George Washington Visits George, Washington
National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours Country, Opens in Oklahoma City

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 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 to 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. First stop: The town of George, population 580. 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 famous George Washington Cherry Pie!

“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 is the world’s largest. Our thanks goes to the Seattle Art Museum and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for sponsoring this event. Everyone was treated to a goody bag of jelly beans and a George Washington portrait. Can you guess?

Our thanks go to the Seattle Art Museum and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for sponsoring this event.

CRUST:
159 lbs. flour
72 lbs. shortening
salt to taste
water to right consistency

FILLING:
100 gallons cherries
20 lbs. sugar
2 c. almond extract
75 c. tapioca
coloring

came the swords, and they learned to fence.

The tour continued. They stopped to perform again at Moosan 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.

Coming Up
in December—
Oklahoma City:
And just in time for rodeos and the Cowboy Christmas Ball, Stanley has his boots, his hat, and he’s ready to ride. George? I don’t think he wears a cowboy hat!

George and Flat Stanley

George Washington in context, realizing that while Washington influenced America, America also influenced Washington. The news of the day, the social scene, the fashion, the gossip, the political events, his family, and his contemporaries all had their impact. This interdisciplinary approach to studying Washington should serve a variety of subjects—literature as well as history, language arts as well as visual arts.

Designed to coincide with national curriculum standards in both social studies and the language arts, The Patriot Papers provides opportunities to sharpen critical thinking skills, interpret primary source materials, arrange events chronologically, determine cause and effect, summarize and analyze historical events and ideas, and discover relationships between America’s early history and the present day.

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

—Felice Pulles, editor-in-chief

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

Related national standards in language arts
- Reading for perspective
- Reading for understanding
- Applying knowledge
- Evaluating data
- Developing research skills
- Developing writing skills

About the Artist
Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saugus, Massachusetts, and died in September 1828 in New York City. Stuart was one of the most influential portrait painters of his time. He is known for his portraits of George Washington, including the Lansdowne portrait. Stuart’s portraits are characterized by their realistic and expressive portrayal of his subjects. His work is celebrated for its attention to detail and his ability to capture the likeness of his subjects.

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

Elementary School Teacher’s Edition
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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 a work in progress. Ideas are best generated when words flow quickly. The mind can race far

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

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

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

Making Connections

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

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

Word find

key

M H K F H A L I T N Y O H T X E R L G H I S S R Q O T

GENERAL Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

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

Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

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

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Western Pennsylvania

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

WOULD YOU SIGN A LOYALTY OATH?

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

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

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

The Patriot Papers

The Patriot Papers serve students of all ages. It is published quarterly by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, P. O. Box 5123, Washington, D.C. 20044.

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For more information contact:
November 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. The girl, we hear, was lured away by a Frenchman who tired of her and left her stranded in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. President Washington has sent word that all will be forgiven if she returns to her mistress, but she has refused to come back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to her demand, setting her free would only reward her for running away and would spread discontent among the rest of his servants (as he tells 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.

December 1790

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

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

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

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
- A couch
- Desks
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- 20 slaves

How many of these same items are owned by your family today? How many of these items are owned by your family today? Are you surprised to see how many of these items are owned by your family today? Above all, the President cautioned that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest a mob or riot be excited.
Portraits on Parade

The Portrait Puzzler: Who am I? Fill in the blank

- Although George and I never had children of our own, I have 4 children and, sadly, buried them all.
- I was the Secretary of the Treasury. I sounded a strong government-by-majority and taxes. Thomas Jefferson disagreed about many things, and this began to divide the country.
- I helped write the Declaration of Independence, and was involved in politics, especially in Philadelphia. I am most famous, however, for using a kite to show the nature of electricity and lightning.
- I served as the first Vice President of the United States and as the second President. I was elected to the presidency in 1796. My son James became President in 1817.
- I was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, and my signature is the largest.
- I helped to hide flaws or alter unattractive features than a photograph. The Lansdowne portrait is considered quite realistic, but there are some things the portrait does NOT show about George Washington:
  1. His face was scarred from smallpox (especially his nose)
  2. He had a “Roman” nose
  3. Already in his 40s, GW had wrinkles in his skin and a bit of a stomach pouch
  4. He was wearing ill-fitting dentures that may have distorted his face
  5. He wore eye glasses for reading

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 reddish brown, but it lightened as he aged.

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

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

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 do today. “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 5 things the portrait tells us about President Washington:

1. __________
2. __________
3. __________
4. __________
5. __________

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 landed family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepmother.
- 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 11 years old.
- He often had a bad temper but slowly learned to control it.
- He loved horseback riding, dancing, and farming.
- He was not always a good student?
- He did not always get along very well with his mother, who was bossy and controlling.
- His older half-brother Lawrence was one of the most important people in young George’s life.
- He had two stepchildren, but no children of his own.

