



National Park Service

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL
MONUMENT**

PRESENTS

The Washingtons in Chesapeake History



STUDENT WORKBOOK



Dominique
the Rooster



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Dear Students,

Thank you for participating in the educational program "The Washingtons in Chesapeake History." This workbook contains exercises that will help you understand the Virginia Studies Standards of Learning. The visit to George Washington Birthplace National Monument will provide insight into Washington the man and Colonial Chesapeake life.

"The Washingtons in Chesapeake History" was created by George Washington Birthplace NM. This program has been developed to promote student learning in a National Park setting. George Washington Birthplace NM is a wonderful place to learn about our first President and the Colonial Chesapeake.

Vidal Martinez

Superintendent

Helpful hints for visiting the park:

Wear comfortable walking shoes

Wear seasonal clothes for being outside

Complete the pre-visit exercises

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 Work 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

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 _____. The ship sailed up the Potomac River into Mattox Creek and took on a cargo of _____. 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 _____. The tobacco shipped to _____ would give the planter _____ 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 _____ 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 _____. 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 _____. 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

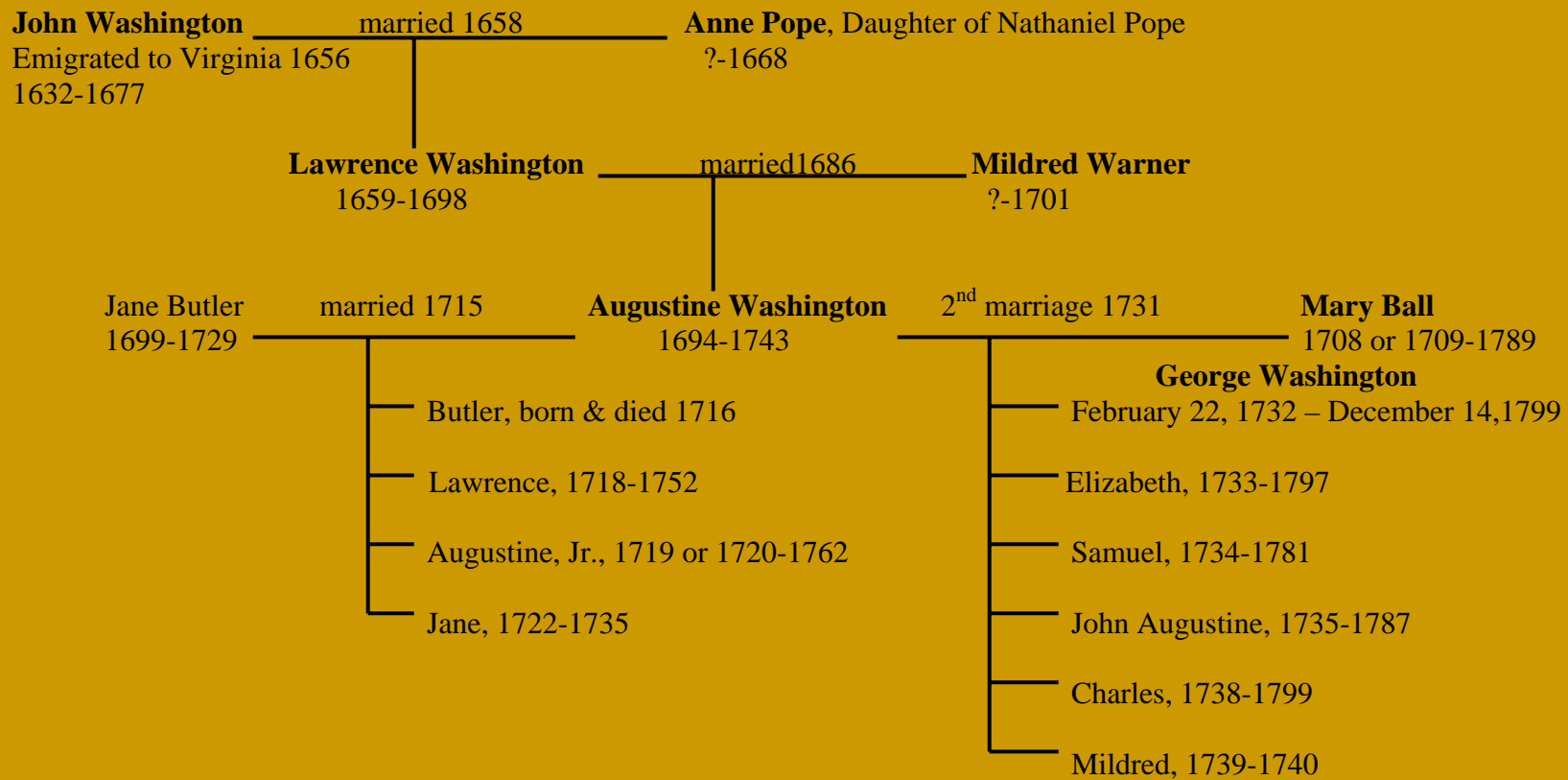
Planters like John Washington shipped raw materials to England and buy the finished products from English merchants. Colonists in the Chesapeake area were not allowed to manufacture finished products. Instead, Virginia and Maryland colonists shipped raw materials like trees to England. Trees are an example of a _____. Raw materials and tobacco shipped to England would give 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 _____. 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 bay (around the Northern Neck) provided loading and unloading wharfs within short distances of every plantation. Ships brought 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 _____.



