



**National Park Service**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL  
MONUMENT**

*PRESENTS*



**The Washingtons in Chesapeake History**

**TEACHER GUIDE**



# National Park Service

## GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT The Washingtons in Chesapeake

### History

#### TEACHER GUIDE FOR GRADES 4 AND 5 CURRICULUM STANDARDS INCLUDED:

##### **VIRGINIA**

##### **VIRGINIA STUDIES**

VS.1 a,b,c,d,f,g,h,I a,b,c,d	VS.2 b,c VS.5 a,b,c	VS.3 a,d,e VS.6 a	VS.4
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##### **ENGLISH**

4.3 a,c,d a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h	5.1 a,c	4.5 a,b,c,d,e,f,g 5.4 a,b,c	4.7 a,b,c,d,e 4.8
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5.6 a,c,d,e,f,g

5.8 a,b,c,e,f,g 5.9 a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h

##### **MARYLAND**

##### **ECONOMICS**

4.0 A1&2a, 4ab, B1ab&3

##### **HISTORY**

5.0 A1ac, C1a, 6.0 A1ab, B1ab, F1

##### **ENGLISH**

1.0 E1, 2.0 A1a

##### **Dear Teacher,**

Thank you for participating in the educational program, “The Washingtons in Chesapeake History.” The George Washington Birthplace NM developed this special program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students based entirely on the Virginia Studies Standards of Learning to enhance their performance in SOL testing. The unique factor of this educational program is that students actually participate in activities that are site specific to the Birthplace of George Washington. This program focuses on the Chesapeake area when the first Washington arrived and colonial life as George Washington knew it. The students understand the character of “the Father of Our Country” as they participate in this educational program.

The teacher guide provides a variety of exercises. The pre-visit exercises feature a word bank, crossword puzzle, timeline and the first rule of civility with an 18<sup>th</sup> century map of Virginia. The park visit provides an advantage for the students to participate in activities as they learn in a National Park setting. The follow-up exercises focus on the students’ critical thinking skills and understanding Colonial Chesapeake life.

We are proud to offer “The Washingtons in Chesapeake History” to assist teachers in conveying the importance of the Chesapeake experience in our American Heritage.

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Follow-Up Exercises 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Visiting the Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please have the students wear comfortable walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather (ex. coat, raincoat). This program includes walking outside, so be prepared for the weather that day.</li> <li>• Teachers must stay with the students at all times for safety. The park recommends 1 chaperone per 10 students.</li> <li>• Students will tour Washington’s birthplace, Memorial House, colonial kitchen, and craftshop/farm area. Please allow 1 hour for completion of the program at the park.</li> <li>• Visitor Center facilities include exhibits, 14 minute movie and restrooms. Snack and drink machines provide the only food services. Giftshop adjacent to Visitor Center.</li> </ul> <p><b>Directions to the Park</b></p> <p>George Washington Birthplace NM is located on Popes Creek Road (Route 204), 38 miles east of Fredericksburg on Route 3, and 24 miles west of Warsaw on Route 3. The park is 16 miles east of the intersection of Route 301 and Route 3. Turn right into the parking lot at the end of Route 204 (at the circle around the monument) and park in the designated area near the Visitor Center.</p>

## **Park Background**

Is your mother or father keeping something valuable for you until you are older? Maybe it is your grandfather's pocket watch that he wanted you to have. It could be your grandmother's necklace or photograph. Your family "safekeeps" this item until you can understand its importance for you and your family. These items tell a story about your family. You will want to keep these "special" family items to pass down to your children.

The National Park Service has the same role your parents do in safekeeping your "special" family items. The National Park Service protects places that have a story to tell about the land, wildlife, or history. These sites are protected because they are "special places" for the people of the United States. The role of the National Park Service has been to protect and preserve (safekeep) these places for the future.

Where George Washington was born is a "special place" for the people of the United States. The birthplace is important because George Washington was the "Father of Our Country." Visitors have traveled to the birthplace of George Washington since 1815. George Washington Birthplace National Monument became a part of the National Park Service in 1930. Across the United States, almost 400 places that tell a story are in safekeeping by the National Park Service. This means that your children and your children's children will be able to visit these sites just as you can.

