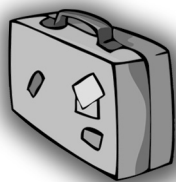




*The Mystery at*  
**Mount  
Vernon**



**Teacher's Guide**  
by  
**Carole Marsh**

Editorial Assistant: Susan Walworth • Art & Design: Randolyn Friedlander

©2010 Carole Marsh/Gallopade International/Peachtree City, GA

Permission is hereby granted to the individual purchaser or classroom teacher to reproduce worksheets, quizzes, and activity pages (only) for individual or classroom use only.

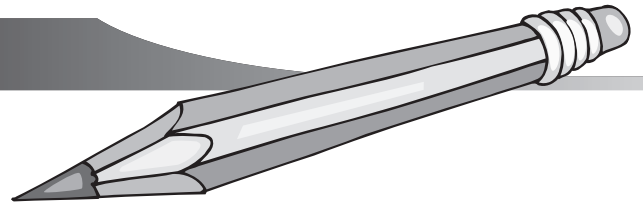
Reproduction of these materials for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited.

No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the publisher.



GALLOPADE  
INTERNATIONAL





### **Dear Teacher,**

In 1979, I began writing children’s mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

How fortunate we are as Americans to be able to visit the home of our first president! George Washington is a figure of such mythic proportions that his humanity often gets lost. A visit to Mount Vernon can restore that humanity. At this beautiful place, George Washington becomes a “real” person, not just a picture in a history book.

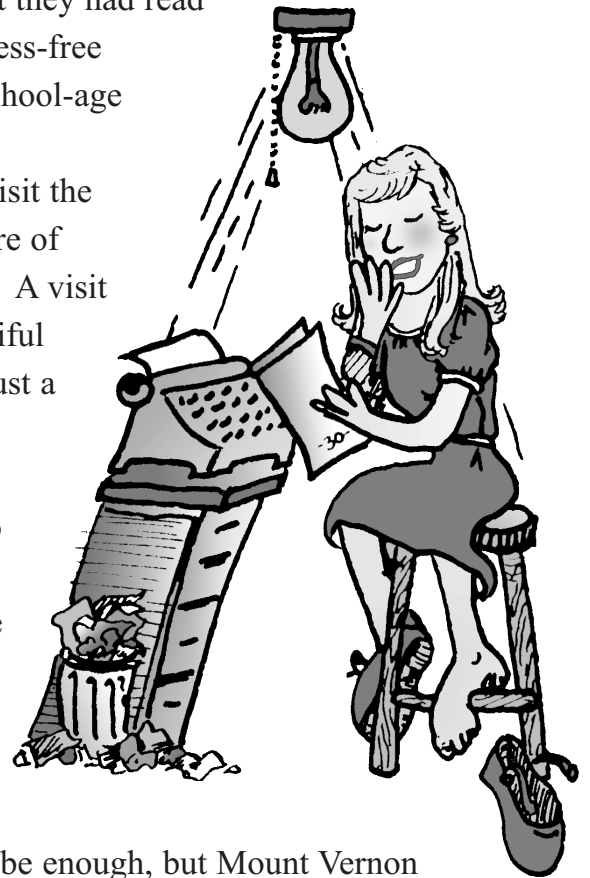
Washington said of Mount Vernon, “No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this.” To walk where Washington walked, see where he slept, and gaze at the land and river he loved, make the sacrifices he made for our country seem even more poignant. Mount Vernon also gives us a peek at the softer side of the heroic general as a loving husband to Martha and stepfather to her children.

Insights into America’s most historic figure would be enough, but Mount Vernon offers many more history lessons. Here, you can also learn how people in the 18th century grew and preserved their food, made their clothes, and yes, even how they went to the bathroom in the days before indoor plumbing! Mount Vernon also offers important lessons on slavery. And to see Washington’s famous dentures and learn of the pain and agony he endured with his dental problems can make everyone appreciate how far dentistry has come!

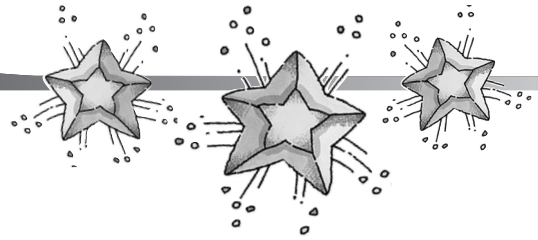
The best thing about this “living history” museum called Mount Vernon, however, is that adults and children can learn side by side!

