George Washington Visits George, Washington
National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours U.S., Opens in Minneapolis

The van itself wasn’t that unusual—a two-door, three-seat white Ford van. It was what was inside that caused all the commotion. Most people don’t expect George Washington to come riding through town. But that’s just what he did in Seattle, Washington, last March. He was in town to celebrate the Lansdowne exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum.

In Seattle, George Washington joined “The George Tour”—a journey that took George and his friends across the state of Washington in Spokane and back again. George, played by actor William Sommerfield, left Seattle on a cold, windy day with his traveling companions: Carol Wyrick from the National Portrait Gallery, and Mimi Gates, Jennifer Vary, and Erika Lindsey from the Seattle Art Museum. And guess who sat in the front seat next to George? Flat Stanley! He wasn’t about to miss this trip!

Up into the mountains they climbed. There was snow everywhere. Stanley wanted to throw snowballs, but the others were anxious to keep going. Fast stop. The town of George, population 500. This is the home of “The World’s Largest Cherry Pie.” Yes, even Stanley had a piece of pie!

Next they were off to the show at George Elementary School. President Washington called for volunteers and taught the kids how to make the crust.

“Jelly Belly” George: Wow! What a Sweet Deal!

Wouldn’t you love to be called the “king of jelly bean art”? It just sounds like a tasty title! That’s what Peter Rocha, a San Francisco artist, calls himself. He designs jelly bean portraits. And on July 2, his jelly bean portrait of George Washington visited the Seattle Art Museum. Fifty kids took a guess at the number of beans in the portrait. Can you guess?

Our thanks go to the Seattle Art Museum and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for sponsoring this event. Everyone was treated to a goody bag—bow, curtsy, dance the minuet, and glow afield. (Stanley is a terrible dancer. He has two left feet and kept stepping on everyone’s toes.) Then out came the swords, and they learned to fence.

The tour continued. They stopped to perform again at Moses Lake Museum and Art Center and at St. George’s School in Spokane.

Each show ended with a pretend “presidential press conference,” and the kids had lots of questions for President Washington. “Do you have wooden teeth?” “Were you hungry after the war?” “Did you ever live in the White House?” And the favorites, “Are you really George Washington?” “Is Stanley really flat?”

The last stop was the governor’s mansion in the state capital of Olympia. The National Portrait Gallery gave the state of Washington a special copy of the Lansdowne portrait. Then everyone jumped into the van and headed home.

The next stop for George Washington and Flat Stanley is Minneapolis! Stanley is already busy choosing his Halloween costume. And George Washington? I think he’ll just go as George!

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

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: August 1 - November 30, 2003
Las Vegas Art Museum: April 23 - August 22, 2004
Arkansas Arts Center: November 7, 2002 - March 9, 2003
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: August 1 -November 30, 2003
The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004

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

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.
Writing to Learn

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

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

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

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

• Advertise an unusual product
• Publicize an upcoming event
• Place a “Help Wanted” advertisement

Making Connections

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

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

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

General Washington Rallies Troops at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, 1777-1778. General Washington struggled to keep his troops alive and well in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this winter. Inadequate supplies of food, clothing, and shoes left the regiment in shambles. Poor hygiene and serious disease threatened 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 own, 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, 1786—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 17 at Yorktown. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of Britain’s General Cornwallis. Jacky leaves behind a wife and four children. General and Mrs. Washington will raise the youngest two children, Eliza Nelly Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, at Mount Vernon, their home in Virginia.

Where’s George?

MHKFMHJLLONTNY  OHTXELGHISSRQOT UKESSDELUAMAPS I NPSMEIAOMULGRL T R C A Q T D T R R A W CE I YELRAESANGQGF YETLTNNTSSLBF I I R CNHBRJDLCSQ S N COAQOWAUSRJF OJIRWBRHRFPYMTOM LHKNFRSJQNYISS LIPENNSLYVAI AEGYSHATOLYALL MVFHZCGRJNIQWZGUXC T YCVTPQHYGULYK

False teeth: Jefferson
Federalists: Hamilton
George: Mount Vernon
John Adams: Pennsylvania
Landowine: Rules of Civility
Gilbert Stuart: Loyalty oath
Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

NEW YORK, 1788 (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 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 will be discussions over the interpretation of the Constitution. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson strongly disagrees. President Washington fears this will divide the country.

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 few years could be difficult. There will be discussions over the interpretation of the Constitution. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson strongly disagrees. President Washington fears this will divide the country.

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Western Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, 1794—Western Pennsylvanians have started a violent opposition to govern- ment 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 Westernport County. Military action will be taken, much to the regret of the President. The army is being organized from other northern states and they will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.

W O U L D Y O U S I G N A L O Y A L T Y O A T H ?

During the Revolutionary War, the British would have you sign an oath similar to this: “I voluntarily take this Oath to bear Faith and Allegiance to His MAJESTY KING George the Third; and to defend to the utmost of my Power, His Sacred Person, Crown, and Government, against all Persons whatsoever.” Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown?