## **WORD BANK**

indentured servants	representative	England
General Assembly	Rappahannock	bartering
Thomas Jefferson	Potomac	plantations
James Monroe	corn	1789
James Madison	Yorktown	representation
Commander-in-Chief	1619	President
natural resource	tobacco	1783
George Washington	credit	1776
Northern Neck	1788	slaves
1657	debt	

### **Did You Know?**

“George Washington surveyed more than 200 tracts, containing upwards of 66,000 acres of land. Washington made his first map (survey) in 1747 and his last one in 1799, so that he made maps for a period of over half a century. He owned 69,605 acres of land in 37 different locations”. (Martin, Lawrence, The George Washington Atlas Washington, D.C.: United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, 1932, preface.)

Fill in the blanks using the words from the Word Bank, Timeline, and Crossword Puzzle.

### **John Washington Arrives in Virginia**

In colonial times, money was scarce in the Chesapeake. If English money was sent to the Chesapeake, there would not be currency in England. Tobacco was raised by most planters and used in place of money. Farms where planters raised tobacco were called plantations.

John Washington sailed to Westmoreland County, Virginia, on the English merchant ship *Seahorse of London* 50 years after Jamestown was settled. He arrived in Virginia in the year 1657. The ship sailed up the Potomac River into Mattox Creek and took on a cargo of tobacco. When the *Seahorse* was loaded with tobacco, she set sail. The ship ran aground on a sandbar and sank in a storm. After the ship was floated again, second officer John Washington left the ship and stayed in Westmoreland County with Colonel Nathaniel Pope, a local planter. Planters were men that planted tobacco. The tobacco shipped to England would give the planter credit on his account with the merchant.

### **Planter John Washington**

John Washington married Ann Pope (Colonel Pope's daughter) in 1658 and was given 700 acres of land on Mattox Creek (Colonial Beach) as a wedding gift. The land grew tobacco to use as money or sell. Tobacco was the cash crop on the plantation. Cattle, hogs, sheep, fowl, vegetables, and crops such as corn were raised for food.

The work on a plantation required people for raising crops and caring for the livestock. Tobacco needed the most people; it took 1 person to work 2 acres of tobacco. People were brought to the colonies from England with their passage on ship paid by the planters. The people brought over would have to work 4 to 7 years for the planter and receive their "Freedom Dues," a bushel of corn and a suite of clothes. They were called indentured servants and were a cheap source of labor.

The planters (that paid the passage) would receive 50 acres of land per servant or head, causing this to be known as the headright system. John Washington used the headright system for claiming land. He paid the passage from England for 63 indentured servants brought to Virginia. Indentured servants would never own any land in England. If they came to the Chesapeake colonies and worked for a planter for 4 to 7 years, the servants would buy their own land after their indenture. Land was plentiful and cheap. Land was the reason people came to the Chesapeake; land was needed to plant tobacco and make money.

Ships loaded with Africans came to Virginia as early as 1619. Africans were another source of cheap labor for the planters raising tobacco. The first Africans brought over were indentured servants like the people from England. By the 1640s, tobacco was the main cash crop and the planters needed cheap labor to raise it. The planter would make more money by not having to pay the people that worked the tobacco. By 1662, all Africans brought to the Chesapeake became slaves. By the time George Washington was born, there were very few indentured servants. By that time, the plantation workers were almost all slaves. Tobacco (making money) was the reason for slavery. The more slaves a planter owned, the more tobacco could be raised for money.

### **Trade With England**

Planters like John Washington shipped raw materials to England and buy the finished products from English merchants. Colonists in the Chesapeake were not allowed to manufacture finished products. Instead, Virginia and Maryland colonists shipped raw materials like trees to England. Trees are an example of a natural resource. Raw materials and tobacco shipped to England gave a planter credit with the English merchant. The planter ordered fine clothes, china, and household items from the English merchants. The merchants charged the items shipped to the colonies to the planter's account. Money owed to the English merchant was the planter's debt. Money never changed hands between the