Enjoy your Mount Vernon mystery and studies,

*Carole Marsh*



# Table of Contents



<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Page-by-Page Guide</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Discussion Questions</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Geography: Find It!</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Mathematics: Calculate It!</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>English: Write It!</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Vocabulary: Use It!</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Art: Create It!</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Science: Cook It!</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Acrostic Activity</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Word Search</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Chapter 1-3 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Chapter 4-6 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Chapter 7-10 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Chapter 11-14 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Chapter 15-18 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Chapter 19-22 Worksheet</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Character Matching End-of-Unit Quiz</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>True or False End-of-Unit Quiz</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Answer Key</b> .....	<b>32</b>

# Page-by-Page Guide

<b>Page #</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b><u>EXPLORE!</u></b>
11	Landmarks	The beautiful plantings of cherry trees in Washington, D.C., began after the people of Japan sent cherry trees as a gift of friendship to the people of the United States. Name another famous American landmark that was a gift from another country.
12	Famous Buildings	The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. It contains millions of books, pictures, and recordings!
13	Vocabulary	A hatchet is an ax with a short handle. It is normally used with only one hand.
14	History	Grant wore a wig to look like George Washington. Although many men in the 1700s wore wigs, Washington did not. When he was young, his hair was reddish-brown.
15	Vocabulary	Historians enjoy studying about all things of the past. You could say they are history experts.
15	Legends	A legend is a story passed down through generations of people. Had you ever heard the legend of the young George Washington chopping down the cherry tree? Did you believe it was true?
15	Vocabulary	To be mischievous is to be naughty in a playful way.
16	Weather	Ominous means the feeling that something bad may happen. Ominous clouds usually mean bad weather is on the way. What do you think the old man's warning means, and why is it as ominous as the clouds?
17	Figure of Speech	Can you name the figure of speech that compares two things using like or as? Mimi and Papa were lagging behind Christina and Grant like Sunday drivers. It means they were going slow and enjoying the scenery like someone taking a Sunday afternoon drive.
18	Architecture	The red roof of Mount Vernon is made of wooden shingles painted red. Why do you think wood was used?
21	Feelings	Christina and Grant sometimes argue and tease each other. When Christina discovers Grant is missing, how does she show how she really feels about her brother?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 21 Fashion Boys in the 18<sup>th</sup> century wore knee breeches that stopped just past the knee and were closed by a row of buttons. White or light colored stockings were worn instead of socks. Do you think boys today would like to wear knee breeches?
- 23 Family Eleanor doesn't seem to like her name and says that her nickname is Nellie. Do you have a nickname? Would you rather be called by your nickname or your given name?
- 24 Military What was the Continental Army? Who were the soldiers in this army?
- 25 Myth Do you know what a myth is? How do you think the myth about George Washington wearing wooden teeth got started?
- 26 History The clue looked like it was written on parchment paper. Do you know what the Declaration of Independence was written on?
- 28 Empathy Empathy means to understand what someone else is feeling. Do you think the interactive theatre made Christina feel empathy for the soldiers? Have you ever felt empathy for someone?
- 29 Vocabulary Christina whined, or complained in a childlike way, that there wasn't enough time to see everything. Do you ever catch yourself whining?
- 29 Language Mrs. Tiller told Mimi and Papa she would make the kids "earn their keep." What does that mean?
- 30 Food George Washington didn't have a refrigerator. How did he keep food from spoiling?
- 30 Vocabulary Archaeological refers to looking at old things and places (sites) to figure out how people lived in the past. That's a lot of mystery solving, wouldn't you say?
- 31 Music "Yankee Doodle" was a popular song during George Washington's lifetime. What do the song's strange lyrics mean?
- 32 Military Grant met a man dressed like a Valley Forge soldier. What did those uniforms look like?
- 33 Creative Thinking Christina could imagine living at Mount Vernon. Have you ever visited a historical site and imagined what it would be like to live or work there?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 35      Decision      Christina decided not to tell the others about the shadowy figure she saw. Have you ever had a difficult time deciding whether or not to tell someone about something?
- 36      Feelings      Christina teased Grant about his costume. Have you ever been teased about something you were wearing? How did it make you feel?
- 37      Speculation      What do you think would have happened to Mount Vernon if the Mount Vernon Ladies Association had not purchased it? Are you glad they did?
- 38      Events      Re-enactors are people who dress up like people from a different time in history. Revolutionary War re-enactors often hold demonstrations on the bowling green in front of Mount Vernon. Would you like to see them in action?
- 38      Vocabulary      A bowling green is a level grassy area.
- 41      Animals      Washington owned between 600 and 1,000 sheep. Why do you think he owned so many?
- 42      Math      When Washington inherited Mount Vernon, its size was 2,000 acres. When he died it was 8,000 acres. How many acres did he add during his lifetime?
- 43      Fun and Games      Colonial children played many games children still play today such as Duck, Duck, Goose; Ring Around the Rosie; and Tag. Have you ever played any of these games? Which is your favorite?
- 45      Careers      A surveyor is someone who examines the form and position of land before something is built on it. George Washington taught himself to be a surveyor. Name something you have taught yourself to do.
- 48      Figure of Speech      “Pulling your leg” is a popular idiom that means to tell someone something that is not true, usually in a teasing way.
- 49      History      Slave quarters were the houses or buildings where slaves lived.
- 51      Work      Slaves at Mount Vernon worked from sunrise to sunset and received a two-hour lunch break. Slaves didn’t work on Sunday and received two or three days of vacation at Christmas.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 53 History Did you know the British actually landed at Mount Vernon's wharf during the Revolutionary War? The man who was overseeing Mount Vernon gave them food and supplies so they wouldn't burn down the mansion.
- 54 Vocabulary The kids ambled down the lane. That means they walked slowly.
- 56 Famous Buildings Although George Washington was the first president, he never lived in the White House in Washington, D.C. The first president's house was in New York, which was the capital at the time. When the capital was moved to Philadelphia, the Washingtons lived in the President's House there.
- 60 Behavior Christina was afraid, but she was more concerned about her brother than she was for her own safety when she followed Grant into the grove of trees.
- 61 Hobbies Whittling means to shape a piece of wood by cutting off bits with a knife. It has been a popular pastime for centuries.
- 64 Feelings Christina felt suspicious about Frank. That means she had doubts or questions about him. Have you ever felt suspicious about someone or something?
- 66 Animals A mule is the offspring of a horse and a donkey. Washington was instrumental in making mules popular and important work animals in the United States. What farm equipment took their place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- 68 Plants A hoe is a tool with a long handle and a flat, thin blade on the end used for tilling soil and chopping weeds. Why is it necessary to hoe vegetable gardens?
- 69 Science What kind of energy traveled up Christina's hoe handle?
- 72 Animals The girls were disgusted at the thought of eating the pigs and sheep, but raising animals and eating them was an important part of life at Mount Vernon.
- 73 Food Were you surprised to learn that George Washington's favorite food was not a fancy dessert? How does it compare with your favorite food?
- 77 Figure of Speech Grant made a beeline to the kitchen. What does that mean?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- |    |                   |   |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 79 | Creative Thinking | An estate is land with a large house on it. Mount Vernon is an estate. Imagine that someone has given you a country estate. What would you name it?                               |
| 81 | Art               | The sundial at Mount Vernon is original. An artist created it after George Washington gave him instructions on how it was to look.  |
| 82 | Geography         | Piscataway National Park was named for the Piscataway Indians who inhabited the area.   |
| 82 | Reasoning         | How can you use the sun to figure out direction?  |
| 83 | Plants            | A knot is formed when the wood of a tree “swallows” or grows around the wood of a branch. The knots often have bark around them and as they dry become loose and form a knothole. |
| 83 | Ethics            | Do you think Patrick was wrong to tell the curious tourist they were doing post inspections? Why or why not?  |
| 86 | Body Language     | Grant sticks his tongue into the corner of his mouth when he is trying his best to do something. Why do you think he does this? How can people tell when you’re trying your best? |
| 86 | Reasoning         | What was the significance of the screw in the tooth that Christina found?   |
| 87 | Vocabulary        | A sarcophagus is a stone coffin or casket. Did you think they were only used in ancient Egypt?  |
| 88 | Culture           | Many cultures preserved the bodies of their dead through mummification. Have mummies ever been found in America?  |
| 89 | Body Language     | Grant grabbed his chest and sank to his knees in exhaustion. Do you feel tired after a good scare?  |
| 90 | Behavior          | Grant thought the wild turkeys were mummies. Have you ever been afraid of something only to find out it was nothing to fear after all?  |
| 90 | Word Usage        | Christina described frozen turkeys as giant, plastic-covered balls. How would you describe them?  |
| 91 | Creative Thinking | Frank said a wooden gun might get Grant into too much trouble. How do you think Grant might get into trouble with a wooden gun?   |



