George Washington visits George, Washington
National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours, Opens in Little Rock, Arkansas

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 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. 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 dumplings. Some pies came riding through town. But that’s just what happened. The kids were excited. “Is Stanley really flat?” “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 the spring—Little Rock, Arkansas. And Stanley is excited. He’s going to the Arkansas state capital, and it looks exactly like the one in Washington, D.C.

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.

SOME PIE!

George, Washington, is the home of the world’s largest cherry pie, which is eight feet square. The pie is baked every July 4th, and served to the public by the Georgettes, a local ladies club. The pie weighs about 720 lbs., and contains 159 lbs. of flour, 72 lbs. of sugar, 75 c. tapioca, 2 c. almond extract, 2 c. red food coloring, and keeps step on everyone’s toes.) Then out the van and into the mountain path. 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!

“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 goodie bag of jelly beans and a George Washington pin. How sweet is that?

The answer: 10,008 Jelly Bellies. That’s enough jelly beans for one person to eat for about the next two years! We hope Peter doesn’t sample as many as he uses.

Related national standards in language arts

- Reading for perspective
- Reading for understanding
- Applying knowledge
- Evaluating data
- Developing research skills
- Developing writing skills

Related national standards in historical thinking

- Chronological thinking
- Historical comprehension
- Historical analysis and interpretation
- Historical research

About the Artist

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saunders town, 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.


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 form when we begin to write. The journey will often reveal it.

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

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

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

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

Making Connections

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

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

Word find

Key

MHFKHAMLTONNY
OHTXELGHISRSQOOT
UKKESDCMUAAPSN
PSMEIAOUMGRL
IKLAQIDKRAWCE
VLQRSAANGESQFV
ETLNNNTSLLBIP
CNHBRRJDLCQSEC
QAOEWAAYSJRFO
OJIHRWBFPTMNO
HLKNNFRSQYINSS
LIFRNNSTLYLAND
GTYSTHAOTTLAYO
MFVHZCGRJNQWZGU
AXCTICYIQHGYULK

General Washington Rallyes Troops at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, 1777-78—General Washington struggled to keep his troops alive and well in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this winter. Inadequate shipments of food, clothing, and supplies left the regiments 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 men, his political enemies threaten to remove his power. Some critics feel that others are better suited to lead the Continental army.

Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child

YORKTOWN, 1781—After losing two children in infancy and her daughter Patsy to epilepsy, Martha Washington lost her last child to camp fever. John Parke Custis, known as Jacky to family and friends, passed away on November 7 at Yorktown. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of Britian’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?

MHFKHAMLTONNY
OHTXELGHISRSQOOT
UKKESDCMUAAPSN
PSMEIAOUMGRL
IKLAQIDKRAWCE
VLQRSAANGESQFV
ETLNNNTSLLBIP
CNHBRRJDLCQSEC
QAOEWAAYSJRFO
OJIHRWBFPTMNO
HLKNNFRSQYINSS
LIFRNNSTLYLAND
GTYSTHAOTTLAYO
MFVHZCGRJNQWZGU
AXCTICYIQHGYULK

False teeth
For each event.
Mk Hamilton
John Adams
John Adams
Radees of Civility
Martha
Mount Vernon
Pennsylvania
Rules of Civility
Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

PHILADELPHIA, 1797 (AP)—President George Washington has won his second election to the presidency of the United States! The inauguration will take place on March 4 in Philadelphia, the new capital of the United States. However, Washington is doubtful about being the President again. He wrote to his friend Henry Lee that he accepted the presidency only “after a long and painful conflict in my own breast.” He really wanted to return to Mount Vernon and retire. The next four years could be difficult. There are 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. Marshall David Lenox was trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor in Westernmost 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.

Would You Sign a Loyalty Oath?

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

“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 Persons, Crown, and Government, against all Persons whatsoever.”

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

Mr. Finkie respectfully informs the gentlemen amateurs of Freemasonry, that he Proposes opening a FENCING ACADEMY on the 9th of February on River Street, the second door from King Street, where that noble art will be taught every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The Doors will be open

At the City Oracles, on Washington

s term

Sad Gentlemen & Ladies are respectfully invited to attend this delightful spectacle. To the amazement of all, the LEARNED PIG

famous news. It is published quarterly by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. For more information, please visit www.npg.org.

