

*GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY*

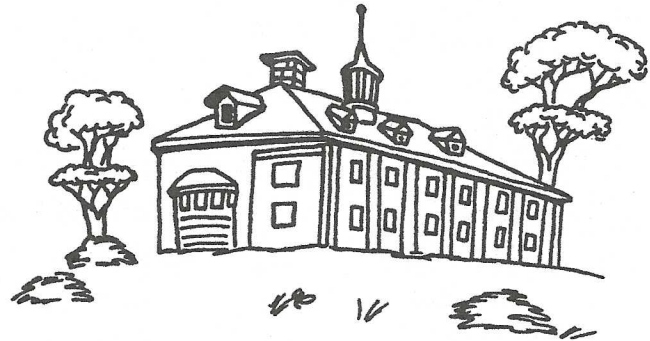
# GEORGE WASHINGTON



George Washington was the first president of the United States. He is called "the Father of His Country." His birthday is February 22.

## THE STORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

1. George Washington was born February 22, 1732 in Virginia. His family was rich. They owned a large plantation. George loved parties and dancing.



2. He was very kind. He gave money to many poor people.



3. George Washington is called “the Father of His Country.” He was the leader of the American army in the War of Independence. He did not ask for any pay for this.

4. The war was very difficult. One winter at Valley Forge the soldiers had no warm clothes or shoes. But they did not leave George Washington. He was a good leader and they loved him.

5. The Americans won the war. A new country, the United States, was born. After the war George Washington was the leader of the men who wrote the Constitution for the new country.

6. George Washington was tired. He did not want to be president. But everyone voted for him. He was elected the first president of the United States.

7. He was a very good president. He was elected a second time in 1793. He was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

## THE STORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find them in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

be/was born	country	soldier
rich	leader	clothes
own	army	win/won
plantation	war	constitution
party	independence	tired
kind	difficult	elect
president	father	peace
	countrymen	

II. Complete the sentences:

1. George Washington was born \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. George Washington is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of his country.
3. He was the leader in the American War for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. George Washington was the first \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.

III. Write "Lincoln" or "Washington" after these sentences.

1. He was born in Kentucky. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He was born in Virginia. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He was the first president. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He was the sixteenth president. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He fought in the War of Independence. \_\_\_\_\_
6. He was president during the Civil War. \_\_\_\_\_
7. He freed the slaves. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He saved the Union. \_\_\_\_\_
9. He helped to write the Constitution. \_\_\_\_\_
10. He was a good leader. \_\_\_\_\_

## GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE

There are many stories about George Washington. Here is one famous story:

1. When George Washington was a little boy, his father gave him an ax for his birthday.
2. George wanted to practice with his ax, so he cut down a tree near his house.
3. When George's father came home, he saw that his favorite cherry tree had been cut down. He was very, very angry. "Who cut down my cherry tree?" he shouted.
4. George was very afraid. He was sure that his father would punish him. But he did not tell a lie.
5. "Father," said George, "I cannot tell a lie. I cut down your cherry tree with my new ax."
6. "My son," said George's father. "I am sad that I have lost my cherry tree. But you have given me something better. You told the truth. That makes me a very happy father." He hugged and kissed George and did not punish him.
7. Today, many people eat cherry pie on Washington's birthday and tell this story to children.



What happened first? Write the number 1. What happened next? Write the number 2, then 3, 4, and 5 to show what happened next.

- \_\_\_\_\_ George cut down the cherry tree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ George told the truth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ George got an ax for his birthday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ George's father was angry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ George's father was happy.

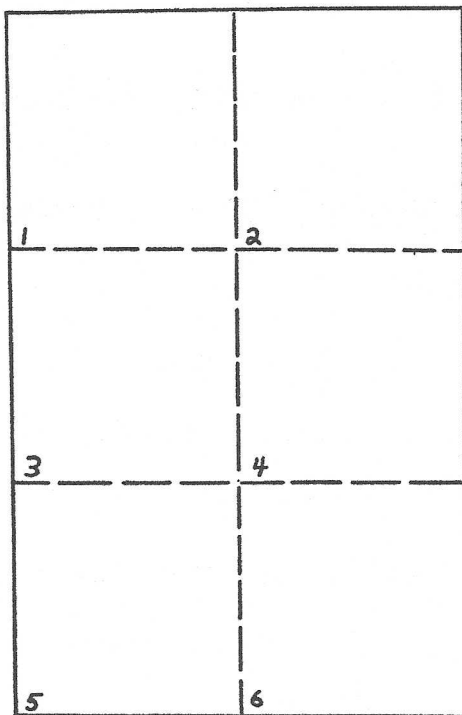
## GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

- |          |          |                               |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| ax       | favorite | punish                        |
| birthday | cherry   | lie                           |
| practice | angry    | tell a lie/told a lie         |
| cut down | shout    | tell the truth/told the truth |
| tree     | afraid   | hug/hugged                    |
| near     | sure     | kiss/kissed                   |

II. Activities:

1. Make a comic strip showing the story of George Washington and the cherry tree. Use a large piece of drawing paper. Divide the paper into six parts. Draw pictures to show what happened. Write the words that George and his father say.



2. Talk about the ways Americans remember George Washington:
- Look at George Washington's portrait on the quarter and dollar bill.
  - Washington, D.C., the state of Washington, schools, streets, and many other places and things are named for him.
  - The Washington Monument was built in his honor.
  - His home, Mount Vernon, is open to visitors.
3. Serve and eat cherry pie.