## Page-by-Page Guide

91	Vocabulary	Authentic means real, not fake. Have you ever seen an authentic artifact? What was it? Were you in a museum?
91	Vocabulary	A familiar voice consoled the children. Console means to give comfort or make someone feel better.
92	Vocabulary	Frank pulled a muslin bag from his pocket. Muslin is a plainly woven cotton fabric.
92	Symbols	The national tree is the oak. Do you know which tree is the official tree of your state?
93	Manners	Christina decided not to recommend a toothbrush to Frank. How did this decision show good manners?
93	Figure of Speech	Grant “spilled the beans” about the tooth in Christina’s shoe. That’s an idiom that means he gave away a secret.
94	Reasoning	The tooth made a dull thud in Frank’s cup. What sound would you expect it to make?
95	Body Language	Furrows formed in Frank’s brow. What emotion does this usually show?
95	Vocabulary	An artifact is something made by humans that has historic interest. Good examples would be weapons and tools.
97	Figure of Speech	“Towering oak trees stood like faithful soldiers.” This is an example of a simile. Remember, similes use the words like or as to compare two things that are different.
98	History	George Washington was originally entombed in an old family vault. From 1830 to 1835 a group of craftsman, blacksmiths, and stone cutters built a new tomb to serve as Washington’s final resting place.
98	Figure of Speech	Have you ever heard the term “nervous Nellie”? This is an idiom that describes someone who worries a lot.
100	Science	When something is three dimensional, like the eagle on Washington’s tomb, it has depth. A drawing on a piece of paper is two dimensional because it’s flat.
101	Figure of Speech	Mimi and Papa often scolded Christina and Grant for getting in “fixes.” To get “in a fix” is an idiom that means to be in a bad situation.