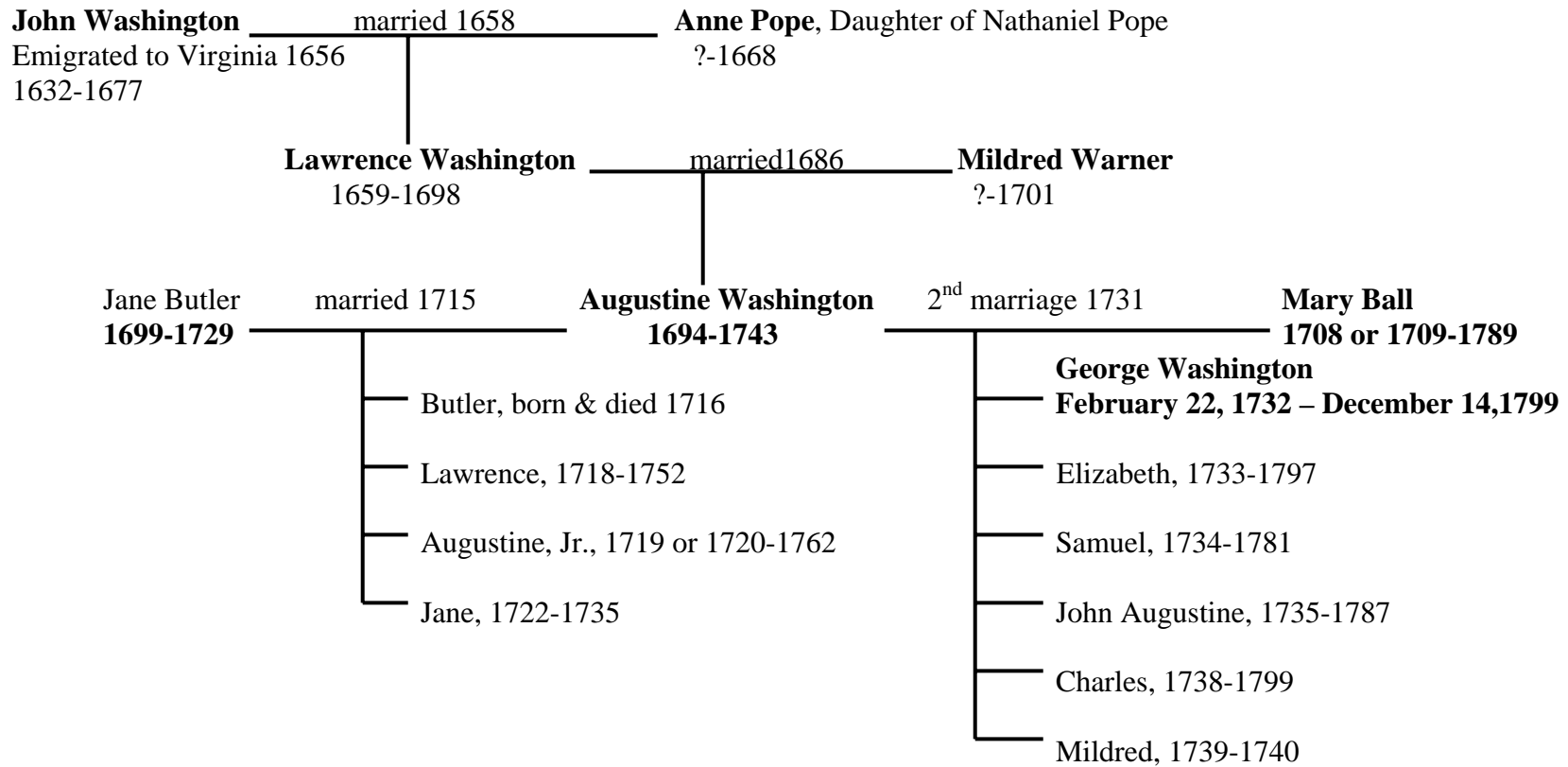
Chesapeake planters and the English merchants. The merchants kept an account book on each planter that showed the credits for tobacco sent to England and the debts for the goods shipped to the plantation.

There were few towns during the early years of settling the Northern Neck. Rivers were the colonial highways and everything moved by ship. The creeks, rivers, and the bay (around the Northern Neck) provided loading and unloading wharfs within short distances of every plantation. Ships brought bring goods and supplies directly to the plantation or a neighbor's wharf. Goods were delivered to the plantation. Towns such as Fredericksburg developed during George Washington's childhood. In these towns, farmers could trade goods such as eggs at the store for nails, sugar, or other goods. Trading goods for goods or services is known as bartering.





## WASHINGTON FAMILY TREE



George Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis on January 6, 1759. She had two children from her previous marriage and was living at the White House Plantation in New Kent County. George raised and loved these children, Jack and Patsy, as his own.