Building Vocabulary

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

Vocabulary Words

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

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

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

Making Connections

You as President

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

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

Making a Portrait Silhouette

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

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.

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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 15, 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.

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

Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

To modern people, it is easy to think that medicine in the colonies was unsafe. Many doctors at the time were self-trained. If he had lived today, George Washington could have been cured with antibiotics. But in 1799, could Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

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

Washington's doctors bled him several times. They may have thought that taking out extra blood would stop the swelling in Washington's throat. Unfortunately, they took out too much, and it was hard for him to breathe.

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

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

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

The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President in 1789, he had only one tooth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth. As a result, many of them fell out before he was 30! Over the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. There is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth. His dentures were made of many things: They were often made from human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wire and a spring. This allowed the dentures to open and close. Throughout his life, Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington's cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the greatest of walnut lovers!

Lost & Found

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

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

Capture It in Words

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

“G. Washington in his last illness attended by Doctors Craik and Brown.”

Americans behold & shed a grateful tear

For a man who has gained your freedom most dear
And now is departing into the realms above
Where he may ever rest in lasting peace above.

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

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

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

Time Travel

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

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

Crossing 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

In Other Words...

Mistress Goody’s Column of Advice

on subjects other than politics and war.

INSCRIBED PAPER ON THE RULES OF CIVILITY
—IN MARIA MADSEN

TRIPPIN’ THROUGH TIME

The Patriot Papers

WHAT TO DO:

• Put a quarter on a sheet of thin newsprint or tracing paper.

• Hold the coin steady as you rub over it with the side of a crayon. TIP: If you find that the coin slips, you can put a circle of tape on the bottom of the coin to hold it to the desk.

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

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

Make Your Own Portrait of George

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

• Thin newsprint or tracing paper

• A new quarter (or one that is not worn down)

• Peeled crayon

Mistress Goody, We have assigned seats in my second period geometry class. I am alphabetically challenged in being seated beside the same person every day. How do I ask for a seat change?

Rule 1: Tactfully remind him that his behavior is inappropriate.

Rule 2: In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise; nor drum with your fingers or feet.

Mistress Goody, I love my fish. I feed them every day and change the water. I have had them for three years, but they are not as active as they used to be. What can I do?

Rule 3: Should your fish appear less lively, you may want to check the temperature of the water, the quality of the food, and the fish’s tank environment.

Mistress Goody, My two-year-old daughter always grinds her teeth when I ask her to do something.

Rule 4: It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish child to grind her teeth at you.

Mistress Goody, I am in the habit of putting slippers under my desk. How should I place them?

Rule 5: You can put a circle of tape on the bottom side of a crayon. Hold the coin steady as you rub over it with the crayon and the slips, you can put a circle of tape on the bottom of the coin to hold it to the desk.

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

Mistress Goody, How can I ask her to speed it up?

Rule 6: It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish child to grind her teeth at you.

Mistress Goody, I’ve noticed my fish tank filled with exotic fish that I bought for my parents for our anniversary. They agreed reluctantly to the 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, slimy, and kind of boring. I don’t like changing the tank, and I often forget to feed them. What should I do?

Rule 7: In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise; nor drum with your fingers or feet.

Mistress Goody, I am in the habit of putting slippers under my desk. How should I place them?

Rule 8: You can put a circle of tape on the bottom side of a crayon. Hold the coin steady as you rub over it with the crayon and the slips, you can put a circle of tape on the bottom of the coin to hold it to the desk.

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Mistress Goody, Thank you for your advice. I will keep your recommendations in mind.

Rule 9: It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish child to grind her teeth at you.

Across
1. George Washington recorded the Rule of Civility in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise.
2. The National Portrait Gallery’s image of George Washington is often referred to as the ______ portrait.
3. The sculptor opposition to the liquor tax is known as the ______ Rebellion.
4. The First President of the United States
5. Washington had to ______ down of the United States

Down
1. Washington habitually wear a false set of teeth.
2. In the time of Washington, there were ______ factions, parties, the ______,
3. The ______ painted a famous portrait of George Washington in 1796.
4. George Washington died of this infection.

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Never leave till tomorrow that which you can do today.

He has lost his boots but saved his spurs.

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

**Social Notes from All Over...**

April 24, 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 unbelievable. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees before him.” Washington, it can well be believed, is more popular than the new government he is to establish.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

**Ricketts’ Amphitheater**

Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bell Ricketts’ dangerous feats on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Ricketts, demonstrating his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, raised his glass to the health of “The Man of the People.” This produced an immediate clap of applause and a loud huzzah from every part of the Circus. Mr. Ricketts has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the finest horseman of the age, saying “I delight to see the general ride, and make it a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; his seat is so firm, his management so easy and graceful, that I am a professor of horsemanship, would go to him and learn to ride.”