## Page-by-Page Guide

103	Body Language	Grant was so afraid of the approaching white blob that he stuttered. Have you ever been so afraid you couldn't speak clearly?
104	Science	Can you explain why corks pop back to the surface after they've been held under water?
106	Writing	Why do you suppose the author chose to have Grant say that a skeleton key did the trick and that Grant's stomach was rumbling loud enough to wake the dead?
107	Travel	Is there a historic house you would like to visit? How do you think it would make you feel to step inside?
108	Family	Did you know that John Parke Custis had a granddaughter named Mary who grew up to marry the famous Civil War general, Robert E. Lee?
108	Architecture	Why do you think a piazza or porch was so important for a house during Colonial times?
111	Architecture	A Palladian window includes three parts—a large arched window in the center of two smaller rectangular windows.
112	History	The large dining room at Mount Vernon was painted George Washington's favorite color, verdigris green.
113	Vocabulary	Cuisine is a way or style of preparing food. What is your favorite cuisine?
114	Etiquette	Etiquette is behaving properly in social situations. How could good etiquette prevent disasters such as Grant spilling his water in Washington's dining room?
115	Fun and Games	A scavenger hunt is a game that involves gathering different kinds of items on a list. The person who finds the most items wins. Why do you think Christina asked Mrs. Tiller if she'd ever thought of having one at Mount Vernon?
116	Vocabulary	Incredulous means to show disbelief.
116	Music	The harpsichord was a popular instrument during the 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Which instrument gradually replaced the harpsichord in popularity?

## Page-by-Page Guide

119	Safety	Why do you think a place like Mount Vernon would need a security gate, and why was it important that Mrs. Tiller checked in with the guards there?
120	Motivation	Christina thought solving the mystery was more important than the opportunity to spend the night inside the mansion. What does that say about her personality?
121	Symbolism	Washington displayed the key to the Bastille in his home. Why do you think this French symbol of freedom was important to an American?
122	Feelings	Patrick and Nellie watched in horror as Christina pushed a chair under the key to the Bastille. How do their expressions reveal how they felt about the artifact?
123	History	A “Necessary House” is a polite name for an outhouse. This was a non-flushable toilet that was basically a bench seat over large, removable wooden drawers that caught the waste.
123	Reasoning	Why do you think old houses such as Mount Vernon pop and creak?
124	Writing	Why do you think the author ended the chapter with Christina saying she thought someone was upstairs?
125	Figure of Speech	The author said a small desk crouched in front of a window. Since a desk can’t crouch, it’s giving a life-like quality to an inanimate object. This is called personification.
126	Figure of Speech	Grant stared at a painting that he said “gives me the willies.” This phrase is an idiom that means it made him frightened and nervous.
127	Work	Washington owned 12 spyglasses, or small telescopes, in addition to the brass telescope. Why would these be important tools to Washington, who worked as a surveyor before he became a famous general and president?
128	Word Usage	What does “kill the flashlight” mean? Why do you think the author chose to use those words?
129	Life	Dentures is another name for false teeth. Do you know anyone who wears dentures? If so, where do they put their dentures when they’re not wearing them?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- |     |                    |   |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 131 | Character Analysis | George Washington got up before sunrise and wrote or read in his study until 7 a.m. What does this say about Washington's character?                                  |
| 132 | Travel             | Why do you think so many places like to claim that "George Washington slept here?"  |
| 133 | History            | George Washington had a single candlestick by his bed. Do you think this is something everyone had by their bed during Washington's time? Why?                        |
| 134 | Behavior           | Why do you think Martha Washington moved to a different bedroom after George died? What do you think this demonstrates about their relationship?                      |
| 135 | Feelings           | Why do you think Grant felt confused when Christina told Frank to come down?  |
| 136 | Reasoning          | Did you suspect Frank was involved with the clues and teeth the kids found? If so, what were the clues that made you suspect him? If not, why didn't you suspect him? |
| 137 | Reasoning          | Why would wooden teeth found at Mount Vernon be valuable? If Frank had been successful, would it have changed the myth?   |
| 138 | Character          | How did you feel about Frank when he first appeared in the story? How did you feel about him in the end? Did you have any empathy for Frank?                          |
| 139 | Feelings           | Papa wanted to know what the kids learned at Mount Vernon. What did you learn from this story?  |

## *Discussion Questions*

1. What skills did George Washington learn at Mount Vernon that helped him in his role as general of the Continental Army and in his role as the first president of the United States of America?
2. Do you think George Washington is a positive role model? Do you consider him a hero? Are there any similar role models or heroes today? Why or why not?
3. Why was Mount Vernon so important to George Washington? Are there any special places that you love or that are important to the history of your family?
4. Explain why George Washington was called the Father of Our Country even though he never had any children of his own. What do you think would have happened if George Washington had never lived?
5. Were you disappointed to learn that some of the stories about George Washington are myths? Does it change the way you feel about him?
6. Would you like to be an archaeologist and search for artifacts at a historic place like Mount Vernon? What kind of artifact would you most like to find?