Mr. Fennie respectfully informs the gentlemen amateurs of Fincastle, that he Proposes opening a FENCING ACADEMY

on the 9th of February on River Street, the second door from King Street, where the noble art will be taught every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
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, who was 15 years old, was hired by a Frenchman who took her to France to work as a seamstress. When he died, she was stranded in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. President Washington has sent word that all will be forgiven if she returns to her mistress, but she has refused to come back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to her demand, setting her free would only reward her for running away and would spread discontent among the rest of his servants (as he calls them), who by being faithful are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway. Above all, the President cautioned that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest a mob or riot be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington she must get along without the services of Olney Judge.

December 1790

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

George Washington was only 11 years old when his father inherited 10 slaves from his father in 1743.

By the time he was 22 years old, Washington owned approximately 76 slaves. At his death in 1799, Washington had 356 slaves at Mount Vernon, 23 of whom belonged directly to him. The remaining 333 were “dower” slaves—those he acquired through his marriage to Martha.

Washington did not buy or sell any slaves after the Revolutionary War.

Possessions

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

- 16 pairs of sheets
- 17 pillowcases
- 15 beds
- 4 couches
- 2 desks
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- 20 slaves
- A looking glass (mirror)
- One silver-plated soap spoon
- 3 small spoons
- 7 teaspoons
- A watch
- A sword
- 21 china plates
- 20 slaves

December 1790

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 150 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Additions will be made to accommodate Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, Nelly, who is about twelve, and George Washington, who is about ten, as well as the President’s secretary and numerous servants.

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. Pulke, editor

PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

Making Connections

George’s Genealogy

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

The White House

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

Extension activities:

Playing with Possessions

- Possessions tell us a lot about a person. Have each student choose one item to represent each member of his or her family (including the student) and assemble these in a backpack or box. Then each student should choose one item that best represents the entire family. Encourage students to do this exercise with their families. Each student should be able to tell the class why he or she chose the one item that best represents him or her. (Each student could assemble a backpack or box with only his or her own items if families prove difficult.)

- Have students take an inventory of their bedroom. (It might be frightening but could be revealing of personality.)

- Students can be divided into groups and assigned a specific historical family to represent. The group would first research the family and then discuss issues and debate ideas representative of that family. They can also construct the same family back-pack representing their historical family.

For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon’s site at www.mount vernon.org, the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at www.hubbardhouseugrr.museum.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 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 six feet, three inches tall, with long arms and legs, huge hands and feet, and pale blue eyes, Washington attracted notice. When young, his hair was red-dish brown, but it lightened as he aged. As a young man he was strong and athletic, book-worm, weighing about 175 pounds. Later in life, he weighed closer to 200 pounds.

Portraits of the 18th century captured a personality on canvas, much as photographs do today. Both the artist and the photographer try to show the real person through their art. But it is easier for a painter to hide flaws or alter unattractive features than a photographer. The Lansdowne portrait is considered quite realistic, but there are 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 40s, GW had wrinkles on his face and had changed his facial bone structure
• He was wearing ill-fitting dentures that may have distorted his face
• He wore eyeglasses for reading

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

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

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________

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

Any differences?__________________________

Did You Know...?

• Washington came from a blended family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepsister.
• He was actually born February 11, not February 22! England changed its calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthdate to become February 12.
• His father died when he was 12 years old.
• He often had a bad temper but slowly learned to control it.
• He loved horseback riding, dancing, and farming.
• He was not always a good student.
• He did not always get along very well with his wife, 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.

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
• 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.

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 14, Washington was renowned for his physical courage - he continued to fight in one battle despite having four bullets pierce his clothing and two horses shot out from under him.

2. Washington risked his wealth, his reputation, and his life when he agreed to lead the fight against the British; had he failed, he would have been hung as a traitor.

3. Washington learned to "act like a fox, not like a wolf!" He understood that to win the war against Britain, he had to outlast his enemy, not win every battle.

4. Washington agreed to become the first President of the United States, when he could easily have been the first king.

5. He was the only President to be elected unanimously, not once but twice!

6. He was the only Founding Father to free his slaves when he died, although this was not effective until after Martha Washington's death.

Did George Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

George Washington could have been cured with antibiotics. But in 1799, could Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

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

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

Doctors also made Washington gargle with vinegar, molasses, and beer. 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 sick.

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 would not do, they tried very hard to help him. They used medical practices that cause the body to lose too much water, and that can make someone sicker.

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

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

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

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

Cross-ing the Delaware answer key
Across
1. Civility
2. Lansdowne
3. Whiskey
4. George Washington

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

Make Your Own Portrait of George

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
• Thin newprint or tracing paper
• A new quarter (or one that is not worn down)
• Peeled crayon

WHAT TO DO:
• Put a quarter on a sheet of thin newprint or tracing paper.
• Hold the coin steady as you rub over it with the side of a crayon. TIP: If you find that the coin slips, you can put a circle of tape on the bottom of the coin to hold it to the desk.

