

TABLE OF CONTENTS



To the Teacher.....iv	Grace Anna Goodhue Coolidge.....94
Martha Dandridge Custis Washington1	Lou Henry Hoover97
Abigail Smith Adams4	Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Roosevelt100
Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson7	Elizabeth Virginia Wallace Truman104
Martha Washington Jefferson Randolph9	Mamie Geneva Doud Eisenhower107
Dolley Payne Todd Madison.....11	Jacqueline Lee Bouvier
Elizabeth Kortright Monroe.....14	Kennedy Onassis110
Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams16	Claudia Alta Taylor Johnson113
Rachel Donelson Jackson.....18	Thelma Catherine Ryan Nixon116
Emily Tennessee Donelson.....19	Elizabeth Ann Bloomer Warren Ford119
Hannah Hoes Van Buren22	Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter.....122
Angelica Singleton Van Buren23	Anne Francis Robbins Davis Reagan125
Anna Tuthill Symmes Harrison.....26	Barbara Pierce Bush128
Letitia Christian Tyler29	Hillary Rodham Clinton.....131
Priscilla Cooper Tyler.....30	Laura Welch Bush135
Julia Gardiner Tyler.....31	First Ladies' Day.....138
Sarah Childress Polk34	First Ladies Puzzle139
Margaret Mackall Smith Taylor36	Meet the New First Lady.....140
Mary Elizabeth Taylor Bliss Dandridge.....37	Pocahontas.....141
Abigail Powers Fillmore38	Harriet Ross Tubman142
Jane Means Appleton Pierce41	Jane Addams143
Harriet Lane Johnson43	Georgia O'Keeffe.....144
Mary Ann Todd Lincoln.....46	Amelia Earhart145
Eliza McCardle Johnston.....50	Margaret Mead146
Martha Patterson51	Rosa Parks147
Julia Boggs Dent Grant53	Jessica Lopez De La Cruz148
Lucy Ware Webb Hayes57	Maria Tallchief.....149
Lucretia Rudolph Garfield60	Sally Kristen Ride150
Ellen Lewis Herndon Arthur.....64	Learn About Other Famous
Mary Arthur McElroy.....65	American Women151
Frances Folsom Cleveland.....67	Answer Key152
Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison70	
Ida Saxton McKinley.....73	
Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt.....76	
Helen Herron Taft.....80	
Ellen Louise Axson Wilson.....85	
Edith Bolling Galt Wilson87	
Florence Kling de Wolfe Harding91	



Dear Teacher or Parent,

How would you like to personally meet the First Ladies of our country? You and your students can get to know each one personally in *Meet the First Ladies, Revised & Edited*, an activity book containing information about each of our country's First Ladies and other women who have played important roles in American history.

Did you know . . . ?

Caroline Harrison refused to touch light switches because she was afraid of shocks?

Eleanor Roosevelt rode over Boulder Dam in a bucket?

Many people claimed Edith Wilson ran the country after her husband had a stroke.

Lou Hoover insisted that all the White House butlers and footmen be exactly the same height.

Martha Washington described herself as "cheerful as a cricket."

You'll find these and many other interesting facts about the First Ladies and the different roles they played in history. You can use the reproducible activities in conjunction with your social studies, U.S. history or women's history curriculum or as part of a special unit on First Ladies.

While researching material for this book and a companion book on the Presidents, I discovered many inconsistencies. The first problem I found was that not all sources considered the same women as First Ladies. Is the First Lady the President's wife or the woman who serves as the official hostess at the White House? Should they both be considered First Ladies?

What if the President's wife died shortly before he became President, like Rachel Jackson? Should she be included? Should Jackson's niece, Emily Donelson, be considered as the First Lady since she served as the official hostess while he was President? I included information on both women.

Another difficulty I came across were different dates used for the same events by different authors. Some discrepancies were minor, such as when Bess first met Harry Truman. All sources agreed that they met at Sunday school. Most sources said she was 5 at the time and one source said she was 6—a minor detail but a good example. Other differences found were much more blatant.

The number and even the names of the First Ladies' children sometimes varied. As an example, the name of Martha Jefferson's daughter was given as Margaret, Mary and Maria in three different sources. Some sources omitted listing children who died shortly after birth.

When I came across contradictory evidence, I used information found in the majority of sources. I apologize, in advance, if this causes problems, but as students do independent research, they need to be aware that not all sources agree on the "facts."

Encourage students to learn more about the First Ladies and the events during their lives by exploring the books suggested in each section. In addition, you may want to check out these books:

Ash, Maureen. *The Women's Movement*. (Childrens Press, 1989)

Caroli, Betty Boyd. *First Ladies*. (Oxford University Press, 1987)

Clyne, Patricia Edwards. *Patriots in Petticoats*. (Dodd, Mead & Company, 1976)

DePauw, Linda Grant. *Founding Mothers: Women in America in the Revolutionary Era*. (Houghton Mifflin, 1975)

Evans, Sara M. *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America*. (The Free Press, 1989)

Ingraham, Claire R., and Leonard W. *An Album of Women in American History*. (Franklin Watts, 1972)

Landau, Elaine. *Hidden Heroines: Women in American History*. (Julian Messner, 1975)

McElroy, Richard L. *American Presidents: Fascinating Facts, Stories and Questions of Our Chief Executives and Their Families*. (Daring, 1984)

McHenry, Robert. *Famous American Women: A Biographical Dictionary from Colonial Times to the Present*. (Dover, 1980)

Sincerely,



Cindy Barden



MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS WASHINGTON

Martha Washington served as First Lady while her husband, George Washington, was President from 1789 to 1797.