### **Bonus Info!**

George Washington is best known as a general and a president, but he preferred his life at Mount Vernon where he enjoyed family life on his country estate. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Martha, for 40 years and a loving stepfather to Martha's children, John Parke Custis (Jackie) and Martha Parke Custis (Patsy). After Jackie died, the Washingtons raised two of his children, George Washington Parke Custis (Washy) and Eleanor Parke Custis (Nelly).

Pets were also an important part of the Washington household and they had some amusing names. Their names included Droner, Mopsey, Ragman, Sweetlips, Truelove, Venus, Vulcan, and Madame Moose. Washington's favorite horses were Nelson and Blueskin.

## ***Geography: Find It!***

1. Find Washington, D.C. on a map of the United States. The capital was named for George Washington and is located only 16 miles from Mount Vernon.
2. Mount Vernon is located in the state of Virginia on the Potomac River. Why do you think Washington's ancestors chose this spot for their homestead?
3. Use building blocks to construct a model of the Mount Vernon mansion. Which room would you like to be yours? Why?
4. If you could design your very own mansion, what would it look like? If you could build it anywhere in the United States, where would you build it?
5. Plan a visit to Mount Vernon. How will you get there? Use a highlighter to trace your journey on a map. How many miles will you have to travel?
6. Draw a map of the Mount Vernon estate. Which part of the estate do you want to see first? What do you think will surprise you most?

### ***Bonus Info!***

#### **Things to See at Mount Vernon**

- The Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center
- The Ford Orientation Center
- Mansion house
- Mansion gardens
- Pioneer farm site
- Washington's tomb
- Gristmill
- Stable
- Mule shed and paddock
- Coach house
- Wash house and laundry
- Smokehouse
- Storehouse and clerk's quarters
- Kitchen
- Servants' hall
- Salthouse
- Overseer's quarters
- Spinning room
- Greenhouse slave quarters
- Shoemaker's shop
- The Necessary
- Blacksmith shop

## *Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. George Washington needs his blacksmith to make new horseshoes for four carriage horses, two saddle horses and three mules. How many shoes does the blacksmith need to make?
2. When George Washington inherited Mount Vernon, its size was 2,000 acres. When he died it was 8,000 acres. How many acres did George Washington add to the estate?
3. The Mount Vernon cook needs barrels to store 4,000 salt fish for the winter. If each barrel will hold 100 fish, how many barrels does the cook need?
4. If Patrick and Nellie each found a clue, Christina found three clues and Grant found two clues, how many clues would they have to solve their mystery?
5. An easy way to find the square footage of a house is to multiply the length times the width. If Mount Vernon is 94 feet long and 33 feet wide, what is the square footage?
6. If Christina and Grant found two teeth from George Washington's dentures, which contained 32 teeth, how many teeth were left in the set?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **I Dig that Career!**

Do you know what you want to do when you grow up? How about becoming an archaeologist? Archaeologists at Mount Vernon excavate and explore underground remains and artifacts that reveal exactly how the estate looked when George Washington lived there. Interesting items found include ceramics, glass, furniture hardware, utensils, tobacco pipes, wig curlers, jewelry, buttons and buckles, animal bones, and seeds. Archaeologists study these artifacts in a laboratory.

What kind of education and skills do you need to become an archaeologist? Why do you think math skills are important to an archaeologist? Visit the website [http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/pres\\_arch/index.cfm](http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/pres_arch/index.cfm) to learn more about the work of archaeologists at Mount Vernon.

## *English: Write It!*

1. If you could choose one of the characters from the book to give you a tour of Mount Vernon, which would it be? Why?
2. Write a new ending for *The Mystery at Mount Vernon*. This time, make Frank a hero instead of a villain.
3. Compose a poem about George Washington's teeth.
4. Pretend you are George Washington's speech writer. Write a speech for him to share with the new nation after he becomes president.
5. Write a short story about the Revolutionary War from the perspective of George Washington's horse, Nelson.
6. Imagine that you're an archaeologist at Mount Vernon. Write a paragraph about your latest amazing discovery.

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Dear Diary**

Did you know that George Washington kept a journal, or diary, that made him world famous? When he was in his 20s, he wrote about his adventures as a member of the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War. These adventures became very popular in England.

Washington had started keeping a journal when he was 16, but he never wrote a book. He felt that his education was not nearly as good as the other Founding Fathers, such as Thomas Jefferson. When he was a boy, Washington's favorite subject was math. Historians believe private tutors taught Washington until he was 14 years old. After that, he taught himself to be a surveyor and even started his own surveying business when he was 17 years old.



# Vocabulary: Use It!

Use the clues to unscramble the words taken from the mystery book. Use these words and their definitions to increase your vocabulary!

- Home of America's first president  
NMUTO ENVORN  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Country that sent cherry trees as a gift to Washington  
PAANJ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Small, short-handled ax  
AHCETT \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Another name for false teeth  
TUDNREES \_ D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Foreboding, threatening  
MISNOOU \_ \_ \_ M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Offspring of a donkey and horse  
EUML \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Man-made object with historical importance  
CATTIFRA \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- What America won from England in the Revolutionary War  
NEENDDINPCEE  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- An expert in history  
STIAOHIRN \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- A large piece of land with a fancy house on it  
TAESTE \_ E \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Bonus Info!

