George Celebrates Birthday in the Hollywood Hills

Smithsonian Exhibition Opens in Seattle in March

National Portrait Gallery Tours "George Washington: A National Treasure"

During the thigh streets of Los Angeles, I saw him, suspended from a lamppost on Fairfax Avenue, just off Wilshire Boulevard. As I caught a glimpse of the Hollywood Hills, there he was again, threadbare by the morning sun. George Washington had come to LA to celebrate his birthday, and hundreds were flocking to see him. The event, "George Washington: A National Treasure," an exhibition from the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery, aims to create excitement about George Washington across America.

Los Angeles, as an American hero," said NPG education states. "Our goal is to create excitement about George Washington 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, history, language arts, and 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.

Felicia Pulles, editor-in-chief

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Tennessee catches the spirit and declares GW education day

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Virginia Goodrich from Monterey Hills Elementary School in South Pasadena and her 5th-grade class chose to support the Rare Books program at Colonial Williamsburg. Using the culinary arts to raise money, they chose a recipe from the historic Raleigh Tavern, baked gingerbread cookies in the shape of rare breeds, and sold their wares at a mock market square. Watch for the recipe in the next issue.

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

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 John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James 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.

Middle 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, history, language arts, and 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.

Get on the bus, Gus…

Make a new plan, Stan

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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

Construct a timeline that includes both the “Blast from the Past” news stories on pages 2 and the entries from “The Pudding Papers” on pages 4 and 7. (Students will need to write headlines for “The Pudding Papers” entries.) Consider adding drawings, images, or symbols. Add significant world events to the timeline, i.e., the beginning of the French Revolution, advances in science, and noted accomplishments in art, music, and literature. It is important to understand Washington and America’s early history in relation to other world events.

Suggestions for the timeline

- 1761, Austria: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart begins writing minuets at age five
- 1763, Europe: The Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War. France cedes Canada to England and gives up all territories in the New World except New Orleans and a few scattered islands.
- 1765, Massachusetts: Chocolate is first produced in America
- 1770, Germany: Composer Ludwig van Beethoven is born
- 1770, Boston: Boston Massacre
- 1773, Boston: Boston Tea Party
- 1777, Russia: Alexander I, Czar of Russia is born
- 1789, France: Bastille stormed, French Revolution begins
- 1793, France: Whiskey Rebellion
- 1812, Peru: Christian Corin replaced his husband on the battlefield at Fort Washington, performing all of his duties. Anna Bailey rode hundreds of miles alone to gather ammunition to bring to Fort Lee. For more information on women and war, visit userepos.aug.com/captbar/index.html

The Women of Valley Forge and the American Revolution

Martha Washington and other wives assisted with cooking and entertaining the men at Valley Forge. Did you know that some women actually fought in the American Revolution? Deborah Samson served in the Continental army for three years, under the name Robert Shurtleff. She maintained her identity as a man until she was discovered in 1781. Margaret Corbin replaced her husband on the battlefield at Fort Washington, performing all of his duties. Anna Bailey rode hundreds of miles alone to gather ammunition to bring to Fort Lee.
November 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Obey Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. The girl, we hear, was lured away by a housewife who found of her and left her stranded in Pomfret, New Hampshire. President Washington has ordered that all will be diligent in the return of her mistress, but she has not been seen back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward position. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to the girl’s desire, 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 freed are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway. Above all, the President continued that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest unrest or riot be instigated. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington the best get along without the services of Obey Judge.

December 1790

FREEDOM TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION. President Washington has bought 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. Herdsox. Admittedly if he freed 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.”

December 1790

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Senator Robert Morris’s dwelling, at 190 High Street, has turned out to be the best house available for the President’s use, and Mr. Morris has graciously agreed to move around for him. Although President Washington has brought a handful of servants from Mount Vernon, he has been diligent in the task. As a result, he will be faced with the difficulties 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. Herdsox. Admittedly if he freed 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.”

Did You Know...?

- Washington came from a blended family, having two older stepchildren and one younger, he was the eldest of the children by his father’s second wife.
- He was actually born February 11, not February 22.
- England changed calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthday to become February 10.
- His father died when he was 13 years old.
- He had several shrewd temper but slowly learned to control it.
- He loved horseback riding, dancing, and fishing.
- He was not always a good student.
- He did not always get along 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.

