Historical comprehension
- Historical analysis and interpretation
- Historical research

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

About the Artist

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saunderstown, 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.

“George Washington: A National Treasure” Creates Excitement in Houston, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Tours Exhibition

Across America, students are lining up to meet the President, and you can too! For the first time in history, the National Portrait Gallery is touring its life-sized portrait of George Washington, the father of our country. The exhibition began in Houston, Texas, and then traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada. It now opens at the Los Angeles County Art Museum in California.

This painting is so important to American history that it has been compared with the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence. What makes this painting so valuable? It is worth $20 million. Why is it more important than a photograph of President Bush today?

First, it is one of the few visual documents we have of George Washington. In the 18th century, photography, film, and video cameras did not exist. Portrait painters were the most important image-makers of Washington’s time, capturing their subjects on canvas. The process was time-consuming, so often the artist painted only the face from life. Then he would ask someone else to pose when he painted the body.

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The size of this painting is also unusual. It is almost 8 feet high. Washington is life-size to pose when he painted the body. The process was time-consuming, so often the artist painted only the face from life. Then he would ask someone else to pose when he painted the body.

The painting began in 1796. During its first year, Gilbert Stuart struggled with the portrait of George. It was so difficult to depict the fullness and dignity of America’s first President. Stuart painted the portrait nine times before he was satisfied.

The painting took the form of known to America via the writings of the time, the newspapers, and even in songs.

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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

Word find key

General Washington Rallying Troops at Valley Forge
VALLEY FORGE, 1777-78—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 smallpox, Martha Washington lost her last child to camp fever. John Parke Custis, known as Jacky to family and friends, passed away on November 7 at Yorktown. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of British Gen. Cornwallis. Jacky leaves behind a wife and four children. General and Mrs. Washington will raise the youngest two children, Eliza “Nelly” Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, at Mount Vernon, their home in Virginia.

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 Logan was trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor in Western Pennsylvania. 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.

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 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 debates 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.

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Where’s George?
Jefferson
Mount Vernon
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Rules of Civility
Loyalty oath
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 trespassed on 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 his intended marriage to her, 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 not 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.”

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@yemspj.edu

RUN AWAY FROM MY PLANTATION, called Newport News, on the 17th of January, a very likely Negro Fellow named Darkeycook, about thirty Years of Age, has lost one of his fore Teeth, and had on a Cotton Waistcoat and Breeches, Plain 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 forever ban 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 shoes
- 17 pillowcases
- 13 beds
- A coach
- Desks
- Chairs
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- 12 spoons
- Soup Spoons
- 7 teaspoons
- A watch
- 4 knives
- 14 china plates
- 21 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?

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.

For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon’s site at www.mountvernon.org, the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at www.hubbardhousemuseum.org, or the Decatur House at 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 n. 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

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, weighing about 175 pounds. Later in life, he weighed closer to 200 pounds.

Portraits of the 18th century captured a personal quality 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 unsatisfactory 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?

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

WHAT TO DO:

1. Arrange the chair about 12 inches from the wall. Have your model sit on the chair in front of the wall. He or she must sit sideways, with one ear facing the light and the other facing the wall.

2. Position the lamp or flashlight so that it shines directly on the head. Make sure you can see a sharp outline of the person’s profile on the wall.

TIP: You may have to change the distance between the light and the model until the shadow is clear.

3. Tape black construction paper onto the wall where the shadow falls.

4. Using white chalk or a gel pen, trace the outline of the head. Don’t rush! This must be done slowly to get good details.

5. After you trace, cut out the silhouette and glue it onto a piece of colored construction paper.
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 25, Washington was renowned for his physical courage: he continued to fight in one battle despite having a bullet pierce his clothing and a horse 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 hanged 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 he could easily have been the first king.

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 too much 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 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 1789, 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 many 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.

Even though Washington's teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington's cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the grayer 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 Docs 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.

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Even though Washington's teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington's cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the grayer 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 Docs 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.
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!
Social Notes From All Over...

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 unfettered. 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 hear 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
Ricketts’s Amphitheatre: Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance by Mr. John Bill Ricketts’s dangerous feats on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to see what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Ricketts, 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 hurrâh from every part of the Circus. Mr. Ricketts 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 give 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 Sillvertonge, 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 state 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 necklaces and earrings, rings on the fingers, and many other fearful animals. In one room are tigers, 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, and the little girl reddened with rage, “You’re right, that snake is to be released!”

Philadelphia, September 1796
A visit to Mr. Peale’s museum, Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalos. 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 tigers, 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 wriggle itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboons, monkeys, and a six-footed monkey. Peale’s rooms are a sample to get them started.

Social Notes

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 tucked 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 Ricketts’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.

POET’S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

George

There was a young General named George Who laid traps in the Valley at Forge His horse was a dolly Who took bullets in folly And now he has a bore 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.

The Man of the People.

Charlotte 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.

GOOD POETRY SOUGHT.

Submit to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

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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 2002 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 2002” and submit them to Patriot Papers@npg.si.edu.

Tile Game

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

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

George Washington

Faith Proctor

Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away!

The Patriot Papers Salutes the “Kids Who Care”

They “Pledged It Forward” and Adopted Grandparents at Silver Ridge

Fifteen 4th and 5th graders from Jacobson Elementary School in Las Vegas decided to bridge the generation gap and “adopt a grandparent.” They wrote their own grant, and student advisor Pam Hardin presented it before the city council. When they get it, the group grew to 44 members, and they adopted the entire Silver Ridge Healthcare Center. “They love it when we come to visit them, and we love to see their smiles,” said student Taylor Stash. Barbara Kern, the school’s gifted and talented specialist, is their adviser.

First, the kids made 144 colorful vases full of flowers—one for each resident. Then, to celebrate Flag Day and the 4th of July, they stitched 144 patriotic pillows decorated with the American flag and presented them to their new “adopted grandparent.” “We were so excited,” said Tommy Nyromkou. “When the day came, we were giving letters and pillows to everyone.”

“I’m so proud of my kids,” said Ms. Kern. “We celebrate their caring.” Student Michael Way was more philosophical. “It was a unique experience. It taught me that being old is not a bad thing or a good thing. It’s a stage of life, and you can’t avoid it.” True, Michael. But how much nicer life is for the “adopted grandparent” at Silver Ridge who now have a whole new generation of friends.

Kudos to Kern’s Kids, Felice Pulles, Editor-in-Chief

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers

The National 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 center, Ponte a project, pledge your time, and make a difference. If a high-school student tutors one child, once a week, if 6th grade to make an elderly shut-in, if kids in South Texas start a small library by collecting and books. If senior citizens plant flowers on Main Street, if teens answer a hotline, volunteer at a shelter, or simply read to a child, we would all be stronger. E-mail us your pledges; write to us about your projects. We’d like to recognize Americans working for America and feature your pictures and stories on our website, 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.

South Carolina Students Celebrate Veterans Day

Midway Elementary School students in Lexington, South Carolina, celebrated Veterans Day with a special ceremony at their school. They invited all of their fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, sisters, and aunts—anyone who had served America in the armed forces. Organized by the kids, the day featured a flag ceremony, patriotic speeches, and songs. “Many came in uniform,” said Principal Margaret Mitchum, “and sat beside their kids. It was a very special celebration. We’d like to do this every year.”

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Felice Pulles, Editor-in-Chief

The Patriot Papers Honoring Community Service

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!