## **Popes Creek Plantation**

Virginia was an English colony. The leader of the colony was called the governor. He was appointed by the King of England. In the Chesapeake, wealth was measured by the amount of land and the number of slaves a person owned. In the 1700's about 300 families had carved large plantations out of the wilderness and had formed an upper class that ruled Virginia.

Rivers were important to the colonists in Tidewater Chesapeake areas. The James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers were the colonial highways to bring news and goods from the outside world. The land named the Northern Neck was located between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. This tidewater plantation system in the Northern Neck produced 3 of the first 5 presidents: George Washington, James Madison, James Monroe.

Virginia produced 4 of the first 5 presidents. Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States and a Virginian.

Thomas Lord Fairfax owned the Northern Neck of Virginia. Over 5 million acres of land had been granted to his family for their loyalty to the King of England. Lord Fairfax wanted people to settle in the Northern Neck. The colonists would pay quit rents (yearly fee like rent to own) for 7 years to own land in the Northern Neck. The more people that settled in the Northern Neck, the more money Lord Fairfax made.

Popes Creek Plantation was located on the Potomac River in Westmoreland County. Augustine Washington had over 20 slaves and 4 indentured servants working on Popes Creek. The plantation included farmed hogs, cattle, sheep, geese and fowl. These animals were farmed for food and clothing. Oxen were made to pull wagons and horses were used for riding.

The Native Americans had introduced a crop that colonials had started to raise on their plantations to feed the people and animals: corn. The plantation was like a village with the Washington family, indentured servants, and slaves. Ships brought needed goods right to the plantation wharf on the Potomac River.

## **George Washington's Youth**

The eldest child of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington was George, born in 1732. In 1735, the Washington family moved from Popes Creek to Little Hunting Creek. The Washingtons moved to Ferry Farm (near Fredericksburg) on the Rappahannock River in 1738.

When George was 11 years old, his father, Augustine, died. George inherited Ferry Farm where he lived with his mother and siblings. This plantation was not large enough to support a planter's lifestyle in Virginia. Mary Ball Washington could not afford to send George to England for an education. At the age of thirteen, George Washington began studying geometry and surveying using a set of surveyor's instruments from the storehouse at Ferry Farm. Virginia needed surveyors to measure land and land was plentiful. Surveying was a planter's trade like doctors and lawyers.

Young George Washington met Thomas Lord Fairfax, owner of the Northern Neck. Lord Fairfax enjoyed fox hunting and riding horses. George Washington was an excellent horseman and could keep up with the hounds during the fox chase. Fairfax liked George Washington and sent him on his first surveying job at the age of 16. One year later, George was appointed surveyor for Culpeper County. He made good money as a surveyor and was known for his fairness, honesty, and dependability. It was during this time that Washington began to buy and sell land, a habit he would continue throughout his life. When George was 18 years of age, he bought 1459 acres of land in Frederick County (Winchester, Virginia). He would be elected to the House of Burgesses from Frederick County in 8 years. This would be the beginning of Washington's political career.

## **Tobacco Agents**

In the fall, after the tobacco had been cut, dried, and packed for shipping in barrels, slaves rolled the 1000-pound barrels down to the dock on the Potomac River. It was loaded onto ships bound for England. The colonists received a credit for their tobacco. In other words, colonists sold their tobacco to an agent who was in England, but they didn't get cash for it. They got credit instead.

An agent was a middleman: he didn't make the product (tobacco) and he wasn't the person who bought it. He just handled the tobacco, getting it from the seller (the colonist) to someone who wished to buy it in England. When George Washington was older, he used Robert Cary as his agent, but George always worried that Mr. Cary might not be giving him a good deal.

Colonists also sent a list of goods that they wished to buy from England along with the ship. The agent sold the tobacco once it arrived in England. The price it sold for could be different each year. When would the colonists find out how much money they got for their tobacco?  
the next year when the ship returned

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In his ledgers, the agent recorded how much money the colonist earned from the tobacco. Then the agent bought the goods that the colonist asked for. Sometimes he couldn't find everything. Sometimes the quality was bad, or the price was high. When would the colonists find out what kinds of goods the agent was able to get them? The next year when the ship returned.

The agent made a profit from doing this work. George Washington and many of the colonists didn't like this system. If there was no middleman, there would be more profit for the people who made the product: the colonists. Eventually they fought the American Revolution, in part to change this system.

