

Americana



Standard of Learning Enrichment

Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Upon completion of this enrichment you will meet (and hopefully exceed) the requirements for the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools, adopted in January 2008, by the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Specifically, you will:

History

K.1 Identifying examples of past events in legends, stories, and historical accounts of George Washington and Betsy Ross

Civics

K.8 Demonstrate that being a good citizen involves:

c) taking care of personal belongings and respecting what belongs to others;

K.9 The student will recognize the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance and know that the president is the leader of the United States.

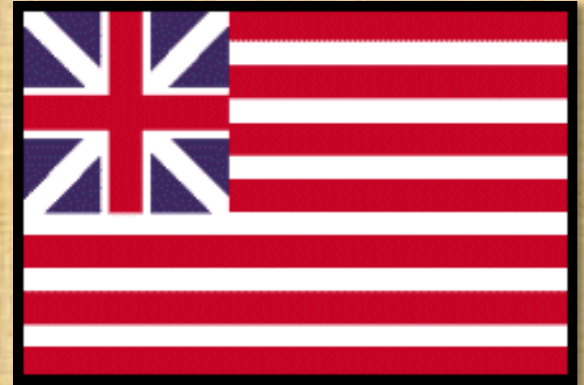
During the American Revolution

When the Declaration of Independence was signed on 4 July 1776, the United States had no official national flag.

The Grand Union Flag was referred to as the "First National Flag"; it was used early in the American Revolutionary War by George Washington. **What flag have you seen that looks similar to the Grand Union Flag?**

In 1777, the new American republic needed a flag. General Washington and others visited Betsy Ross. Washington pulled a folded piece of paper from his inside coat pocket. On it was a sketch of a flag with 13 red and white stripes and 13 stars. Washington asked if Betsy could make a flag from the design.

What flag have you seen that looks similar to the Betsy Ross Flag?



Symbolism of the American Flag

The national flag of the United States of America has 13 horizontal stripes of red alternating with white. A blue rectangle in the canton, also known as the "union", has 50 small, white, five-pointed stars.



The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies that became the first states in the Union.

Nicknames for the flag include the "Stars and Stripes", "Old Glory," and "The Star-Spangled Banner" (also the name of the national anthem). The most famous song about the flag, "Stars and Stripes Forever," was written by the Marine "March King" John Philip Sousa.

Washington's Coat of Arms

The Washington family coat of arms had red-and-white stripes—and stars.

The design has been used since 1938 as the coat of arms and flag of the District of Columbia.

What flag have you seen that has stars and stripes?



Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance

to the flag

of the United States of America,

and to the republic

for which it stands,

one nation

under God,

indivisible,

with liberty and justice for all."

The pledge allegiance is an oath of loyalty to the national flag and the republic of the United States of America

The People: The Story of Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross was born Elizabeth Griscom on 1 January 1752 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was the eighth of 17 children. She grew up in a Quaker household where plain dress and strict discipline dominated her life.

After she finished Quaker public school, she became an apprentice seamstress. She learned to make and repair curtains, bedcovers, tablecloths, rugs, umbrellas and Venetian blinds, as well as working on other projects that involved sewing.



The People: The Story of Betsy Ross



Betsy Ross was married three times and all her husbands died. She had five daughters.

Betsy owned an upholstery business in the heart of Philadelphia. She earned money by repairing uniforms and making tents, blankets, musket balls, and cartridges for the Continental Army. She also made flags for the United States of America, until 1827.

Betsy Ross showed a lot of courage helping the revolution.

What can you do in school to show courage?

What can you do at home to show courage?

The People: What They Wore

Betsy Ross

The Quakers dressed plainly. They believed that clothing should be as simple as possible, in cut and color. Even hats and hairstyles were discouraged. Most clothes were made of gray homespun fabric.

Women's clothing was extremely simple. Their clothing didn't have buttons, pockets, or decorations of any kind. Women wore simple homespun dresses, with aprons and a simple shawl. Their clothing was grey or another dark color. Children dressed like their parents, in very simple clothing.