Possessions

Today, most of us own many more things than we really need to live on. When Washington was in his 20s, his family made an inventory of all of their possessions. How is what they owned, besides their land:

- 26 pairs of short pants
- 17 yellow shirts
- 15 hats
- A coach
- 20 muskets
- Drink
- 20 forges
- 20 knives
- A looking glass (mirror)
- 1 silver plated soup spoon
- 18 small spoons
- 1 spoon
- A watch
- A sword
- 20 china plates
- 10 china plates
- 20 spoons

How many of these items would you own in your family today?

Playing with Possessions

- Have students take an inventory of their family? Design a family tree.
- 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 back-pack representing their historical family.

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 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.
April 23, 1789

HE COMES! COMES! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot on the New York shore after an eighty-day triumphant journey from Mount Vernon. This event has been celebrated. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears, and in every vehicle, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we hear from many, and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I shall have known at a glance that it was General Washington. I never saw a character being looked so great and white as he does. I could tell from a man not even to his knees as Washington; he can well be believed, it is more popular than the new government he is to head.

May 14, 1789

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT TO BE CALLED? Debate, debate, debate! We have read much about the title for the President. Vice President John Adams and a number of the senators have insisted that a grand and high-sounding name, such as “Elective Excellency” or “Elective Highness,” is necessary to give respect to the office. Sources tell us that the committee appointed to draw up a list of titles, “of all the Princes of the Earth” has recommended “Elective Highness” a suggested title for the President of the United States, 1789

July 9, 1790

WHERE IS THE CAPITAL TO BE? Ever since the old Congress left Philadelphia in 1790, arguments have raged over where the permanent seat of government should be built. At last the resolution is decided. The government is to leave New York and spend the next ten years in Philadelphia. The permanent capital will be a new city created on the banks of the Potomac River, the exact location to be chosen by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. The President, who wants to keep both Hamilton and Jefferson in his cabinet and to steer a neutral course between France and England, is beset by difficulties.

February 1792

POLITICAL PARTIES Not a word about political parties in the Constitution, but they are born and with a passion. Federalists, who are friends of the government, and the Republicans, who find much to criticize, are at it tooth and nail. Most folks say the parties started over the differences between Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. Hamilton, the Friend of business and manufacturers, has pushed for a strong federal government, whereas Jefferson, who wants to see America stay a land of farmers, is deeply suspicious of moneymen and banks. But what has really stirred things up is the war between France and England, with the Republicans being passionately on the side of France, which has beheaded its king and become a republic, and the Federalists seeing the old mother country as an important trading partner. The President, who wants to keep both Hamilton and Jefferson in his cabinet and to steer a neutral course between France and England, is beset by difficulties.

Philadelphia, April 1791

OUT AND ABOUT The President of the United States, it is well known, is very fond of the theater and has gone outside the city to Southwark, where plays are performed. During an affecting moment leading to a happy ending, Washington was observed to shed a tear. As the heroine’s name unfolded, there playing the parts of Priscilla Tomsley and Young Cockney received the approving smiles of the old President. The President went to Southwark to watch the play and commented, “I cannot play-carrots nor singing songs.”
George Washington Dies at 67

As riding outside during very bad weather last Thursday and Friday, George Washington became ill on Saturday, December 14. An infection known as epiglotitis gave him a sore throat, fever, and difficulty breathing. Doctors tried a practice called bloodletting; they made small cuts on his arms to take out blood. They hoped to relieve the pressure in his throat so he would be able to breathe better. Unfortunately, bloodletting did not work. Doctors also gave him many different fluids to gargle or swallow, including a mixture of vinegar, molasses, and butter. None of these cures helped the former President breathe easier.

George Washington knew that he was very ill, and he died peacefully. Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown? Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown? Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown?

Death Be Not Proud

16th-century English sonnets, also known as Shakespearean sonnets, consisted of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter, a rhythmic device with 10 syllables per line, alternating between stressed and unstressed syllables. The rhyme scheme of the sonnet was divided into three four-line stanzas, called quatrains, followed by a two-line rhyming couplet. The quatrains had an alternating rhyme scheme that could be represented by “abab,” while the final ending couplet could be represented by “gg.” The overall resulting rhyme scheme is “ababcdcdefgg.”

Italian, or Petrarchan, sonnets were written as early as the 13th century but they were more popular during the 14th century. Petrarchan sonnets followed the rhyme scheme of “abbaabba” ending in either “cdecde,” “cdecdd,” or “cedece.” Often divided into an octave (8 lines) and a sestet (6), there was usually a rotta, or turn, in the poem’s message at the end of the octave. Frequently the first 8 lines presented a question or problem, and the last 6 provided an answer or solution.