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Mr. Finkie respectful
November 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. This girl, who bore the name of Judge, was learned in that art by a negro woman who took her from her native country in Africa, 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 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, therefore, will have to shuttle these servants back and forth and suffer the inconvenience of sometimes being without his cook, Hercules. Asked if he feared his slaves might take advantage of being in the North to run away, the President has privately conceded that “the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist.”

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:

- 18 small spoons
- 7 teaspoons
- 13 beds
- 17 pillowcases
- 16 pairs of sheets
- 16 soup spoons
- 16 pairs of socks
- 412 doors
- 132 rooms
- 20 slaves
- 13 beds
- 17 pillowcases
- 16 pairs of sheets
- A looking glass
- A couch
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- A looking glass
- A couch
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- A looking glass
- A couch
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins
- A looking glass
- A couch
- A fireplace set
- Tablecloths
- Napkins

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.hubbardhouseunrmuseum.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

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

- Although George and I never had children of our own, I bore a child and, sadly, buried them all.
- I was the secretary of the treasury. I founded a strong government with many businesses and banks.
- I fell to the ground after being pushed from my carriage.
- I drafted the Declaration of Independence. As President, I doubled the size of the United States by purchasing the Louisiana Purchase.
- 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 1793. My son later became President in 1825.
- I was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, and my signature is the largest.

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

Portraits of the 18th century captured 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:

- His face was scarred from smallpox (especially his nose)
- He had a strong “Roman” nose
- Already in his 60s, GW had wrinkles in his skin and a bit of a stomach paunch
- He was wearing ill-fitting dentures that may have distorted his face
- He wore eyeglasses for reading

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

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

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________

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

Any differences?

Did You Know...?

- Washington came from a titled family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepmother.
- He was actually born February 12, not February 22. England changed its calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthday 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.

Making a Portrait Silhouette

HERE’S WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

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

WHAT TO DO:

1. Arrange the chair about 12 inches from the wall. Have your model sit on the chair in front of the wall. He or she must sit sideways, with one ear facing the light and the other facing the wall.
2. Position the lamp or flashlight so that it shines directly on the head. Make sure you can see a sharp outline of the person’s profile on the wall. TIP: You may have to change the distance between the light and the model until the shadow is clear.
3. Tape black construction paper onto the wall where the shadow falls.
4. Using white chalk or a gel pen, trace the outline of the head. Don’t rush! This must be done slowly to get good details.
5. After you trace, cut out the silhouette and glue it onto a piece of colored construction paper.
Six Reasons For Greatness

More than 200 years after his death, we still speak of George Washington's greatness. Why? What makes a person great?

1. By age 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 lion, 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.

George Washington Dies at 67

AFTER RISING OUTSIDE DURING VERY BAD WEATHER LAST THURSDAY and Friday, George Washington got sick on Saturday, December 14, 1799. An infection gave him a sore throat. He also had a fever, and it was hard for him to breathe.

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

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

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

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 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 butter. These were used to open up his throat. But his throat was too swollen and he had a lot of trouble swallowing. He almost choked a couple of times too.

Finally, doctors tried to make him vomit to take out any bad fluids. This can cause the body to lose too much water, and that can make someone sicker.

Even though Washington’s doctors did a lot of things that modern doctors would not do, they tried very hard to help him. They used medical practices that were believed to be the most helpful. Washington knew that he was very ill. He died bravely.

Lost & Found

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

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

Capture It in Words

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

“G. Washington in his last illness attended by Dots Crask and Brown.”

Americans behold & shed a grateful tear

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

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

**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**

**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 newsprint 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 newsprint or tracing paper.
- Hold the coin steady as you rub it over 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!

---

**Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?**

**A new 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,* wanting 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.

---

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

---

**In Other Words**

**In Other Words...**

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

**RESPECTFULLY BORROWED ON THE RULES OF CIVILITY**

— MARGA MAIDEN

---

**Trippin’ Through Time**

**Across**
1. George Washington recorded the State of _______________ when he was thirteen years old.
2. The National Portrait Gallery’s image of George Washington is often referred to as the _______________ portrait.
3. The rock-opera version of _Cats_ is known as the _______________.
4. The First President of the United States
5. Washington habits, as the following ad suggests, are not _______________.

