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

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Toxie Exhibition

In the spring of 1799, citizens crowded the New York shoreline, anxiously awaiting the arrival of our first President, George Washington. In a letter to his wife, Martha, Washington captured the excitement:

“...the last was very lively, the inhabitants as well as the People stood on Masts Wives & Children-Now I may rest in my Peace of Thousands... Heads standing as thick as Ear of Corn before the Harvest when first [sic], stand up about 20 gentlemen & Ladies也都 with most excellent voices sung on an elegant Ode prepared for the purpose in the Town of Gold Save the King, inclining their great Chief to the seat of Government, the occasion he gave us our Hats [sic] and then they with the surrounding Hart gave us their Cheers.

To mark the 2006 bicentennial, the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, organized the exhibition “George Washington: A National Treasure.” Students, visiting museums for the first time, have welcomed the galleries of George Washington’s era. For the first time in history, made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, is currently undergoing extensive renovation while its collections tour the world.

Reynolds, the exhibition opened at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas, on February 15, 2003, and opened November 7 at the Los Angeles County Art Museum (LACMA) in California. At the tour’s conclusion, the portrait will return to its permanent home in the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

In December 1776, Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Southbridge, Massachusetts. He became a member of the Boston Athenaeum, an early art institution, and studied painting in Europe. Stuart was one of the first American artists to achieve international fame. His portrait of George Washington, painted in 1796, is one of the most famous images of the first President. The portrait was commissioned by Senator and Mrs. Bingham of Maryland and hangs in the U.S. Senate Chamber.

Americans Pause to Remember, Students Make a Wish for the United States

One year after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Americans have paused to remember and reflect. The Wall of Expression that surrounds the Old Post Office Building in Washington, D.C., still stands as a memorial to those who sacrificed, a tribute to those who served, and an expression of hope for the future. Across the country at the Las Vegas Art Museum, students place their wishes for America on the “Wish Tree.”

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

—Thomas Paine, from American Crisis December 23 1776

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: June 28  – October 27, 2002

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: March 21 – July 20, 2003

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: August 7 – November 9, 2003

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: December 12, 2003 – April 11, 2004

Middle School Teacher’s Edition

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.
Washington Wears Election to House from Fort Cumberland!

FREDERICKSBURG, VA—George Washington, son of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington, has been elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses while serving with the British regulars at Fort Cumberland. His friends urged him to return to Virginia and “shove his face,” fearing that he would lose the election. But he chose to stay with his men, and was still successful in winning a seat in the House.

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 diseases threaten the lives of all the soldiers camped there. General Washington has appealed for more supplies, but has not been successful. In the meantime, General Washington struggles alongside his men, while his political enemies threaten to remove his powers. Some critics feel that other men are better suited to lead the Continental army.

Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child, John P. Custis

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 9, 1781. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of Britain’s General Cornwallis.

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 nineteen days after he was inaugurated. The new President will return to his estate at Mount Vernon and reside “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 Leo Lee: “I was too long and painful conflict in my own breast, that I was stricken, before requesting, in true, that as some might be thrown away, space, for my final determination to return to the sods of private life.”

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 Shurtif. 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. Anne Bailey rode hundreds of miles alone to gather ammunition to bring to Fort Lee. For more information on women and war, visit usenews.org/amp/capbarb/index.html.
November 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mr. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. The girl, he says, was bound away by aISCO who took her and left her stranded in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. President Washington has not said whether she will be released upon the return of his mistress, but he has ordered her to come back unless permitted her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although his sympathies are with her, she would be permitted to remain away if she would be satisfied with the free use of money and food. The President has not included the cost of her return, as he does not wish to know anything about her freedom until she returns. All in all, the President has decided that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest some or all be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington the next step along without the services of Olney Judge.

December 1790

FREEDOM TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION. President Washington has brought a hundred of servants from Mount Vernon, but he will be faced with the difficulty of controlling them with the Pennsylvania law providing which slaves who have lived in Pennsylvania for six months may move. It is believed that the President, therefore, will have to order these servants back and forth, as the inconvenience of sometimes being without their work, he believes. Asked if he resided these slaves might take advantage of being in the North to run away, the President has privately noted that “the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist.”

December 1799

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Senator Robert Morris’s dwelling, at 190 High Street, is a common Gristmill and a Couch for the President’s use. The President has insisted that the house be kept as clean as the parlor, since it is in full view from the best rooms in the house. The President has ordered that his servants (as he calls them), who by being faithful are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway, may be allowed to stay. The President has decided that no violent means should be used to bring them back, lest some or all be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington the next step along without the services of Olney Judge.

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

—J. A. Pollard, editor

The Patriot Papers

Did You Know...?

- Washington came from a blended family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepsister; he was the eldest of the children by his father’s second wife.
- He was actually born February 11, not February 22.
- England changed its calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthday to become February 22.
- His father died when he was 11 years old.
- He was always a rough rider, dancing, and firearms.
- He was always a good student.
- He did not always get along well with his mother, who was busy and controlling.
- His older half-brother Lawrence was one of the first important people to young George’s life.
- He had two stepchildren, but no children of his own.