After studying the poem thematically, have the students study the poem’s structure to determine whether it is an English or Italian sonnet. Marking the rhyme scheme, and searching for an octave, a sestet, or a rhyming couplet provides clues. It also helps clarify meaning.

Studying the Sonnet

FORM= abbaabbaababccdecdec

The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President of the United States in 1789, he had only one of his teeth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth and, as a result, many of them fell out before his maturity. Once the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. Even though many people today believe that these teeth were made out of wood, there is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth. His dentures were made of ivory and wax, and they sometimes made his cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry to achieve this balance, Washington’s doctors bled him several times. They may have thought that removing extra blood would lessen the swelling in his throat. Unfortunately they took so much blood that it was hard for Washington to fight the illness. Doctors also made Washington gargle with mixtures of 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 always hoarded a couple of times two.

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 weaker. 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 in the most helpful. Washington knew that he was very ill, and he died peacefully.

Making Connections

Some familiar phrases and famous titles originate from the work of 17th-century poet John Donne. Students may find them familiar. “Death Be Not Proud” was used as the title for John Gunther’s famous novel about his son’s death at age 14 from leukemia. “For Whom the Bell Tolls” titled Ernest Hemingway’s famous World War I novel, and “no man is an island” is captured in everything from poster to song. Students may recall hearing the musical refrain played repeatedly during the 2002 Winter Olympic games held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ask them why Donne’s words from Meditation XVII were especially relevant to the Olympics, especially in view of the preceding tragic events of September 11, 2001. How is the phrase “no man is an island” relevant to their lives today? Have students explore the meaning of the last line, “Never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.”

From Meditation XVII

—by John Donne

“A man kind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. . . . As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon, calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come: so this bell calls us all: but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness. . . . No man is an island, entire of itself. . . . Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee.”
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, and on politics.

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!

Time Travel

- 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 it out. How would this be different from dinner with your family? Don’t forget to use dress and language that would be different. Also, imagine you can visit George Washington in 1800.

In Other Words...

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

Miss Goody, the popular frontier townsprin of Fredericksburg, Virginia, thirteen-year-old George Washington recorded in his daily journal, “Miss Goody is his best friend, particularly as a storyteller. These guidelines for the respectable gentleman would influence him throughout his life, guiding him in both social and professional situations. Through stories and anecdotes, she taught him to dress, use good manners, and treat others with respect.”

Rule 95: Never offer advice to anyone. The mistressGoody

Mistress Goody, the lady who sold everyone on the idea of a good time, had her own methods of persuasion. The rules of dining etiquette are quite clear, then, because your acquaintance is in your culinary endeavors.

Rule 90: Being sat at a meal, scratch not your nose and cough not your voice, except when there is a necessity for it. 

Rule 80: Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth, napkin, knife, fork, but if others do, be at home with a touch stick. (i.e., toothpick.)

Rule 70: Associate yourself with men of good quality. If you cannot associate with the bad, be better to be alone than in bad company. 

I think you get Mistress Goody’s point.

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Philadelphia, January 1791

MRS. WASHINGTON’S DRAWING ROOM. On Friday evening at eight, your humble correspondent was among the ladies and gentlemen in attendance at Mrs. Washington’s weekly reception. Mrs. Washington, plainly dressed, but in a gown of rich silk, sat on a sofa by the fireplace and arose to greet her guests with a courtesy which each lady returned. Each gentleman bowed low. Coffin tea, and cake were served, and had it not come in the evening, I would have been offered lemonade and ice cream. The ladies spoke about, and as courtly is a great improvement of beauty, they appear to great advantage. President Washington circulated among the crowd, chatting agreeably with all the ladies. It is said that he keeps Mrs. Washington’s weekly reception. Mrs. Washington, informed that the President of the United States intends visiting the theater this evening and has sent his carriage to bring the Vice President and his family to join him. The play to be performed is the Death March and Monody, sheet music, circa 1799. Mrs. Washington’s weekly reception. Mrs. Washington, in a voice of beauty, they appear to great advantage.

Philadelphia, September 1796

PEALE’S MUSEUM. A visitor to Mr. Peale’s museum, Presidents Peeling tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American baboons. Peale’s museum is filled with specimens 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 earth, black, and green snakes, coiled 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 check and twice about 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 most noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.

