



Over two hundred years have passed since thousands of people watched George Washington raise his right hand, place his left hand on an open Bible, and repeat, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." Washington then added the words, "So help me God!" In this inauguration year, Washington's inauguration and birthday (February 22) are especially significant. Our first President was a fine man who was devoted to his countrymen. From the time his mother and father first called him George until the people called him Mr. President, George Washington led an interesting, many-faceted life. Help your students learn about the life of this fine man, from boyhood to the Presidency, through the following fun and activities.

Read About Washington

Introduce your students to George Washington through the many books that have been written about our first President. Check the school library for stories about Washington's life and make as many books as possible available for the children to examine. Take some time before

Let's Call Him **GEORGE** Celebrating 200 years of U.S. Presidents...

Washington's birthday to read and talk about his life and how he helped to shape a new country. Share some of these interesting books about George Washington:

George Washington's Teeth

by Deborah Chandra (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

A Picture Book of George Washington

by David A. Adler (Holiday House)

George Washington's Cows

by David Small (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

George Washington and the General's Dog

by Frank Murphy (Random)

Revolutionary War on Wednesday

by Mary Pope Osborne (Random)

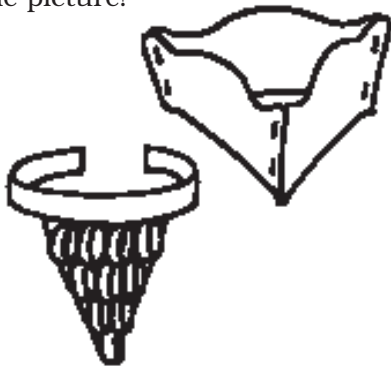
A Take-Home Biography

Help the kids remember the highlights of Washington's life by creating their own take-home biography—"Let's Call Him George!" Each child will need three sheets of 8-1/2" x 11" paper, one copy of the booklet text, glue, markers or crayons, and lots of ideas. Ask the children to fold each sheet of blank paper in half and tuck one sheet inside the other to form a booklet. Then use a scissors to cut apart the text, cover, and title of the booklet. Glue the cover picture and title to the first page of the booklet. Then glue the text to the bottom of each page, and you're ready for illustration ideas. The kids may need a little help getting started, so read each page caption and talk about the picture possibilities. A great way to celebrate George Washington's birthday!

A Hat and Jabot for George

The three-cornered hat so often associated with George Washington and his peers is easy to recreate from construction paper. Use the pattern to trace and cut three sections for each hat.

Simply staple them together as shown, and there you have it! Kids may enjoy singing the familiar "My Hat, It Has Three Corners, Three Corners Has My Hat." If your students enjoy wearing the hats, they'll also have fun with this paper jabot. Cut a band of white paper to fit around each child's neck. Attach a triangular shaped piece of paper as shown. Then cut and loop small strips of paper to glue on the triangle. It's not authentic, but you get the picture!



George's Legend

There are several well-known legends about George Washington. Parson Weems, a great storyteller, liked to tell this story about George as a boy: When George Washington was a little boy, his father gave him a shiny new hatchet. George took his new hatchet into the orchard where some of his father's cherry trees had been planted. These were special cherry trees, sent all the way from England. Trying his new hatchet, George took a few chops at one of the cherry trees. It fell with a crash. When George's father saw the cherry tree he was very angry. He asked George, "Do you know who cut down my cherry tree?" George looked down and said, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my hatchet." Parson Weems told this story so often that soon everyone believed it, and so cherries, hatchets, and "telling the truth" are often associated with Washington.

Cherry Chuckle

Cherry Chuckle is a game to reinforce facts learned about George Washington by answering true or false statements. It's guaranteed to bring some fun and chuckles to Washington birthday celebrations. Now it's the kids' turn to tell the truth!

Object:

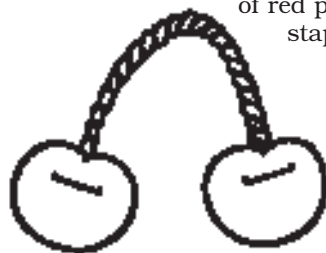
To win the most cherries for the team cherry tree.

Get Ready:

1. Prepare a list of 20 true or false statements appropriate to your age group. Be sure to make some statements silly... everyone loves to chuckle. For example:
 - George Washington was the first President of the United States.
 - George Washington was born at the North Pole.
 - George Washington lived at Mount Vernon.
 - George Washington was a truck driver.
 - George Washington's wife's name was Cinderella.
2. Create 20 sets of cherries as shown below.
3. Divide the class into 5 teams and ask each team to draw a large tree on the chalkboard. Colored chalk adds fun.