The People: George Washington

George Washington

George Washington was born on 22 February 1732 on Pope's Creek Estate in Westmoreland, Virginia. George moved to Ferry Farm in Stafford County at age six. He was educated at home by his father and eldest brother.

When George was 11 years old, his father died. George helped his mother manage the Rappahannock River plantation (Ferry Farms). There he learned the importance of hard work and efficiency.



What do you do at home that is hard work?

Washington: A Leader Just Like You



As a young man, Washington worked as a surveyor. In late July 1749, at 17 years of age, George became the first Surveyor of the newly created Culpeper County, Virginia.

Most children of the Virginia gentry were taught at home by private tutors or in local private schools. Boys began school at the age of seven, learning reading, writing, and arithmetic. **How old are you?**

Washington may have attended a school near Ferry Farms, and later another school, either in Fredericksburg, Stafford County, or Westmoreland County.

Washington was good in math and learned basic surveying. He did not learn a foreign language and he did not attend college. He finished school around the age of 15.

Why is it important to go to school?
Why is it important to do well?

Washington: A Leader Just Like You

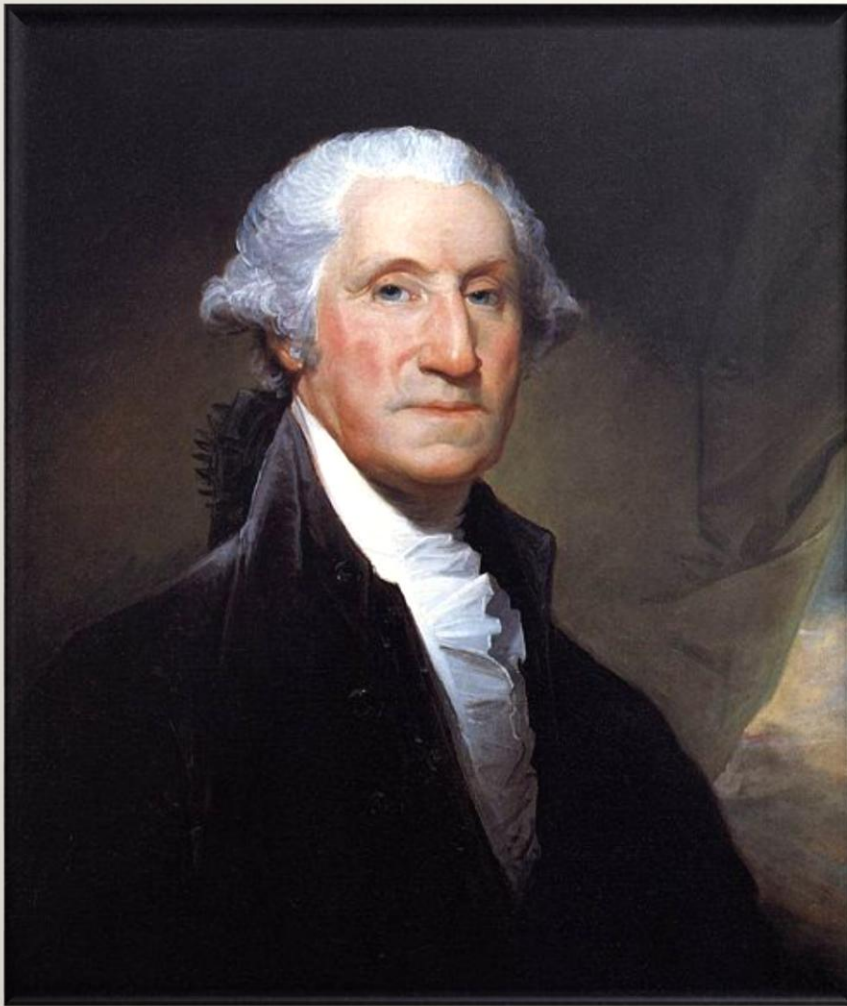


Although barely 27 years old, Washington was the most experienced native military officer in Virginia. In 1759 he married Martha Washington and farmed at his plantation, Mount Vernon.

