

Table of Contents

George Washington as a Child and Teenager	5
George Washington and the French and Indian War	6
George Washington and the French and Indian War Questions	7
George Washington as a Young Adult	8
George Washington as a Young Adult Questions	9
George Washington and the American Revolution.....	10
George Washington and the American Revolution Questions	12
George Washington’s Letter from Valley Forge	13
George Washington’s Letter from Valley Forge Questions	15
George Washington’s Presidency	16
George Washington’s Presidency Questions.....	17
Building the Washington Monument	18
Building the Washington Monument Questions	19
The Washington Monument—What Is an Obelisk?	20
The Restoration of the Washington Monument	21
The Restoration of the Washington Monument Questions	22
National Park Service Standards for Rehabilitation	23
Standards for Rehabilitation Project	25
Monuments to George Washington: Mount Vernon	26
Mount Vernon Questions.....	28
Monuments to George Washington: Washington, D.C.....	29
Washington, D.C., Questions	30
Washington, D.C., Activities	31
Monuments to George Washington: Mount Rushmore	33
Mount Rushmore Questions	35
Monuments to George Washington: Money	36
Money Questions and Activities	37
Monuments to George Washington: Washington State	38
Washington State Questions and Activities	39
Multiple Intelligence Activities.....	40
Internet Research Ideas	43
Answer Key.....	45

Name _____

George Washington as a Child and Teenager

The story of Washington's chopping down the cherry tree when he was a boy and telling his father that he could not tell a lie about his deed is an attractive one, but it is not true. What do we really know about Washington's childhood? He was born into a Virginia planter's family in February 1732. Although his two older half-brothers were sent to England for their schooling, George was educated at home by his family. When George was 11, his father died. As a result, he alternately lived with his mother and his older half-brother Lawrence for several years. When he stayed with Lawrence, he

lived at Mount Vernon, which he grew to love deeply. Lawrence died of tuberculosis in 1752.

Washington's interest in mathematics showed itself as he began to learn surveying in his mid-teens. His first job, when he was 15, was surveying Lawrence's turnip field at Mount Vernon. By age 16, he was part of the official surveying team that established the western frontier border of Virginia. Two years later, he became the surveyor for Culpepper County, Virginia.

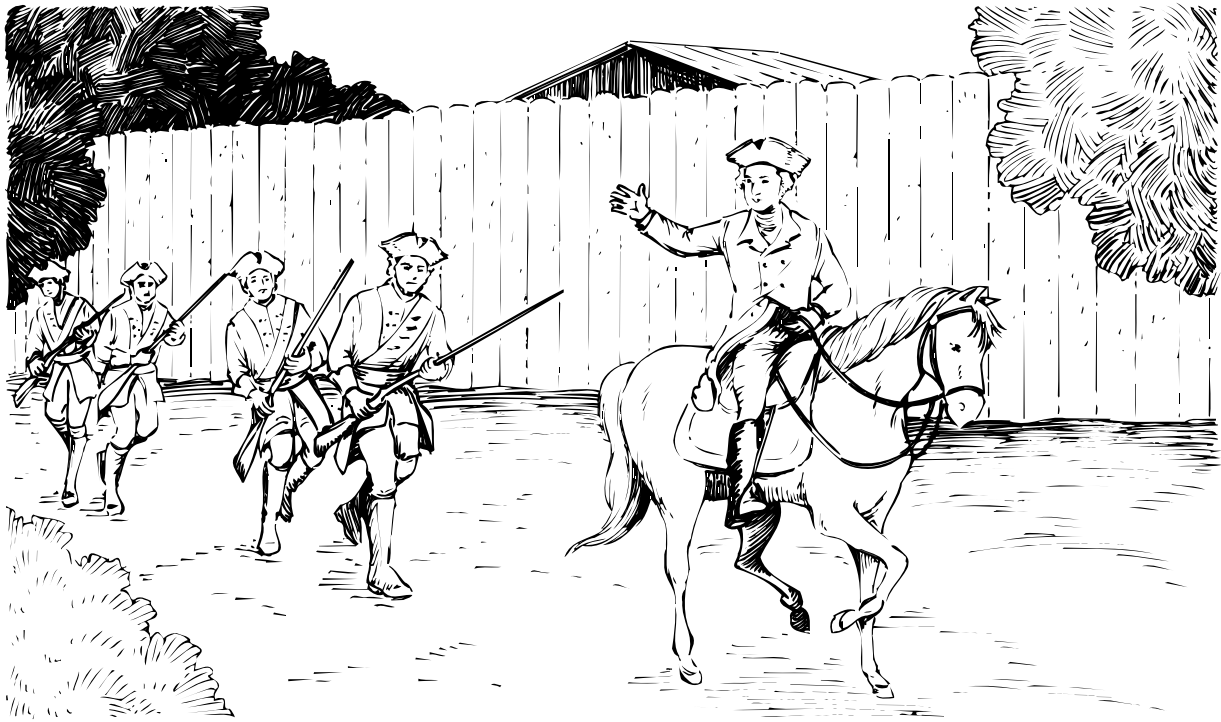
1. What two family tragedies happened to George before he was 20? _____

2. How do you know that George probably enjoyed working as a surveyor? _____

3. How do you know that George was probably a responsible teenager? _____

4. What other legends about George Washington do you know besides the story of the cherry tree?

George Washington and the French and Indian War



Washington was 20 when he was appointed adjutant in the Virginia militia. A militia is a civilian army. There was no permanent army, but in hostile times, farmers and city dwellers were called to military duty in the militia. As an adjutant, he was a staff officer who did administrative jobs for his commanding officer.

In 1753 he was sent to the Ohio Valley by the governor of Virginia to spy on the strength of the French there. A year later, Washington returned to the Ohio Valley as a lieutenant colonel commanding 150 Virginia militiamen. He and his men fought a small group of Frenchmen near Fort Duquesne. Since the battle was going badly for the colonists, they built a defensive shelter named Fort Necessity. The French, however, returned with reinforcements and laid siege to this fort. After 10 hours, Washington and his men were forced to surrender on July 4, 1754. This battle was the beginning of the French and Indian War, a war in North America between the British and the French with Indian allies on both sides.

Washington was again sent to the Ohio Valley in 1755 with British General Braddock. Washington led a group of militiamen and was an aide to Braddock in this campaign to drive the French out of Fort Duquesne. Several miles from the fort, French and Indians attacked the British. Using the Indian tactic of fighting from behind trees, they fired mercilessly into the British forces that were used to the European style of fighting in which two armies marched towards each other across an open field. Braddock was killed, and the British suffered a terrible defeat. Washington, however, was able to organize the militiamen, who also fought the way the French and Indians did. Though he had four holes shot through his coat and two horses shot out from under him, Washington managed to save most of his men and get them safely away from the area. He resigned from the militia in 1759, and this was the only military experience he had until he became the commander of the colonial armies during the Revolutionary War.

Name _____

George Washington and the French and Indian War Questions

1. Washington was born in 1732. How old was he when he was sent to the Ohio Valley the first time to spy on the French? _____

2. What military error caused General Braddock to be defeated and killed near Fort Duquesne in 1755?

3. What previous experience might have helped Washington to save many of his militiamen in spite of the defeat of Braddock's army? _____

4. Was Washington brave or cowardly as a young man? Give specific information from the readings to support your answer. _____

5. Thought Question: Given what you know about Washington's actions and defeats during the French and Indian War, would you predict that he would have been a good leader or a poor one during the Revolutionary War? Give specific facts to support your answer. _____