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 King of England appointed Virginia's governor. 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 _____ Rivers. This tidewater plantation system in the Northern Neck produced 3 of the first 5 presidents: _____, _____.

Virginia produced 4 of the first 5 presidents. _____ 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: _____. 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_____. 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?

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 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 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 of the Continental Army. On July 4, _____, the thirteen colonies declared their freedom with the Declaration of Independence.

_____ wrote the Declaration of Independence. General George Washington defeated Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of _____ in 1781. While the surrender of Cornwallis' army ended the last major conflict, the Revolutionary War did not end until_____.

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, _____ 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 _____. Ratification of the Constitution required 9 of the 13 states to adopt it.

In _____, George Washington became the first _____ 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 provide in his will that all of his slaves were to be freed.



VIRGINIA TIMELINE

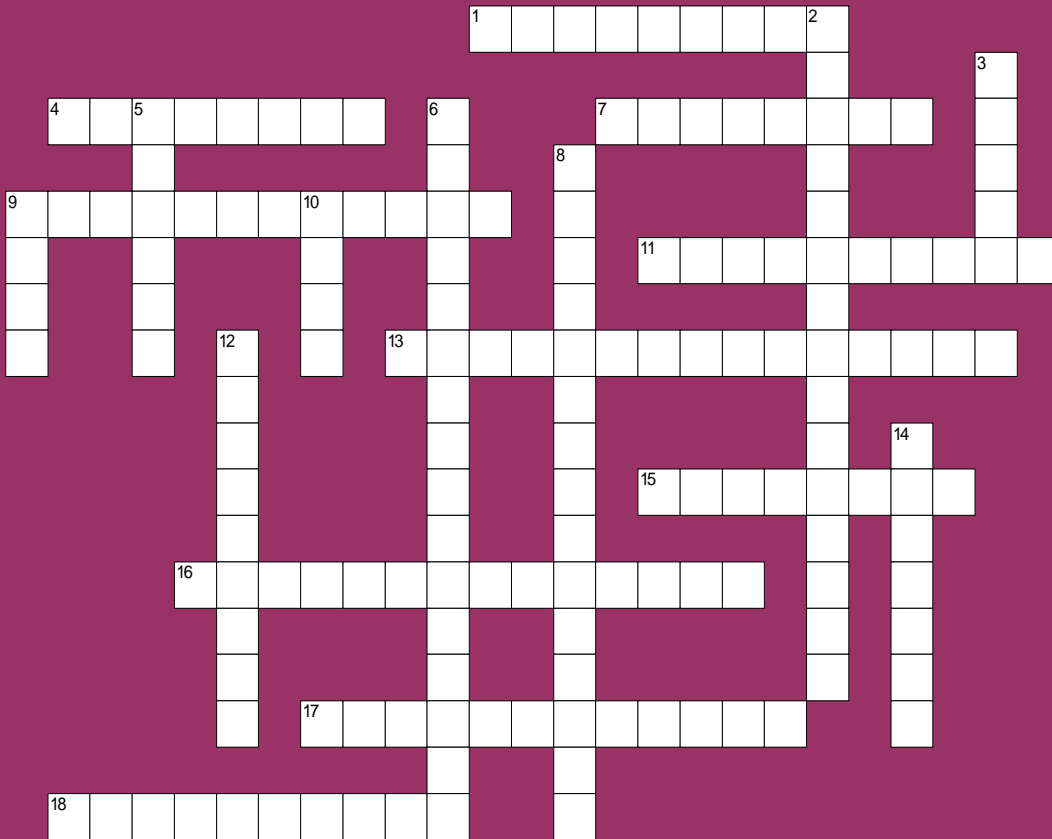
1607	Jamestown settlement
1619	Africans brought to Jamestown
1658	John Washington settles in Westmoreland County
1662	Slavery Legal
1718	Augustine Washington purchases Popes Creek Plantation
1726	Augustine moves his family to Popes Creek
1732	George Washington born at Popes Creek
1749	George Washington 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	
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	
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