### A Letter from Martha

George and Martha Washington wrote letters to each other when they were apart. In these letters, George calls Martha "My Dear Patsy" and "My Dearest." Martha calls George "My Dearest" and "My Love." When they were in public, Martha Washington called her husband "the General." But when they were alone at home she called the famous general and president her "Old Man."

March 30, 1767

My Dearest

It was with very great pleasure I see in your letter that you got safely down. We are all very well at this time but it still is rainney and wett. I am sorry you will not be at home soon as I expected you. I had reather my sister woud not come up so soon as May woud be much plasenter time than April. We wrote you last post as I have nothing new to tell you I must conclude myself

Your most Affectionate  
Martha Washington

*(Rights Holder:  
Mount Vernon Ladies'  
Association  
Citation:  
The Martha Washington  
Collection, Mount Vernon)*

## *Art: Create It!*

1. Attach white or gray yarn to a knit ski cap to create a wig that looks like George Washington's hair. Don't forget the ponytail!
2. Use colored pencils to draw George Washington's mansion, Mount Vernon. With an adult's help, boil a tea bag. When the tea has cooled, dip a paint brush in it and lightly brush over your drawing. This should make your picture look like an old painting!
3. Use a box to make a replica of Mount Vernon. Paint the box with white paint and throw sand on the wet paint the same way it was used to make Mount Vernon look like it's built of stone. When the paint dries, use a brown marker to draw blocks. Use red construction paper to make the red shingles and green construction paper to make the windows.
4. How would you like to meet a mysterious character like Frank? Sketch a picture of Frank the way he's described in the book.
5. Cut a round snack cake in half. Cover the cake with white icing tinted pink with food coloring. Stick miniature marshmallows around the edge. Eat a set of dentures!

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Tell Time with the Sun!**

A beautiful sundial stands in the grass circle in front of Mount Vernon. Experiment with making your own simple sundial.

- Use a thumbtack or tape to attach a length of string about a foot long to a piece of heavy cardboard.
- Attach a pencil to the other end of the string and draw a circle on the cardboard.
- Use scissors to cut out the circle.
- Punch a hole in the center of the cardboard and attach a wooden dowel, paper towel tube, or even a straight twig to the cardboard circle so that it stands straight up.
- Set the "sundial" outside.
- Check periodically to see where the shadow falls.
- Check a conventional clock and mark the time on the cardboard with a marker.

## George Washington's Hoecakes

Make some delicious hoecakes to share with your class.

You will need

8 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups white corn meal

1- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon dry yeast

1 egg

warm water

grease or cooking oil

butter

honey

In a large bowl, mix 4 cups white cornmeal and 1- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons dry yeast. Gradually add warm water until the mixture has the consistency of pancake batter. Cover and set on the stove or counter overnight. This will give the yeast time to react with the meal and give off the gas, carbon dioxide. This is what causes breads to rise.

In the morning, gradually add the remaining cornmeal, egg, and enough warm water to give the mixture the consistency of pancake batter. Cover and set aside for 15 to 20 minutes. Have an adult add cooking grease to a griddle or skillet and heat. Spoon batter onto the hot griddle. When the hoecake is brown on one side, turn it over and brown the other side. Serve warm with butter and honey. Delicious!

## **Bonus Info!**

### **Super Soup Recipe**

Try some peanut soup!  
You will need

- 1 quart chicken soup stock or canned chicken broth
- 2 carrots
- 1 yellow onion peeled and chopped
- 1 cup smooth-style peanut butter
- 1 cup whipping cream or half-and-half
- 1/2 cup dry roasted peanuts
- salt
- pepper
- Tabasco® sauce to taste.

Place the stock in a 2-quart pot and add the carrots and onion. Bring to a boil and turn down to a simmer. Cook, covered, until the vegetables are very tender. Puree in a food processor and return to the pan. Stir in the remaining ingredients, bring to a simmer, and serve.

## *Activities*

Find a fact in the book that begins with each of the letters below to spell MOUNT VERNON. For example, for M, you could write “Martha Washington lived here.” Write your facts below next to the correct letter. This type of puzzle is called an acrostic.

Next, explore the website: [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Find facts on the website to spell MOUNT VERNON. Create another acrostic on a piece of paper. Circle the fact that surprised you most and share it with your class!

**M**

**O**

**U**

**N**

**T**

**V**

**E**

**R**

**N**

**O**

**N**

# Activities

*Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!*



## WORD BANK

CHERRY

DENTURES

EAGLE

HARPSICHORD

HOE

MANSION

MULE

PARCHMENT

PIAZZA

PLANTATION

PRESIDENT

SARCOPHAGUS

SHEEP

SLAVES

SURVEYOR

TELESCOPE

TOMB

TOOTH

TURKEY

WHARF

# Chapter 1-3 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. hatchet
2. legend
3. ominous

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. Why is Mount Vernon such an important home?
5. How did Christina, Grant, Mimi, and Papa get to Mount Vernon?
6. What was Nellie and Patrick's mother's job at Mount Vernon?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_ Washington's famous cherry trees were a gift from Russia.
8. \_\_\_ Christina had visited Mount Vernon many times.
9. \_\_\_ Christina, Grant, Mimi, and Papa visited Washington in the springtime.
10. \_\_\_ When Grant disappeared, Christina found his hatchet in the woods.

