

Teacher Guide for COBBLESTONE, *The Many Faces of George Washington*

November 2007

Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator who lives in Toronto, prepared this guide.

Prior Knowledge:

- Before reading this issue of *Cobblestone*, discover what the students already know about George Washington. This activity could be done in small groups with each group then taking turns to report to the whole class. Or, you might just hold a class discussion and record the information on the chalkboard.
- The information about George Washington from the previous activity could be kept on experience chart paper and added to as the articles are read. During or after the issue is completed, develop a type of Trivial Pursuit game. One question about Washington would be put on a small card and the answer listed on the back. The students could make these cards and quiz each other about the information that they have learned.

Family Matters (pages 2-5)

- The article suggests that little is known about Washington's early years. After reading the information discuss what life might have been like for a young lad during the 1700's.
- Ask the students to write a "Day in the Life of Young Washington" passage.
- The students depending on their knowledge of the time period, might be able to keep a journal of his activities for a week.
- Questions to be considered:
 - Describe the members of Washington's family.
 - Why did his uncle and father discourage George's interest in the navy?
 - Why do you think that surveying was important to Washington?
 - Describe why Washington was a good sport.
 - Explain why Washington is called the "Father of Our Country".

Manners Matter (page 6)

- Have fun matching the manners. If possible research some of Washington's other "Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour".
- Students might have some fun creating other rules for manners using a similar style of language.

Learning the Soldier's Life (pages 7-10)

- The use of atlases or a large wall map would be beneficial during the reading of this article.
- Possible questions for this article:
 - Why do you think that the French were interested in the Ohio Valley area?
 - What orders were given to Washington?
 - Provide reasons why Washington's journey to and from the meeting with the French was so difficult.
 - Why was Washington called "the spark that ignited...conflict..."? Suggest why Washington's fort was called Necessity.

Explain why Washington was frustrated with Major General Braddock's advance to the Ohio Valley?
Give two reasons why the French had an advantage over the British on July 8, 1755.
How did Washington spend his time between 1755 and 1758?
Why did the French desert Fort Duquesne?

Gentleman Farmer (pages 11-13)

- Possible questions for this article:
 - Explain how Washington came to own a large tract of land.
 - Why would Washington believe that land was the best investment?
 - How did he prepare to be a farmer?
 - Explain why Washington decided to stop growing Tobacco.
 - Washington stated "Buy nothing that you can make yourselves." Explain how Washington followed his own advice.
 - Why is crop rotation important to land use? How did Washington make this work?
 - Provide reasons to tell why Washington was an inventor.
 - Explain why Washington was a good manager.
- Write an essay in which you prove that Washington was innovative.
- Creative Work:
 - Create advertisements to sell or encourage other farmers to adopt some of Washington's new ideas for farming. Include drawings were possible.
 - Write newspaper articles describing some of Washington's accomplishments.

Mount Vernon (pages 12-13)

- Ideas for discussion-
 - The meaning of "cash" rich
 - The size of Mount Vernon in acreage
 - The vision shown by Washington
 - The creation of a "gentleman's seat"
 - More information from Pages 39-41 and/or www.mountvernon

Commander in Chief (pages 14-17)

- Persuasive Writing:
 - Write a letter to the Continental Congress members suggesting why George Washington should be chosen as Commander in Chief. Use the information that you have read from the previous articles in this magazine.
- Make a list to indicate why Washington found his army to be disheartening.
- The battle that took place at Harlem Heights seemed to indicate a change in Washington's Continental Army. Why might this statement be true?
- Washington stated "I think the game is pretty near up." Why did he feel that way?
- Describe some of Washington's strategic battle plans.
- Explain how Washington was indeed a Loyal Leader. (page 17)

Valley Forge Visitor (page 18)

- Write a report from Washington to Congress describing the winter conditions at Valley Forge and asking for help.

- Explain why Martha’s presence at Valley Forge would be of help to Washington.
- State why her presence would benefit the army.

A National Symbol (pages 19-21)

- The article states that Washington was somewhat reluctant to begin his term as president. Explain why he might feel that way.
- Suggest why Mount Vernon kept pulling Washington back to its land. He had retired from a couple of jobs much to the surprise of others.
- Explain why he felt that people had to “forget their local prejudices”?
- Make a list indicating why Washington was the best man to be the president at that time.
- Even enroute to his inauguration, George was trying to help/unite others. Explain what this means.

Leaders with Vision (pages 22-23)

- Divide the class into several groups. Assigned one of the three leaders to each group. Ask the students to read and summarize the information in their own words. They will then report orally that information to the entire class.

Untrodden Ground (pages 26-30)

- During the 1700’s people in America did not trust “leaders with too much power”. First, explain why this was the case before the people came to North America. Secondly, since coming to America, why were the people suspicious of powerful leaders?
- The role of first president would be both a positive and a negative experience. Create a chart to list the various possibilities.

Positive Aspects of First Presidency	Negative Aspects of First Presidency

- Write a paragraph using your own words to describe how Washington tried to make the office of the president highly respected.
- Compare the different political views listed in the article. This could be listed on the chalkboard with the class offering the information.
- Divide the class into various groups. Ask each group to read and report on one of the following topics:
 - The continued presence of the British
 - The Jay Treaty
 - The British and French conflict
 - The Whiskey Tax and Rebellion
 - The Native American independence
 - The Capitol building
 - Washington’s farewell address
 - The birth of political parties
- The Whiskey Rebellion might be left until the article, *The Whiskey Rebellion*, on page 47 is read, as it is a more informative piece. Or include the short assignment at this time and use the longer article for further discussion.

George Washington, Foster Parent (pages 31-33)

- Explain why Washington was faced with a dilemma concerning Lafayette's request.
- Georges was safe while he stayed in America. What important lesson did he take back to France?

A Subject of Regret (pages 36-38)

- Provide 4 reasons why Washington owned slaves.
- Explain why Washington came to a different understanding about slavery while he lived in the north.
- Explain how Washington was committed to the well being of his slaves.