**Down**
1. _______________ brought George Washington to _______________ in 1777–78.
2. In the time of _______________, there were _______________ parties, the _______________ and the _______________.
4. George Washington died of this infection.

---

**Mistress Goody**

I am alphabetically challenged in being seated beside the _Oh, Mister Goody_, always informed, always respectable, and always a _tooth_. He makes so much noise that I can’t concentrate. This class is already difficult for me, but I don’t want to be a _class clown_.

It is highly inappropriate for your _class clown_toer that you don’t like cleaning the tank, and I often forget to feed them. I so wanted a fish tank filled with exotic fish that I begged my parents for one. They agreed reluctantly to this expense. I was very happy, but my mother refused to allow me. I feel totally _tooth_.

_George Washington_ recorded his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. It is highly inconsiderate for your _class clown_toer that you don’t like cleaning the tank, and I often forget to feed them.

---

**Rules of Civility**

1. Civility
2. Lansdowne
3. Whiskey
4. George Washington
5. Martha
6. Mount Vernon
7. Valley Forge
THE PUDDING PAPERS

We interrupt this edition of The Patriot papers to bring you the nearly news—a collection of animated historical glimpses into the past, captured in not-so-dull color in The Pudding Papers. The complete episodic adventures can be viewed at your leisure at www.georgewashington.si.edu. Our on-the-scene trusted correspondents include: Silas Silvertongue, our presidential reporter; Titus Blunt, our congressional correspondent; and our own Prudence Pudding, who provides social notes from all over. (We leave it for you to decide, dear reader, whether she is an upright haughty or a man in disguise.) In the spirit of the freedom of the press guaranteed by our new Bill of Rights, we intend to act as a wisedelic ear and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a plate of gossip, but never a dish of scandal.

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 unbellevable. 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 arriving in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees before him.” Washington, it can well be believed, is more popular than the new government he is to head.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793
Ricketts’s Amphitheatre. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Ricketts’s dangerous acrobatic feats on horseback, raised the glass to the health of “The Man of the People.” This produced an immediately 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 “is delight to see the general ride, and make it a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; his seat is so firm, his management so easy and graceful, that I who am a professor of horsemanship, would 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 6,960 miles. Towns have been in a state of preparation, and at every stop the citizens have come out to meet him with addresses of welcome. Ladies, some ragged up to the ears, have bedecked themselves with sashes and headbands painted with images of the President and patriotic slogans. The festivities include the ringing of bells, bands of music, cannon salutes, and some very bad poetry. (See poetry box, upper right.)

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 rattle, black, and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wood 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 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.

Social Notes from All Over...

April 23, 1789

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

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.
Of three pence a pound on her tea.

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

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

Extension Activities

● Design clothing for a historical character or for a historical novel or play.
● Research Peale’s Museum and give a report on some of the odd animals that were included.
● Draw pictures that illustrate some of those peculiar animals in the museum.
● Research Ricketts’s Amphitheatre or the history of the circus and report back to the class.
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 made? 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 interview a student about the state of America during his presidency.

Divide students into groups and let them brainstorm about possible service projects between Washington and one of his contemporaries.

Have your students write political poems on the topic of their choice. They can compose a similar letter addressed to our 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.

Tile Game

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

George Washington

AN M A 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

self to service

THE PATRIOT PAPERS

MORNING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers

— F. A. Pyles, 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. We’ll 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.

We hope the lessons teach kids to make gardens both beautiful and environmentally kind.

The kids at College Place Middle School in Lynden, Washington, are learning English while they plant gardens. They are students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) class. When the project started, the kids paid for the flowers themselves. But when they wanted to plant a second garden, teacher Merilee 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 flowers, I feel great,” said one young African boy. He is improving his English right along with his gardening skills. “This project has become a focus of community spirit and school pride,” 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 “Pledge It Forward” seriously. We started a new campaign based on the idea of paying forward kindness and building community,” said teacher Desi 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 rearranged 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

— F. A. Pyles, Editor-In-Chief

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Write to us at PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.