June 1791

**The President on Tour.** When he entered upon the duties of his office, George Washington decided he would visit all parts of the United States to please the citizens and to see how they felt about the new government. Silas Silvertongue, who is with the President’s party, reports that they are nearing the end of their two-month journey of 1,887 miles. Towns have been in a bustle of preparation, and at every stop the citizens have come out to meet him with addresses of welcome. Ladies, some ragged up to the ears, have bedecked themselves with sashes and headbands painted with images of the President and patriots slogans. The festivities include the ringing of bells, bands of music, cannon salutes, some very bad poetry, and a loud hurrah from every part of the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Ricketts, demonstrating his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, raised his glass to the health of “The Man of the People.”

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 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 rattles, black, and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see Mr. Peale take out a black snake about four or five feet long, which he permitted to touch his cheek and twist itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, hawks, monkeys, and a spirited 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.

**POET’S CORNER...**

**Some Very Bad Poetry**

**GEORGE**

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

**REvolutionary Moments**

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

*Anonymous* (1775)

**177**

We take no responsibility for the quality of the work herein. *GOOD POETRY Sought.*

Ink Exchange, Patent Paper Library

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**More Bad Poetry**

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

** Revolutionary Tea**

There was an old lady lived over the sea
And she was an island queen.

Her daughter lived off in a new country
With an ocean of water between.

The old lady’s pockets were full of gold
But never contented was she,

So she called on her daughter to pay her a tax
Of three pence a pound on her tea.

“Now, mother, dear mother,” the daughter replied,
“I shan’t do the thing you ax.
I’m willing to pay a fair price for the tea,
But never the three penny tax.”

“You shail,” quoth the mother, and reddened with rage,
“For you’re my own daughter, you see,
And sure ‘tis quite proper a daughter should pay
Her mother a tax on her tea.”

**Extension Activities**

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

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**Maxims**

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

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

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

Or . . . pair up with a friend and write a dialogue between Washington and one of his contemporaries where you discuss the issues of the day. Or . . . play today’s TV correspondent and compose a similar letter addressed to our current President. Send this one!

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.

Tile game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

George Washington

AN OF VIC E SER

Faith Proctor

ON A NZY! F R E H I O N FAS

Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away!

GE OL JUD NEY

Red Land High Proves “That’s What Friends Are For”

When did you last say thank-you to a teacher? The students at Red Land High School in Pennsylvania found a wonderful way to say “thank-you, we care” to a favorite teacher with a very special son. Teacher Bill Spong and his wife Denise have a little boy named Billy who has a rare form of cerebral palsy called chorea. It prevents Billy from crawling, walking, and talking. But Billy’s doctors found a new treatment that helps—it’s a special suit that helps Billy move his muscles. Unfortunately, the suit is expensive to use, and it’s only used in Detroit, Michigan. Billy has worn the suit twice, and it’s helping. Now he can sit up and crawl, and he is trying to stand. But each trip to Detroit costs close to $10,000.

The students found a way to “Pledge It Forward” and help out. They mounted a huge talent show. Everyone turned out to help. Forty-two acts were auditioned, 25 acts were chosen, and tickets went on sale. In just one week, the 1,000 seats were sold out. The show included singing, dancing, skits, and even karate! The Kerney sisters performed a mime and won $500. But the real winner that night was probably Billy. In just one week, the students raised $6,500. They gave it to Billy and his family while the audience and students sang “That’s What Friends Are For!” Some of the money will be used to buy Billy a special walker. The rest will help buy Billy an electric wheelchair. For Bill and Denise Spong, it was a moment they’ll never forget. And Billy is just wondering how fast he’ll be able to race in an electric wheelchair.

Gardening and English: Side by Side

The kids at College Place Middle School in Lynden, Washington, are learning English while they plant gardens. They are students in the ESL class. When the project started, the kids paid for the flowers themselves. But when they wanted to plant a second garden, teacher Merlee Bengtsson went to the parents for help. The Parent Club donated funds, and now students and parents plant side by side. The project has expanded and now has Master Gardeners. And there are units for science, mapmaking, and math. “When I plant the flower, I feel great,” said one young African boy. “He is improving his English right along with his gardening skills,” said Bengtsson. “We hope the lessons teach kids to make gardens both beautiful and environmentally kind.”

Portland Pledges: “We Can Always Learn from Kids”

At Portland Lutheran School in Portland, Oregon, the students are taking “Pledging It Forward” seriously. “We started a new campaign based on the idea of paying forward kindness and building community,” said teacher Debi 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!

Kids 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 arranged version of “God Bless America.” The residents loved the handshakes and conversations, and the students left with many requests to visit again.

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers

THE RULE OF CIVILITY

“Self to Service

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

The Patriot Papers

HONORING COMMUNITY SERVICE

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