

The *LifeTales* Musical Biography Series

General George Washington

A Wayne Scott-*LifeHouse* Production

CURRICULUM CONTENT GUIDE

- Review questions and answers based on the production.
- Timeline of highlights from the life of George Washington
 - Questions for further study

Script, Music and Lyrics by **Michael Tennant**
Orchestration by **Debra E. Brooks** Directed by **Jeffrey A. DeWitt**

©Copyright MMV Michael Tennant/W.R. Scott/LifeHouse Productions, Inc.
All rights reserved.

LIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

- 1732** George Washington was born February 22 in the British colony of Virginia. (In 1732, all of the American colonies belonged to Great Britain. There was no United States!)
- 1743** George Washington's father died when George was 11 years old. After his father's death, George spent much time with Lawrence Washington, his older half-brother.
- 1752** Lawrence Washington died and George inherited Mount Vernon, the home Lawrence built and lived in. George also took over Lawrence's work in the Virginia militia. He also entered politics, serving in the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- 1754** George Washington became well known as a soldier and leader when he commanded the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War. He resigned in 1759 and returned to Mount Vernon.
- 1759** George Washington married Martha Custis. She had two young children who were raised by George and Martha at Mount Vernon.
- 1774/5** George Washington was a Virginia delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses.
- 1775** The Continental Congress appointed George Washington Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.
- 1776** The Revolutionary War began (the 13 Colonies against Britain)
- 1783** The Revolutionary War ended and George Washington returned home to Mount Vernon to be a farmer.
- 1787** Washington was chosen as presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention that met in Philadelphia. Eventually Washington also reluctantly accepted the position of President.
- 1789** George Washington traveled from Mount Vernon to New York City, where he was inaugurated President on April 30.
- 1792** Washington was reelected, but he refused to consider a third term.
- 1797** After serving two terms as President, George Washington again went home to Mount Vernon. John Adams became President.
- 1799** George Washington died at Mount Vernon.

Resources:

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson051.shtml

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/pres/washington/timeline.shtml>

http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/meet_george/index.cfm/pid/382/

GEORGE WASHINGTON CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What famous river was located next to Valley Forge?
The Delaware River
2. T or F: Early in his military career, Washington made a fatal error, resulting in the death of a French Ambassador carrying a friendly message.
True
3. T or F: General Braddock took Washington's advice during the French and Indian war, resulting in a victory for his soldiers.
False. General Braddock refused to listen to Washington and it was a terrible massacre for his men.
4. T or F: Washington's men had plenty of supplies at Valley Forge.
False. They were in desperate need of everything from food to clothing.
5. To whom did Washington write asking for more supplies? Was his request granted?
The Continental Congress. No, they denied his appeal.
6. Why did General Washington return home in the middle of his duty at Valley Forge?
He believed his family was in danger from a squad of Hessians.
7. Did Washington chop down a cherry tree?
No, it is just a story that was made up.
8. What country were the Hessians from?
Germany
9. What was Washington doing on Christmas Day, 1776?
He and his men were crossing the Delaware River to engage in the attack on Trenton.
10. How many of Washington's men died in the attack on Trenton?
Not a single man.
11. After the end of the Revolutionary war, what important position did General Washington accept?
The first President of the United States.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What famous river was located next to Valley Forge?
2. T or F: Early in his military career, Washington made a fatal error, resulting in the death of a French Ambassador carrying a friendly message.
3. T or F: General Braddock took Washington's advice during the French and Indian war, resulting in a victory for his soldiers.
4. T or F: Washington's men had plenty of supplies at Valley Forge.
5. To whom did Washington write asking for more supplies? Was his request granted?
6. Why did General Washington return home in the middle of his duty at Valley Forge?
7. Did Washington chop down a cherry tree?
8. What country were the Hessians from?
9. What was Washington doing on Christmas Day, 1776?
10. How many of Washington's men died in the attack on Trenton?
11. After the end of the Revolutionary war, what important position did General Washington accept?

MORE TO THINK ABOUT

Quotes by George Washington

- *Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation.*
- *My first wish is to see this plague of mankind, war, banished from the earth.*
- *It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.*
- *Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.*

The Truth Behind Familiar Myths

Did George Washington wear wooden teeth?

No. This is one of the most enduring myths about George Washington. He had false teeth, but they were not made of wood. As a matter of fact, the materials used in his false teeth were probably more uncomfortable than wood. They were made of cow's teeth, human teeth, and elephant ivory set in a lead base with springs that allowed him to open and close his mouth. They fit poorly and distorted the shape of his mouth.

Did George Washington really throw a silver dollar across the Potomac River?

No. This popular myth is often told to illustrate his strength. The Potomac River is over a mile wide and even George Washington was not that good an athlete! Moreover, there were no silver dollars when Washington was a young man.

Did George Washington really chop down the cherry tree?

No. Parson Mason Weems, an early biographer of George Washington, invented the story. Ironically, Weems made up the story of a young George Washington saying to his father, "I cannot tell a lie," to illustrate Washington's honesty.

For Further Discussion

1. George Washington was born in the *colony* of Virginia in 1732. What did it mean to be a colony? How many original colonies were there?
2. Washington D.C. hasn't always been the capital of the nation. Find out where the first capital was located and when the location changed.
3. Washington was the only president elected unanimously. What qualities made George Washington a good leader? Do you think Washington's military experience helped him in his presidency? What traits do you think are important for a leader to have?
4. How were wars fought in 1776? What types of weapons were used? How are wars fought today? Describe the differences and similarities between war in the 1700's and today.
5. During Washington's presidency, the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the US Constitution) was adopted. Make a list of these 10 amendments. What is the purpose of the Bill of Rights?