## **George Washington: Soldier, Planter, and Statesman**

When George Washington was 20, Governor Dinwiddie appointed him as major in the Virginia Militia. Also that year, George Washington's older half-brother Lawrence, owner of Mount Vernon, died. Augustine Washington had stated in his will that if Lawrence died without children the property would go to George. Mount Vernon became George Washington's home when he was twenty-two.

In 1754, George Washington fought his first battle against the French and Indians in Jumonsville, Pennsylvania. He surrendered Fort Necessity to the French on July 4 that same year. The following year, the French and Indian War was formally declared. During the French and Indian War, George Washington served with honor and courage. In 1758, he retired from the Virginia Militia to his farm at Mount Vernon.

After the French and Indian War, England (Parliament) wanted to tax the colonies heavily for the debt of the war. The colonists believed there could not be taxation without representation in Parliament. The colonists believed that only the local governments had the power to tax. Parliament believed that it had the right to tax the colonists. The colonists held meetings in Philadelphia to discuss the problems with England. In 1775, George Washington was appointed Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army. On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their freedom with the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. General George Washington defeated Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. While the surrender of Cornwallis' army ended the last major conflict, the Revolutionary War did not end until 1783.

After the war was over, General Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief in Annapolis, Maryland. This was George Washington's greatest single act, for not since the days of the early republics of Greece and Rome had a military leader handed the power back to the people. George Washington read his resignation to the Continental Congress and retired to Mount Vernon.



George Washington was called back to public service to preside over the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Washington's leadership led him to become the "Father of Our Country." One of Washington's friends and a fellow Virginian, James Madison is considered the "Father of the United States Constitution." The presence of George Washington at the meetings held the states together because everyone trusted him. The Constitution was ratified in 1788. Ratification of the Constitution required 9 of the 13 states to adopt it.

In 1789, George Washington became the first President of the United States. George Washington served 2 terms as president and then retired, setting the example for future presidents. Twice George Washington gave his power back to the government (people) by resigning as Commander-in-Chief and later as President. He died at Mount Vernon in 1799. In George Washington's will he freed his slaves. George Washington was the only founding father to free all of his slaves.

## VIRGINIA TIMELINE

1607	Jamestown settlement
1619	<u>First General Assembly-House of Burgesses</u> Africans brought to Jamestown
1658	John Washington settles in Westmoreland County
1662	Slavery Legal
1718	Augustine Washington purchases Popes Creek Plantation
1726	Augustine moves his family to Popes Creek
1732	George Washington born at Popes Creek
1749	George Washington appointed Surveyor for Culpeper Co.
1752	Governor Dinwiddie appoints George Washington Major in the Virginia Militia
1775	April 19, Lexington and Concord June 15, George Washington elected Commander-in-Chief
1781	<u>October 19, Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown</u>
1783	Revolutionary War ends George Washington resigns as Commander-in-Chief
1787	Washington presides over Constitutional Convention James Madison drafted U.S. Constitution
1788	U.S. Constitution Ratified
1789	<u>George Washington elected President</u>
1797	George Washington resigns as President
1799	G. Washington dies at Mt. Vernon and frees his slaves in his will.