Play:

The teacher reads a statement about Washington. If it's true and the team answers "true," they win a cherry. If the statement is false, the team must answer "false" and then give the correct answer to win a cherry. As the cherries are awarded, the team places them on the team tree. The team with the most cherries at the end of the game wins.



Cut cherries out of red paper and staple to the ends of a piece of heavy twine.

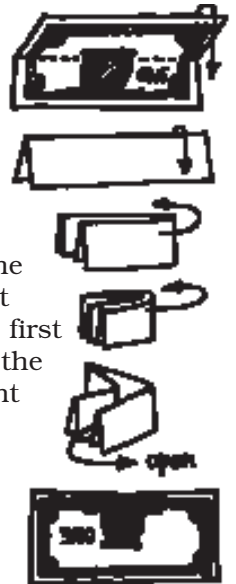
George's Trick

Here's some fun! You can make George Washington stand on his head with this simple trick using a one-dollar bill. Reproduce and cut out the dollar bill. Show it to your class and say, "I can make George Washington stand on his head...watch." Then fold the top of the bill down.

Fold the right half back behind itself, to the left.

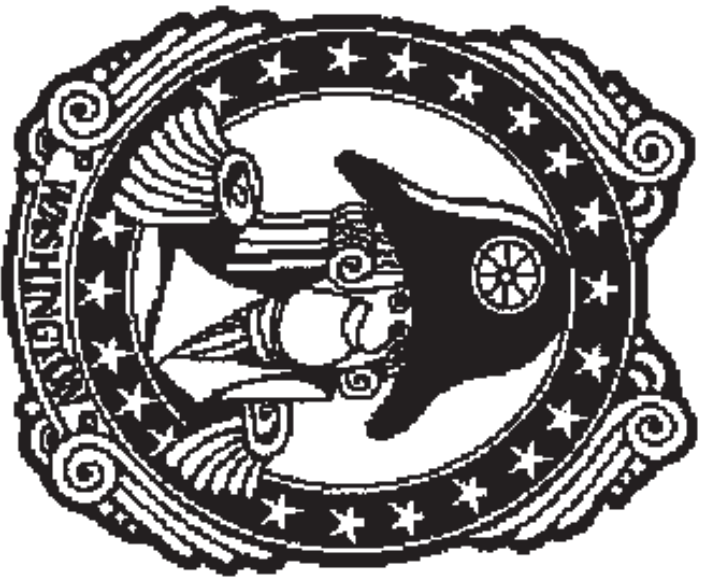
Fold the right half back behind and to the left again, the same way. Now open the bill from the front and forward. The first fold is opened to the right and the front fold is unfolded upward. George should be upside down, "standing on his head."

Reproduce a bill for each student and teach him or her the trick. Kids will have lots of fun showing George's trick to family and friends.



Cherry Tarts

Kids will love to make these quick and easy cherry tarts to celebrate Washington's birthday. You'll need piecrust mix, canned cherry pie filling, flour, rolling pins, muffin tins, and clean hands... everyone can help! Prepare the piecrust according to directions on the package and roll to 1/16" thickness on a lightly floured surface. Cut 4-inch circles and place them in a muffin tin, patting gently to line the sides of the cup. Prick each one with a fork and bake in a 450° preheated oven for about 8 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly, remove from muffin tin, and fill each one with a heaping spoonful of cherry pie filling. Cherry tarts for everyone!



Let's Call Him GEORGE!

A Story of Our First President

1. Something special happened one cold winter morning in Virginia. On February 22, 1732, a baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Washington. "Let's call him George," said his mother.
2. George was six years old when his family moved to Ferry Farm. George loved the farm.

3. George had an older brother named Lawrence. Lawrence went to school in England. He was a captain in the King's army. George thought his brother was great.

4. When George was eleven years old, his father died. He went to live with Lawrence at his house called Mount Vernon.

5. George learned to use his father's surveying tools. People thought George was a good surveyor. He traveled into the wilderness to measure fields.

6. George married a widow named Martha Custis. Her two children, Patsy and Jack, loved George. George loved the children as his own.

7. George became a general in the army. He led his brave soldiers in many battles. They were hungry, sick, and cold, but they won the war that made the colonies free.

8. The people wanted George to lead the new country. "Let's call him Mr. President," they said.

9. George Washington was President of the United States for eight years. He did not want to be President again. He went home to Mount Vernon to be a farmer.

Three-Cornered Hat Pattern

Trace the half pattern below on a folded sheet of newspaper to make one full-size pattern. For each hat, trace three full-size patterns on white construction paper and cut them out. Staple the three sections together at edges, where staple marks are shown. Open up and fit over head.