As you rub the crayon over the coin, you will begin to see the head of President Washington appear!

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

In Other Words...
Mistress Goody’s Column of Advice

on subjects other than politics and war.

THOUGHTS BASED ON THE RULES OF CIVILITY

On Marla Maiden

In 1745, in the colonial frontier town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, 13-year-old George Washington recorded The Rules of Civility in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. These “guidelines for the respectable gentleman” would influence him throughout life, guiding him in both social and professional situations. Translations and variations abound, but all stress etiquette, charity, and courtesy, oftentimes rather chaste concepts in the 18th century.

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

Mistress Goody,
We have assigned you in our second period geometry class. I am alphabetically challenged in being stuck behind the “class clown.” He makes so much noise that I can’t concentrate. This class is already awkward, but I don’t want to be a statistic. What should I do?

It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish classmate to encroach on your time to angle with angles. Tactfully remind him that his behavior is inappropriate.

Rule 4: In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a harmonizing noise; nor drum with your fingers or feet.

Mistress Goody,
At my school, it is the latest trend to wear your pants and tie with fringe and frayed seams. Everyone is dressing this way, but my mother refuses to allow me. I feel totally out.

Help your mother’s wise instruction. A trend may triumph for a mere season, but a well-dressed person will adhere to this simple maxim:

Rule 54: Play not the peacock, looking every where about you to see if you be well decked; if your shoes fit well, if your stockings sit neatly, and your clothes appear handsomely.

Mistress Goody,
I so wanted a fish tank filled with exotic fish that I begged my parents for one. They agreed reluctantly to this expensive gift, on the condition that I assume sole responsibility for its upkeep. I have realized, however, that I don’t really like the fish. They are small, slim, and kind of boring. I don’t like changing the water, and I often forget to feed them.

What do I do?

You must bear the burden of these living possessions, or have the courage to admit that you need help. This brings to mind some very sage advice:

Rule 82: Undertake not what you cannot perform.

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?

Act 1: William Sommerfield brings George Washington to your community for a three-day trip back in time.

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

It’s time to take a walk with Washington.

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

TRIPPIN’ THROUGH TIME

The Patriot Papers

In Other Words...

Mistress Goody’s Column of Advice

on subjects other than politics and war.

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*Parents, check your local museum for dates and details.
Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Never leave till tomorrow that which you can do today.

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.
- 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.

More Bad Poetry

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

POET’S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

GEORGE

There was a young General named George
Who led troops in the Valley Forge.
His horse was a daily
Who took bullets so jolly.
And now he has a horse on more.

REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTS

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

“Revolutionary Moments,” Concord—[June 17, 1775]

This threat to the British could not be ignored.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

RICKETTS AMPHITHEATRE

Word that the President-elect of the United States, has just set foot in the New York shore after an eight-day triumphal journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbelievably. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a plate of gossip, but never a dish of scandal. Sometimes a good story—now and then a bit of news to bring you the nearly news—a bit of news to bring you the nearly news—a

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

More Bad Poetry

April 23, 1789

HE COMES! HE COMES! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot in the New York shore after an eight-day triumphal journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbelievably. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a plate of gossip, but never a dish of scandal. Sometimes a good story—now and then a bit of news to bring you the nearly news—a

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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 2003 and the current state of affairs?

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

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

Have your students write political poems on “America 2003” and submit them to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Kid’s Surprise Seniors

Students from George Elementary School paid the residents of Quincy Convalescent Center in Quincy, Washington, a visit in April. Glenda King’s second- and third-graders had spent one day the previous week making spring cards and baking cookies. Students introduced themselves to the residents and presented each with a card. They also gave cookies to the residents who were able to have them. One resident requested a song, and the kids sang a version of “God Bless America.” The residents loved the handshakes and conversations, and the students left with many requests to visit again.

Portland Pledges: “We Can Always Learn from Kids”

At Portland Lutheran School in Portland, Oregon, the students are taking “Pledge It Forward” seriously. “We started a new campaign based on the idea of paying forward kindness and building community,” said teacher Deai Pritchard. The students did everything. They delivered meals on wheels, donated food and blankets to animal shelters, and visited retirement homes. The third graders helped by collecting and sorting the recycling. The older students started a “homework club” and helped the younger kids. They even taught them how to play chess!” The younger bunch can’t wait to come back and return the favor to another group,” said Pritchard. “We can always learn from kids.”

What are you doing to help your school? Write and tell us. Start today!

Tile Game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

George Washington

AN A M OF VIC E SER

Faith Proctor

ON A NZY FRE HION FAS

Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away!

GE OL JUD NEY

Mistress Goody Quotes...

ILIT Y. THE RULE CIV S OF

Pledge it Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers
— F. A. Pulles, Editor-in-chief

The Portrait Gallery’s Office of Education would like to recognize those who continue to care about community. We challenge you to Pledge It Forward—pledge time to your schools, youth organizations, senior centers. Well feature your stories and photos on our website at 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.