In June 1775, the Congress commissioned Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. He prevailed over the more numerous, better supplied, and fully trained British Army, because he could adapt to the circumstances better than his opponents. He knew it was more important to keep his army together and to win an occasional victory. This made him popular and won him support from the people.

Washington showed **selflessness**; self-sacrifice, or the readiness to accept hardship upon yourself to help others. He left home to help his country.

Washington: A Leader Just Like You



After the Revolutionary War, Washington devoted most of his time to rebuilding Mount Vernon. But in 1787, Washington helped ratify the proposed Constitution.

Washington served as President for two terms from 1789 to 1797. **He was committed to serving his country. What can you do that shows commitment?**

On 12 December 1799, Washington was caught out in sleet and snow while riding a horse. He became sick and Washington died two days later.

Legends of George Washington

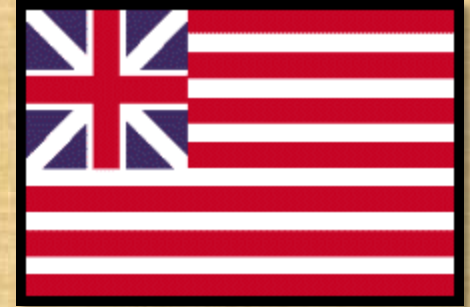
Popular fables illustrate George Washington's youthful honesty, piety, and physical strength. The story that Washington threw a silver dollar across the Potomac River -- an impossible feat -- had its origins in the recollections of a cousin that George could throw a stone across the much narrower Rappahannock River.

The familiar story of Washington and the cherry tree, seem to have been invented by one of Washington's first biographers, Mason Locke Weems.

George Washington has been acclaimed for 200 years as the most important man of our Revolution.



Questions and Answers



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Student Life Applications

Leadership Values: Commitment

History K.1 Identifying examples of past events in legends, stories, and historical accounts of George Washington and Betsy Ross

What did George Washington throw across the Rappahannock River?

Rocks

How old was George Washington when he finished school?

15 years old

What did George Washington ask Betsy Ross asked to make?

The first official US flag

What did George Washington do that showed commitment?

Served the nation

What can you do at school to show commitment?

Finish all your homework

Student Life Applications

Leadership Values: Courage

Civics K.8 Demonstrate that being a good citizen involves taking care of personal belongings and respecting what belongs to others

What did George Washington do after the Revolutionary War ended?

He went home to take care of his plantation at Mount Vernon

How can you take care of your personal belongings at school?

Make sure your belongings are neat and clean

How can you respect what belongs to other people?

Do not take something without asking for permission

What did Besty Ross do that showed courage?

Served the nation

What can you do to show courage in school?

Admit you made a mistake

Student Life Applications

Leadership Values: Selflessness

History K.9 The student will recognize the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance and know that the President is the leader of the United States

Why does the American Flag have 13 stripes?

They represent the 13 colonies

Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

To show our loyalty to the national flag and the republic of the United States of America

Who is the leader of the United States of America?

The President of the United States of America

What does selflessness mean?

Self-sacrifice, or the readiness to accept hardship upon yourself to help others

What can you do to show sacrifice?

Serve your friends, family, school, community, and nation

Further Study

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
Pope's Creek, Virginia

Ferry Farms, Stafford, Virginia

Mount Vernon, Virginia

Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Sources

Grand-Union Flag: <http://www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/Grand-Union.html>

Pledge of Allegiance: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pledge_of_Allegiance

Washington Coat of Arms: A 2002 BBC documentary featuring the town of Selby and Selby Abbey showed the coat of arms with the commentator referring to it as the inspiration for the U.S. Flag, a commonly held belief in Britain.

Betsy Ross: <http://www.betsyrosshouse.org/>

George Washington:

http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/meet_george/index.cfm/ss/21/

Ferry Farms:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Stafford/FerryFarm_photo.htm