# Chapter 4-6 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. empathy
2. bowling green
3. re-enactors

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. Describe Christina's feelings when she saw the movie about the Revolutionary War soldiers at Valley Forge.
5. What did Christina see in an upstairs window at Mount Vernon?
6. What is the long stretch of grass in front of Mount Vernon called?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_ Christina believed that Grant had really met a man named Frank.
8. \_\_\_ Members of George Washington's family lived at Mount Vernon until 1942.
9. \_\_\_ A dandy is someone dressed in fancy clothes.
10. \_\_\_ The kids had Valley Forge Soup at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant.

# Chapter 7-10 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. surveyor
2. ambled
3. whittle
4. suspicious

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. What sent Grant flying head over heels?
6. What was the George Washington look-a-like peeling on the porch?
7. What was Frank doing with a knife when the kids met him?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_ When the Washingtons owned thousands of acres of land divided into different farms, the farm that included the mansion was called Mansion House Farm.
9. \_\_\_ Sand was thrown onto the wet paint of Mount Vernon's siding to make it look like stone.
10. \_\_\_ George Washington designed the circle in front of the mansion to be like a sundial.



# Chapter 11-14 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. mule
2. hoe
3. estate
4. sarcophagus

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Why did George Washington like mules?
6. What did Christina find while hoeing English peas in the garden?
7. What did George Washington like to eat for breakfast?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_ Washington's favorite horses were named Blueskin and Nelson.
9. \_\_\_ Grant put the rusty metal box in his pocket.
10. \_\_\_ Grant thought the turkeys in the forest were mummies.

# Chapter 15-18 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. console

2. muslin

3. artifact

4. cuisine

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. What is more than one sarcophagus called?

6. What did Frank give as gifts to the children?

7. What kind of wood was used to make the paneling inside Mount Vernon?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_ Some of the founding fathers wanted the turkey to be the national bird.

9. \_\_\_ The front door of Mount Vernon is a dark green color.

10. \_\_\_ George Washington learned he had been elected the first president while in his study.

# Chapter 19-22 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. outhouse
2. spyglasses
3. dentures

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. The key hanging in the hall of Mount Vernon opened what famous French prison?
5. What was George and Martha Washington's bathroom called?
6. What device in Washington's study did the kids use to examine the tooth?

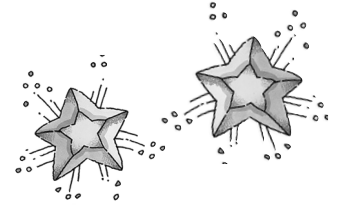
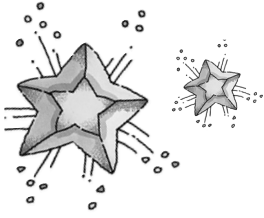
*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_ A portrait of George Washington's half brother, Lawrence, gave Grant the willies.
8. \_\_\_ George Washington used the binoculars in his study to watch ships on the river.
9. \_\_\_ Patrick led the kids up the main stairway to get to the second floor.
10. \_\_\_ A sarcophagus is where George Washington kept his dentures.

# *The Mystery at Mount Vernon*

## *Vocabulary*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Using the word bank, fill in the correct vocabulary word in the sentences below.*

#### WORD BANK

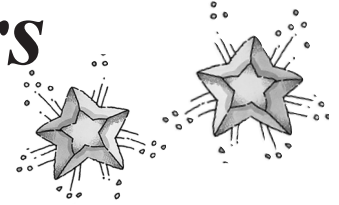
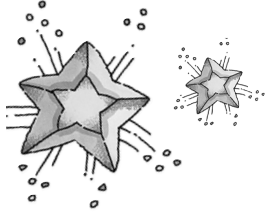
artifact	archaeological	authentic	whine	ominous
mischievous	sarcophagus	blacksmith	survey	hatchet

1. Before someone is allowed to dig for artifacts at Mount Vernon they have to have an \_\_\_\_\_ background.
2. If a teapot that Martha Washington used was proven not to be a fake, it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The chopping tool that Grant carried to Mount Vernon was a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Something Christina did when she begged to spend more time at Mount Vernon.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. George Washington's \_\_\_\_\_ put new shoes on his horse, Blueskin.
6. Grant thought this stone coffin was only made for mummies. \_\_\_\_\_
7. George Washington taught himself to measure land or to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Christina was afraid something bad might happen after an old man gave a warning that was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Grant enjoys playing tricks on Mimi. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ boy.
10. When Christina and Grant saw Washington's dentures on display, they were looking at an \_\_\_\_\_.