Born: June 2, 1731, at New Kent County, Virginia

Married: June 1749 to Daniel Parke Custis (deceased 1757). January 6, 1759, to George Washington

Children: Daniel and Frances, died in early childhood. Her surviving children were John "Jack" and Martha "Patsy."

Died: May 22, 1802, at the age of 71

☞ Martha Dandridge grew up on her parents' tobacco plantation in Virginia. Her education was typical for girls from wealthy families at that time.

Although she did not attend school, Martha learned to read and write, but those aspects of education were not stressed. She was a terrible speller. It was more important for women to learn knitting, spinning, weaving, sewing and needlework; to know how to run a home; to cook; play the piano; deal with the servants and entertain guests.

☞ At 17, Martha married Colonel Custis, a wealthy landowner. By the time she was 25, her husband and two of her four children had died. She inherited her husband's 17,000-acre estate and several hundred slaves. Two years later she married George Washington. They settled on his plantation in Mount Vernon, Virginia.



☞ During the Revolutionary War, George was appointed commander of the Continental Army. Martha joined him at his winter headquar-

ters, caring for her husband, tending injured soldiers and making clothing for them. When the fighting resumed each spring, Martha returned home.

☞ At the first presidential reception, Martha abruptly announced that she and the general retired at 9 o'clock and bid them good night.

This set the tone for future receptions which always ended early.

☞ The Washingtons held an open house at the White House on New Year's Day, a tradition that continued until 1930. Martha never enjoyed being a public figure. She called the time she spent as First Lady, the "lost years" and was overjoyed when she and George retired to Mount Vernon.



LADY WASHINGTON

Use the information about Martha Washington on the previous page to answer the following questions:

1. List three skills considered important for a girl's education among the wealthy class in the 1700s.



2. What presidential tradition, continued until 1930, did the Washingtons begin?

3. Martha Washington had to face many difficulties during her life. Name two tragedies she endured.

4. Where was Martha Washington born?

5. Which of her four children died at an early age?

6. Where was the Washingtons' home in Virginia?

7. What did Martha do in the winters during the Revolutionary War?

8. What phrase did Martha Washington use to describe her eight years as First Lady?

Challenge Questions

1. Because she was the first First Lady, no one knew what Martha Washington's formal title should be. She was often referred to as "Lady Washington." What title would you have chosen for the wife of the President? Explain your answer.

2. When a woman becomes President, what do you think would be an appropriate title for her husband? Explain your answer.



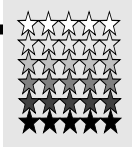
Check It Out

George and Martha Washington at Home in New York by Beatrice Siegel (Macmillan, 1989)

Home Crafts by Bobbie Kalman (Crabtree, 1990)

Martha Washington by Joan F. Marsh (Franklin Watts, 1993)

KNITTING



Martha Washington spent many hours knitting. Even when other women came to call on her, she continued knitting while they visited.

Today, people who knit usually buy their yarn. They use plastic or metal knitting needles. Yarn comes in a great variety of colors and may be wool, cotton or synthetic material.

Stores didn't sell yarn in the 1700s. People made their own. Producing and dyeing yarn was a long, tedious process. Yarn could be spun from wool, cotton or flax.

To Make Wool Yarn

1. Sheep were sheared in the spring. The fleece (sheep's wool) had to be cleaned and greased to put back the natural oil lost in washing.



2. The clean wool was carded. Using two paddles with wire teeth on one side, carding mixed and fluffed the wool.

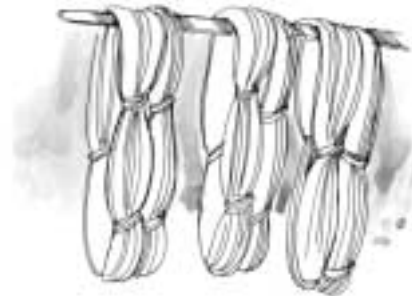
3. To spin the carded wool into yarn, it was fed onto a spindle while the wheel was turned by hand or with a foot pedal. Spinning stretched and twisted the wool to form a long strand of yarn.



4. The yarn was colored with dyes made from natural ingredients, like flowers, bark and roots. Dandelions made a dark yellow dye and cranberries produced red dye.




5. Even the process of dyeing wool involved gathering the ingredients, crushing the part of the plant to be used and boiling it. Then it was dipped in large kettles of boiling colored water.



6. Finally, with homemade wooden needles, a woman could begin knitting.

How much work it must have taken to knit a pair of socks or mittens or a warm winter sweater!

 Singing songs and telling stories would help pass the time as the women worked. Make up a short story, song or spinning rhyme.