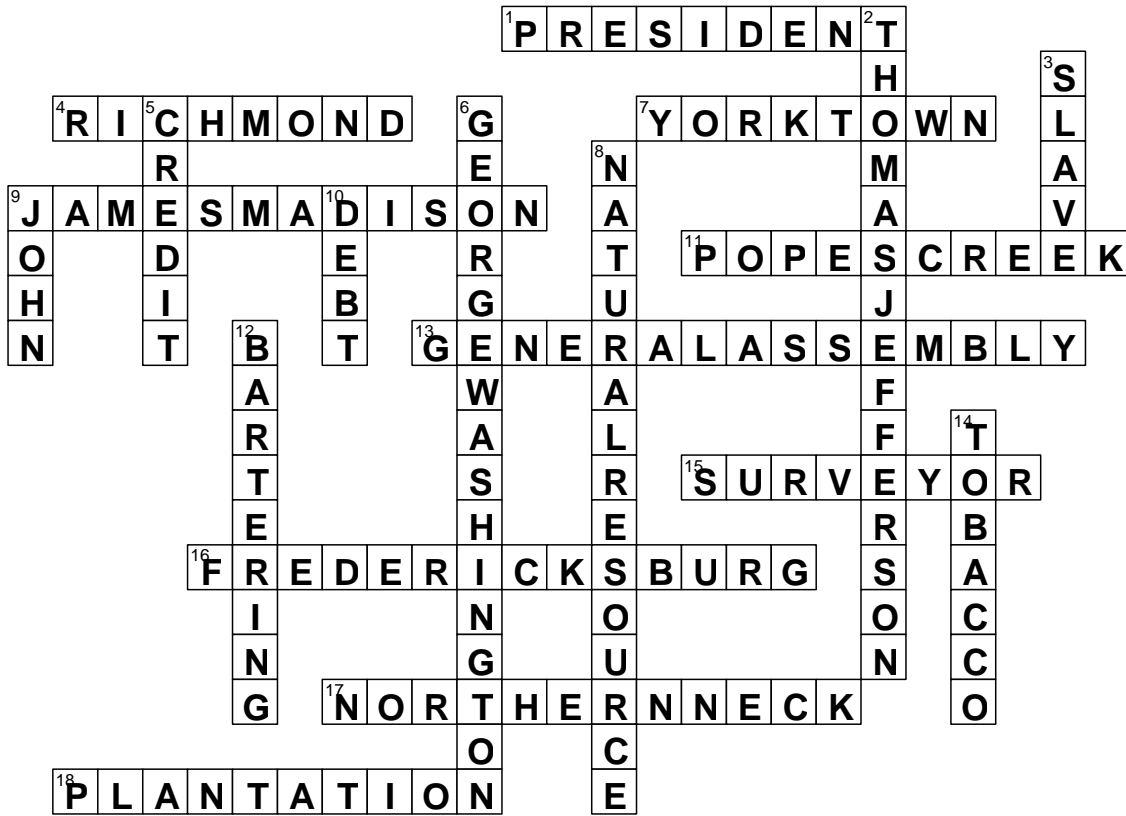
### COMPLETE THE TIMELINE WITH THE EVENTS BELOW

October 19, Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

First General Assembly-House of Burgesses

George Washington elected President

# Virginia History Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 1 George Washington was the first
- 4 city on the fall line of the James River
- 7 Lord Cornwallis surrendered British forces to General Washington
- 9 Father of the U.S. Constitution
- 11 Plantation where George Washington was born
- 13 Oldest lawmaking body in the western hemisphere
- 15 George Washington's first career
- 16 city on the fall line of the Rappahannock River
- 17 Land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers
- 18 Farm where tobacco was raised

## DOWN

- 2 wrote the Declaration of Independence
- 3 African sold in Virginia to work against his will
- 5 Merchant would give planter this when tobacco arrived in England
- 6 Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army
- 8 Raw materials such as trees
- 9 First Washington in Colonial Virginia
- 10 Merchant charged planter's account for goods shipped to Virginia
- 12 Trading goods for goods or services
- 14 Used as money in Colonial Virginia

This is a portion of the 1751 *Map of the Most Inhabited Parts of Virginia* by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson. Identify each river pointed out with a red arrow on the map. Write the name of the river on the line beside the arrow: York, James, Potomac, Rappahannock. Richmond and Fredericksburg are located on 2 of the rivers' fall lines. Mark these cities as close as you can on the map. Draw a line across the map to show where the Shenandoah Valley lies.



## George Washington and Plantation Math

Like any planter, George Washington had to learn math to run a plantation. He became very good at math. Tobacco was the cash crop.

There are about 1000 pound of tobacco in a barrel. If 1 pound of tobacco sells for 1 pound of British sterling (money, something like our dollars), how many pounds of British sterling would you get for a barrel of tobacco? 1 pound sterling x 1000 pounds tobacco = 1000 pound British sterling

You won't know what price you got until the ship returns the next year. What if the price drops? You'll earn less than you thought you would.

What happens if the total cost of the goods you requested from England cost more than you earn from the tobacco for the year? You'll go into debt.

What options did the colonists have if they didn't like the price they got for their tobacco? Write a letter to complain, protest, eventually they started a revolution (American Revolution)

What options do you have today if you don't like the quality of something you buy? Send it back, boycott that product, buy from somebody else



Emma and India  
Red Devon cows

The Washingtons, like their neighbors, grew corn for food. They also chose to raise and eat cattle. It takes much more land to raise cattle for food than to grow grains like corn or wheat for food.