# *The Mystery at Mount Vernon*

## *Matching Characters*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

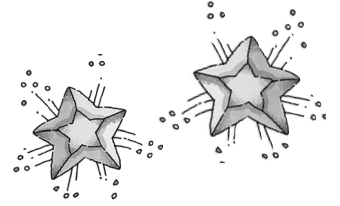
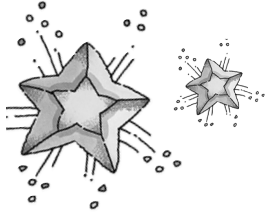
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.*

- |                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Christina   | A. Rode a red bike               |
| _____ 2. Mimi        | B. Carries a tooth in her shoe   |
| _____ 3. Grant       | C. Likes to whittle              |
| _____ 4. Papa        | D. Loans Grant some underwear    |
| _____ 5. Nellie      | E. Estate historian              |
| _____ 6. Patrick     | F. Likes to mosey down the trail |
| _____ 7. Mrs. Tiller | G. Prefers her nickname          |
| _____ 8. Frank       | H. Terrified by turkeys          |

# *The Mystery at Mount Vernon*

## *Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

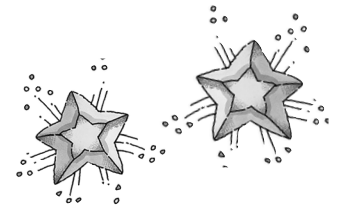
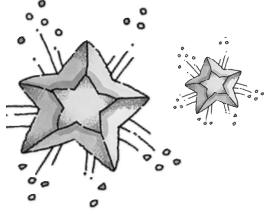
*Fill in the blanks to complete the following:*

1. These funny walls kept animals off the lawn and held a clue.  
\_\_\_ A - \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ L \_\_\_
2. Christina thought this part of Grant's attire was an animal when she stepped on it.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ G \_\_\_
3. He led our country to independence as the commander of the Continental Army.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_
4. These included hippopotamus bone.  
\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ , \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_
5. He wore a raggedy uniform and probably had bad breath.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ K \_\_\_
6. This was found inside a knothole.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_
7. These residents of Mount Vernon worked sunup to sundown.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_
8. She moved to another bedroom after her second husband died.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_
9. George Washington helped make this animal popular in the new country.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_
10. This opened the lock of a famous French prison.  
\_\_\_ E \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

# *The Mystery at Mount Vernon*

## *True or False*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write T for True and F for False.*

1. \_\_\_\_ George Washington's dentures were made of wood.
2. \_\_\_\_ After George Washington served as president for eight years, he only lived at Mount Vernon for two years before he died.
3. \_\_\_\_ George Washington built Mount Vernon.
4. \_\_\_\_ Mount Vernon is located on the Potomac River.
5. \_\_\_\_ George and Martha Washington had a bathroom in their master suite.
6. \_\_\_\_ There is a U.S. flag carved onto George and Martha Washington's tomb.
7. \_\_\_\_ George Washington wore a wig.
8. \_\_\_\_ The Mount Vernon Ladies Association owns Mount Vernon.
9. \_\_\_\_ George Washington's favorite breakfast was ham and eggs.
10. \_\_\_\_ George Washington was in the grand dining room when he learned he'd been named the first president of the United States.

# Answer Key

*Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. 36; 2. 6,000; 3. 40; 4. 7; 5. 3,102 ft;  
6. 30

*Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!*

1. Mount Vernon; 2. Japan; 3. hatchet; 4.  
dentures; 5. ominous; 6. mule; 7. artifact;  
8. independence; 9. historian; 10. estate

*Page 22, Chapter Worksheet 1-3:*

4. Home of the United States' first president,  
George Washington; 5. estate historian; 6. on  
bicycles; 7. F; 8. F; 9. T; 10. F

*Page 23, Chapter Worksheet 4-6:*

4. she felt sad; 5. a shadowy figure; 6. a  
bowling green; 7. F; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T

*Page 24, Chapter Worksheet 7-10:*

5. sheep; 6. Granny Smith apple;  
7. whittling ; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F

*Page 25, Chapter Worksheet 11-14:*

5. They were good work animals; 6. a metal  
box; 7. hoecakes; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

*Page 26, Chapter Worksheet 15-18:*

5. sarcophagi; 6. eagle necklaces; 7. pine;  
8. T; 9. F.; 10. F

*Page 27, Chapter Worksheet 19-22:*

4. The Bastille; 5. Necessary House;  
6. telescope; 7. T; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F

*Page 28, Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz:*

1. archaeological; 2. authentic; 3. hatchet;  
4. whine; 5. blacksmith; 6. sarcophagus;  
7. survey; 8. ominous; 9. mischievous;  
10. artifact

*Page 29, Character Matching End-of-Unit  
Quiz:*

1. B; 2. A; 3. H; 4. F; 5. G; 6. D; 7. E;  
8. C

*Page 30, Clue Driven End-of-Unit Quiz:*

1. Ha-Ha Walls; 2. wig; 3. George  
Washington; 4. Washington's dentures;  
5. Frank; 6. tooth; 7. slaves; 8. Martha  
Washington; 9. mule; 10. key to the Bastille

*Page 31, True or False End-of-Unit Quiz:*

1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T;  
9. F; 10. T