Possessions

Today, most of us own many more things that we really need to live. When Washington was 21 years old, his family owned an inventory (or list) of their possessions. Here is what they owned, besides their land:

- 16 pairs of shoes
- 17 yellow vases
- 17 buds
- A couch
- 17 aprons
- A firelace set
- A plow
- A looking-glass (center)
- A silver plow, soap boxes
- 11 spoons
- 1 teapot
- A watch
- A sword
- 10 china plates
- 20 slaves

How many of these items would accommodate 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 more would we not be familiar to George Washington?

Running away from my plant ation, run away from Mr. Robert Morris, who has a Negroe called RUNA WAAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. He has been sold by his master, and Mrs. Washington has not said whether he will be released upon the return of her mistress, but she has ordered her to come back unless permitted her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although his sympathies are with her, she would be permitted to remain away if she would be satisfied with the free use of money and food. The President has not included the cost of her return, as he does not wish to know anything about her freedom until she returns. All in all, the President has decided that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest some or all be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington the next step along without the services of Olney Judge.

George Washington and His Family

• George Washington was only 10 years old when he inherited 13 slaves from his father in 1795.
• By the time he was 22 years old, George owned approximately 135 slaves.
• At his death in 1799, Washington had 316 slaves at Mount Vernon, 123 of whom belonged directly to him.
• By the time he was 22 years old, George owned approximately 36 slaves.

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.

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 back-pack representing their historical family.
April 23, 1789

HE COMES HOME! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot on the New York shore after an eight-day triumphant journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbearable. 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 George Washington. I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could not help being, it seems popular than his new government is to be heard.

May 14, 1789

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT TO BE CALLED? Debate, 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?

Writing to Learn

Research colonial medicine
- Find early medical treatments for some common ailments today.
- Research and chart the rising number of female doctors from 1800 to the present day. Devise a graph to present your data.

For Discussion and Debate

The Role and Responsibility of the Press
The entry for August 2, 1793, “The President Enraged,” reminds us that criticism of the press is nothing new.

- Research the effect of the press on political campaigns and elections. How has its role affected election results? Candidates elected?
- Debate freedom of the press vs. the necessity for national security. Today, more than ever, the issue is a difficult one. Does the need for national security ever override the public’s right to know?
George Washington Dies at 67

As riding outside during very bad weather last Thursday and Friday, George Washington became ill on Saturday, December 14. He became very sick, and he died peacefully on December 14. His wife Martha was with him, as well as several former Presidents breathe easier.

Doctors tried to help him. They hoped to relieve the pressure in his throat so he would be able to breathe better. Unfortunately, bloodletting did not help. Doctors also gave him many different fluids to gargle or swallow, including a mixture of wine, vinegar, and butter. None of these cures helped the former President breathe easier.

His friend Tobias Lear wrote that Washington grew cold late in the evening, checked his pulse, and then died peacefully in his bed. His wife Martha was with him, as well as several senators, doctors, and friends.

An elaborate funeral is planned for Wednesday, December 18, including gun salutes and speeches in honor of Washington. The President's body will be laid in state at the Capitol. Washington was a great leader and a great American hero.

Would you sign a loyalty oath?

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

“I solemnly take the OATH in the Name of God, and to the MAJESTY KING George the Third,— and to defend to the utmost of my power, HONESTY, PRIVILEGES, and RIGHTS, against all Persons whatsoever. “I voluntarily take this oath, and will observe the same to the best of my knowledge and belief.”

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

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 chipped several teeth with his teeth and, in so doing, many of them fell out before his thirtieth birthday. Once the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. Even though many people today believe that these teeth were made of gold, there is no evidence that he even had metal teeth. In fact, most of his teeth were made of ivory. They were made in a combination of human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wax and silver, which allowed the doctors to open and close them. Through his life, Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful and sometimes made his cheeks and lips puff out.

But Washington knew that he was very ill, and he died peacefully.

Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

Did George Washington suffer from a disease or infection that could have been cured with antibiotics? Would he have received a diagnosis today?

The famous line from “the bell tolls for thee” by John Donne, a sonnet by John Donne, 1633

Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men, And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell; And dost thou think that thou dost overthrow, 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 illness. . . . 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.
The Perils of Pampering

Faith’s Day at the Spa

MRS. ANN FOSTER

Never again have I ever seen in my entire lifetime so much materialism as in the spa. But I do believe it still holds a lot of merit. Faith, a friend of mine, once told me that the spa is a great place to relax and rejuvenate, but I disagree. The spa is not just for relaxation, it’s a place where people can indulge in various luxuries.

The spa is full of different areas, each with its own unique atmosphere. The most popular area is the relaxation room, where people can lie down on the comfortable chairs and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. However, I found that the spa was more of a party place than a place for relaxation. People were constantly talking and laughing, and the noise made it impossible to relax.