Cows have to eat about 10 pounds of grain to grow every 1 pound of meat on their bodies. How much



grain does a cow have to eat to become 1000 pounds? 10 pounds grain x 1000 pounds = 10,000 pounds of grain.

If you had 10,000 pounds of grain, and the people ate the grain, how many pounds of food would the people have? 10,000 pounds of food

If you had 10,000 pounds of grain, the cows ate the grain, then the people ate the cows (meat), how many pounds of food would the people have? 10,000 pounds of grain divided by 10 pounds = 1000 pounds of food (meat)



How can you feed more people? What choices can you make?

Eat less meat, depend more on a plant-based diet.

The plantation economy depended on the labor of slaves. Eventually George Washington decided he didn't like this system, and provided for many of his slaves to be freed after he and Martha Washington died. For most of his life though, George Washington, like his neighbors, used slaves to work his plantations.

What type of work do you think the plantation owners did? Oversaw things, managed the work, kept track of the finances, made decisions

What type of work do you think the slaves did? Physical labor, working in tobacco fields or other physical tasks on the plantation

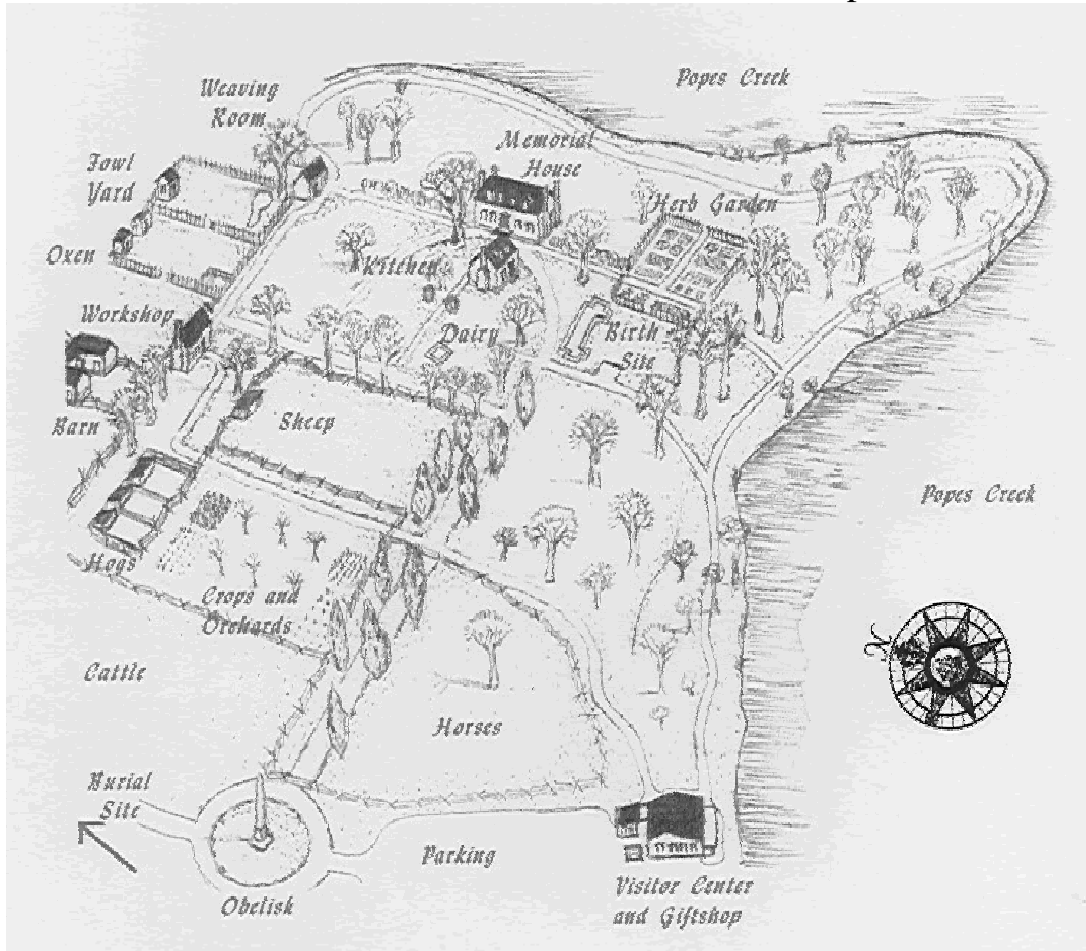
When slaves were working on plantations, who got the profit from their labor? Plantation owners

Was it fair? No, but that is the social system in which George Washington lived.