Constructed using Crossword Weaver

ACROSS

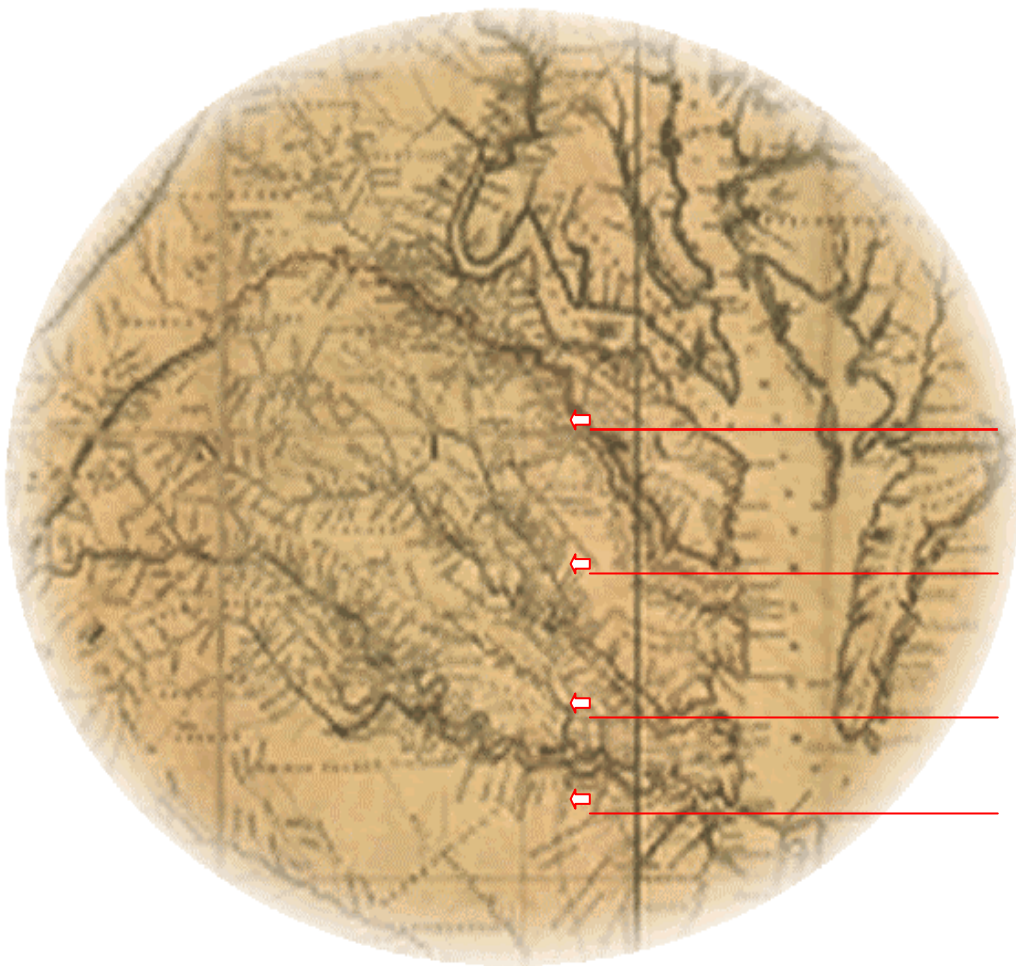
- 1 George Washington was the first
- 4 city on the fall line of the James River
- 7 Lord Cornwallis surrendered British forces to General Washington
- 9 Father of the U.S. Constitution
- 11 Plantation where George Washington was born
- 13 Oldest lawmaking body in the western hemisphere
- 15 George Washington's 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?

You won't know what price you got until the ship returns the next year. What if the price drops?

What happens if the total cost of the goods you requested from England cost more than you earn from the tobacco for the year?

What options did the colonists have if they didn't like the price they got for their tobacco?

What options do you have today if you don't like the quality of something you buy?



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?

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

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?



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

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?

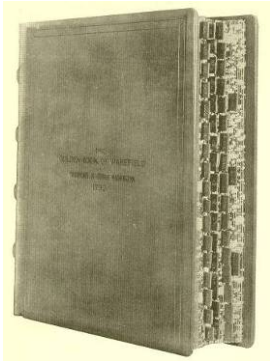
What type of work do you think the slaves did?

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

Was it fair?

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



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



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