In addition, the spa was full of people who were obsessed with their appearances. They were constantly trying to make themselves look better, and it made me wonder if they were really happy with who they were.

In conclusion, I don’t think the spa is a good place to spend your money. It’s more of a showplace than a place for relaxation. If you want to relax, I would recommend a quiet place where you can be by yourself, such as a park or a beach.
Quiz:
On which paper bill can you see President Washington’s face?

Tile game key. Game on page 8.

George Washington — A MAN OF SERVICE; Mrs. Washington’s runaway — G ADY AEGE; Mrs. Washington’s Quarters — THE RULES OF CIVILITY; Faith Proctor — ON A FASHION FRENZY; Patriot n. — FELLOW COUNTRYMAN

POET’S CORNER...
SOME VERY BAD POETRY

GEORGE
There was a young General named George
Who led troops in the Valley at Fury
His horse was a dandy
Who rode bareback all day
And was he a fine horse he was.

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 contain’d was she,
So she called on her daughter to pay her a tea
Of three pence a pound on her tea,
Of three pence a pound on her tea.

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?
Avo William Summerville brings George Washington in your community for a 3-day step back in time.

TIP: If you find that the “Poet’s Corners” — 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 Proverbs for their own initiative. Create a class discussion around some of the following:

- Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
- Never leave till tomorrow what that 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 fails 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 newspaper 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 newspaper 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!
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 PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Where’s George? word find puzzle

Answers on page 7.

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

Mistress Goody Quotes...

ILIT \ Y. \ THE \ RULE \ CIV \ S OF

Faith Proctor

On A \ NZY! \ FRE \ HION \ FAS

Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away!

patriot n.

AN \ AM \ OF \ VIC \ E. \ SER

George Washington

ON A \ NZY!

Tile Game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Answers on page 7.

George Washington

AN \ AM \ OF \ VIC \ E. \ SER

From page one...

Where’s George?

Answers on page 7.


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

Every weekend the Teenage Republicans of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada, hit the campaign trail. An affiliate of the National Teen Republicans, the chapter encourages others to get involved in the political process. Led by advisor Regan Mitchell, a teacher at both United States and world history, they promote the “Kids Voting” campaign, now active in 38 states, by registering both student and adult voters. “We’re especially busy now because it’s an election year,” said Mrs. Mitchell. “The kids really enjoy the event every weekend and are using technology to support candidates across all the way up through Congress. Of these kids are interested in pursuing politics, this gives them an inside view.” The group also organized and led a flag retirement ceremony honoring those lost in the September 11 tragedy. Keep up the good work Green Valley—maybe your political journey will lead you to Washington!

The Patriot Papers

SALUTES THE “KIDS WHO CARE”

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

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers

THE PATRIOT PAPERS HONORING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fourteen 4th and 5th graders from Jacobson Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada, wrote a grant that enabled them to bridge the generation gap and “adopt a grandparent.” Once the grant was approved, the group grew to 44, 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,” remarked student Tyler Stead. Under the direction of Gilford and Tolman Specialist Barbara Kerr, the students crafted colorful vases and flowers to brighten the rooms of each resident. And in celebration of Flag Day and the Fourth of July, the kids stitched 144 patriotic pillows decorated on both sides with the American flag, and presented them to their new “adopted grandparents.” “We were so excited,” said Tommy Nygren. “When the day came, we were giving letters and pillows to everyone.” And when the whole school became involved, kids from kindergarten to 5th grade made 588 placemats for Silver Ridge. “It was fun to go to visit residents who didn’t have much family in Las Vegas,” said Vivian Enzada. Josiah Coulibaly agreed, “Some of the people didn’t have a visitor for quite awhile. To have such a great impact just by visiting was amazing.”

“I’m so proud of my kids and how they have extended themselves into our community and into our country,” said Mrs. Kerr. “We celebrate their caring.” Student Michael Wray was more philosophical. “It was a unique experience. I tend to be shy and not a bad thing or a good thing. It’s a range of life, and you can’t avoid it,” said Michael. But life is much nicer for the residents of Silver Ridge, who now have a whole new generation of friends. “It’s been a challenge from page one...

“George Washington: A National Treasure” Creates Excitement Across America

from our website—send information to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Student tutors one child, once a week, if a 6th grader reads to an elderly shut-in, if kids in South Texas start a small library by collecting used books, if senior citizens plant flowers on Main Street, if some answer a hotline, volunteer at a shelter, or simply read to a child, we will all be stronger. E-mail us your pledges, write to us about your projects. We’ll like to recognize Americans working for America and will feature your pictures and stories on our website at www.georgewash.org. 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.

From Self to Service:
Pledge It Forward—

where’s George?

Answers on page 7.

George Washington

On A

Mistress Goody Quotes...

ILIT Y THE RULE CIV S OF

Faith Proctor

On A

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patriot n.

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Tile Game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

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