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 place the citizens and to see how they felt about the new government. Mrs. Scherzinger, who is with the President’s party, reports that they are nearing the end of their two-month journey of 1,887 miles. Everywhere there has been a remarkable outpouring of affection for the President, Scherzinger informs. Times have been too much of preparation, and every step the citizens have come out to meet him with addresses of welcome. Ladies, some married up to the ears, have decorated themselves with roses and handbells painted with images of the President and patriotic devices. The festivities include the ringing of bells, bands of music, cannon salutes, and some rare news. [see poetry, upper right]

Philadelphia, July 12, 1793

RICKETTS’ AMPHITHEATRE. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Ricketts’s drama soon on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to see what is called the Citron. The artistic performance was held to raise money to buy forwarding for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Ricketts, demonstrating his agility by doing 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 circle. Mr. Ricketts has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the fittest instrument 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; but not in a firm, his manner is so agreeable and graceful, that I, as a professor of horsemanship, would get him and learn to ride.”

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?

Arthur Sommerfield brings George Washington in your community for a day step back in time.

Making Connections

Fashion design: Design clothing for a historical character or for a historical novel or play.

Research: Investigate Peale’s Museum, Ricketts’s Amphitheatre, or the history of the circus.

Create: 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.

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 Proverb’s book. 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 what 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.

Your Own Portrait of George

What you will need:

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

What to do:

1. Put a quarter on a sheet of thin newprint or tracing paper.
2. 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.
3. As you rub the crayon over the coin, you will begin to see the head of President Washington appear!
Interviewed World War II veterans to better understand war

The Power of the Penny Challenges the GW Dollar
On Wisconsin! Hudson Middle School Raises $4,000 in One Week

I'm afraid that the stem George Washington who embraces the dollar bill would have blinked recent-
ly when testing the power of the dollar challenged by the penny. Capturing the spirit of the holiday season, students from Hudson, Wisconsin, set out to raise funds to buy Christmas presents for needy children in the area. But in the spirit of George Washington and the American Revolution, they "declared war" on fellow students.

The Kids Who Care Club, advised by teacher Michelle Miller, pitted House against House (each grade has 3 Houses) in a weekly battle that saw the penny triumphant. (Sorry, George!) Each House placed its penny jar in plain view and began collecting pennies, in hopes of winning the coveted ice cream party at battle's end. But the spine from House 3 was not to subdue the hot-bed plans with silver and GW dollars. Penny garnered positive points, but a quarter from the opposition eliminated 25 pennies; a dollar triumphed 100. "It's always more fun to sabotage the story," said Miller. "The kids are just waiting for someone to put in a bill."

After the voting was over and committees counted, the Houses of Excalibur, the Knights, and the Nobles proved victorious. And so did Tom. The Kids Who Care Club raised $4,000 in one week and went shopping for gifts. Student representatives presented the gifts in a live broadcast on KARE 11 News on December 12. "In all my years in Hudson, I've never seen anything like it," said teacher Carol Gilbert. "The kids accepted the challenge and really got into the game." The theme Paperworks salutes you, Hudson. Thanks for Pledging It Forward.

Get on the Bus, Gus…
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- US history students from Lancaster High School, Highland High School, and Quaker HIgh School interviewed World War II veterans to better understand war in Europe and the Pacific. The veterans' stories inspired the kids to create their own USO show, complete with historical artifacts, wartime music, and puppetry. This led several students to Washington, DC, where they attended the groundbreaking ceremony dedicating the World War II monument.

- Teacher Kristen Miller pairs with the Audubon Society to instill a love of nature, an appreciation of wildlife, and a respect for environmental conservation in her students. This year, their six-year partnership led to the creation of a rain forest.

- Sharon Rose's students at Woodlake Avenue Elementary School in Woodland Hills each donated a favorite book to a local shelter for abused mothers and children. "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 support reading and literacy."

Students Play Santa: Adopt Kids from Star Tree
Students from West Elementary School in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, decided to play Santa over the holiday season and spread some Christmas cheer to needy children in the Nashville area. They set up a Star Tree covered with the names of kids who wouldn't find much under their Christmas tree. Then students, parents, and classes selected stars from the tree labeled with a child's name and age. Each child then shared his list of the toys, clothes, and food he or she hoped Santa would bring. "It's a good idea," said Tyler Cofen. "Because I did a lot better when I gave something to somebody!"

Two King's 4th-grade class chose 4 stars this year. Students contributed what they could, and then Special Santas went on a shopping sprees, selecting just the right gifts for their adopts. Dolls, trucks, or shoes, even bicycles were wished beneath the tree for that special someone, promising to make Christmas shine a little brighter for all.

"If you give your heart," said Kaitlin Chesser, "you give to others the things they can't buy that you get." Andy Coggins was a little 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.

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