## George Washington Birthplace NM

### Map and Facilities for Park Visit

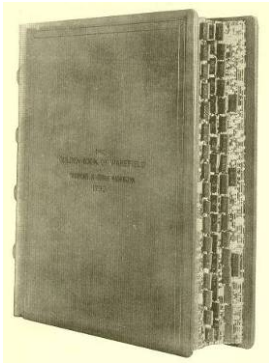
#### Historic Area Map



- One and a half hour educational program conducted in the Historic Area. This program focuses on plantation life for the Washingtons and their slaves. For students' safety, do not feed or pet the animals.
- A ranger will meet your bus at the curb. Please have students remain on the bus for a moment while the ranger briefly speaks with all the adults at the curb about what to expect for the day.
- The Historic Area has no restrooms. Please use the Visitor Center restrooms from the outside entrance (left side) upon arrival.
- Nature Trail (one mile long) is near the picnic grounds (turn right), on the way to the Washington burial grounds.
- Picnic grounds have restrooms that are open April to November.
- Potomac River beach (no swimming allowed) is past the Washington burial grounds, at the end of the road.
- Remember—this is a National Park. All natural and archeological items are protected including shark's teeth, shells and pottery shards. Leave No Trace philosophy: Please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

## FOLLOW-UP EXERCISES

Follow-Up Activities are to be completed after your visit to the park.



Planters kept a ledger, or book, where they kept track of their purchases and tobacco sales.

Write a paragraph about a merchant ledger. Include details such as:

- who used it
- what was listed under the 'Sold' or 'Credits' side
- what type of things were listed under the 'Bought' side
- where did the Bought items come from, and was the tobacco sold to
- why did they keep track of these things

Answer:

The planters used a ledger to keep track of their finances. It was probably used in their house, maybe in an office. Tobacco was the only item sold. The planters bought clothes, medicines, tools, seeds, and other supplies that they would need for the entire year with the credit from the tobacco. The goods that they bought came from England, which is where the tobacco went as well. Planters kept track of what they bought and sold so they would know how much money they were making, or losing.



This is a hoe used to chop weeds, to hill up dirt around crops, and to cook. Write a paragraph about this tool.

Include details such as:

- the main crops hilled up with this tool
- who used it
- who supervised the people using this tool
- where did colonists get the idea of hilling up soil around their crops
- how many acres of tobacco could one person tend with a tool like this

Answer:

The hoe was used to hill up crops like corn and tobacco. Slaves and indentured servants used the hoe in the fields. The planter supervised the slaves as they worked. The colonists got the idea from Native Americans, who used this method for their own crops. Each slave could tend about 1 to 2 acres of tobacco, using a hoe for tilling and mounding, and their hands for other tasks such as picking off tobacco worms and pinching the plant tops off.



This is a tobacco plant. See how the dirt is “hilled up” around the plant to keep moisture near the roots. Write a paragraph about tobacco. Include details such as:

- why the colonists raised tobacco,
- who worked the tobacco in the fields
- who sold the tobacco
- who bought the tobacco
- how the income from tobacco was used

Answer:

Tobacco was raised for money. Virginia survived as a colony because of tobacco (as a cash crop). Tobacco was the reason for slavery because it took one person to work two acres. Planters (masters of the plantations) had indentured servants and slaves work the tobacco. The planter sold the tobacco to merchants in England. The credit (or money) that the planter had from the tobacco would be used to purchase luxury items for the ladies and house (example ladies' dresses, fine cloth such as silk or linen to make into clothes, furniture for the master's house).



## **QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Topics to Integrate with Teacher's Curriculum after completing the workbook-Using Your Textbook

1. What role did the tobacco economy have in leading to the American Revolution?
2. By the time of the American Revolution, what had happened to tobacco as the cash crop?
3. After the American Revolution, what changes were taking place in the northern states for people to make a living. How would this effect the outcome of the War Between the States?
4. Slavery in Virginia changed after the American Revolution. Discuss the attitudes in the North and South towards slavery leading to the war.
5. President George Washington did not believe in political parties. Discuss the beginnings of the first political parties.