

Name _____

Date _____

George Washington - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. George Washington had many traits that made him an effective leader: humility, a sense of duty, adaptability, and a willingness to work hard. Perhaps the trait he is best known for is his honesty. According to a popular story, six-year-old George received a hatchet, a small ax, as a gift. While using the hatchet, he damaged his father's cherry tree. When his father saw the damaged tree, he became angry and confronted George. Instead of fibbing or making up excuses, George said, "I cannot tell a lie...I did cut it with my hatchet." Washington's father happily announced that his son's honesty was worth more than a thousand trees. The cherry tree story is actually not true. It was made up by one of Washington's first biographers, Mason Locke Weems. Weems wanted to focus on Washington's virtues and present him as a good role model. Even though the story is a myth, it has been retold over and over.

According to the passage, why did Mason Locke Weems make up the story of the cherry tree?

A. To get Washington in trouble with his father ☒

B.

To show that honesty was one of
Washington's virtues

The passage states, Weems "made up" the cherry tree story because he "wanted to focus on Washington's virtues and present him as a good role model."

C. To explain that children shouldn't have
weapons like hatchets

D. To prove that presidents should work hard
but do not need to be honest

2. Washington became well known in the military and in politics. Despite this, he still thought of himself first as a farmer. He had grown up on a plantation and learned about the value of land in his first job as a surveyor. Washington was a “gentleman farmer.” That meant he farmed for pleasure, not because he needed the money or the food that he grew. Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis in 1759. After that, he lived and worked at Mount Vernon, his family’s estate. He was a curious and creative farmer. He read all the latest research about agriculture and experimented with different crops and farming methods. By the end of his life, he had expanded Mount Vernon from 2,000 acres to an 8,000-acre property with five farms. Washington wrote down many of his observations about agriculture. He hoped this would help American farmers in the future.

Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. Washington had a deep interest in farming throughout his life.
- B. Washington grew his family’s farm into a much larger property.
- C. Washington did not need to farm in order to eat or to make money. ✓
- D. Washington only grew cotton and used one specific method of farming.

According to the passage, Washington “read all the latest research about agriculture and experimented with different crops and farming methods.”

3. Washington was a Founding Father and the nation’s first president. However, he never lived in the White House. In fact, Washington, DC was not even the capital of the United States when Washington was sworn in as president in 1790. He was inaugurated in New York City. During his first term, he selected Washington, DC as the future capital of the United States. The district was then called the Territory of Columbia. He chose it as a compromise between the northern and southern states. By the time his second term began, the capital had been moved to Philadelphia. It remained there for 10 years. Thomas Jefferson, our third president, was the first president to be inaugurated in the nation’s permanent capital of Washington, DC.

Based on the passage, Washington, DC was most likely chosen as the future capital of the United States because { }.

- ✓ A. it was between the north and the south
- According to the passage, George Washington “selected Washington, DC as the future capital of the United States,” and “he chose it as a compromise between the northern and southern states.”*
- B. Washington did not enjoy living in the north.
- C. it was the birthplace of George Washington.
- D. Thomas Jefferson refused to live in New York City.

4. As president, Washington created a cabinet, or group of advisors. They helped him run different areas of government. He had four cabinet members: Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State, Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Knox as Secretary of War, and Edmund Randolph as Attorney General. Having a cabinet is not required by law, but every president since Washington has also created one. In 2017, President Donald Trump had 24 cabinet members. Some of Trump's cabinet members included Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State, Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education, and Kirstjen Nielsen as Secretary of Homeland Security.

Based on the passage, what do Washington and Trump have in common?

- A. They both have/had a Secretary of Homeland Security.
- B. They both have/had a Secretary of Education.
- ☒ C. They both have/had a Secretary of State.
The passage mentions Washington's and Trump's Secretaries of State, Thomas Jefferson and Rex Tillerson. This is the only overlapping detail included in the passage.
- D. They both have/had 24 cabinet members.

5. Washington struggled with his position on slavery over his life. He first became an enslaver at the age of 11, when his father died and left him 10 enslaved people in his will. As a young adult, he purchased at least eight more enslaved people. During the Revolutionary War, he became more and more conflicted about slavery. Even though he was uncomfortable with it, his wealth and prominent social standing depended on his plantation, and his plantation depended on slave labor. By the time Washington died, there were 317 enslaved people living at Mount Vernon. Not all of them were owned by him. Many belonged to the estate of Martha Washington's deceased first husband. In his will, Washington stated that the enslaved people he owned would be freed upon Martha's death. Martha ended up freeing those enslaved people before she died.

According to the passage, the enslaved people George Washington owned were freed when { }.

- A. Washington freed them after his father's death
- ☒ B. Martha freed them before she died
According to the passage, though Washington felt "conflicted about slavery," he did not free his slaves. Instead, he stated in his will "that the slaves he owned would be freed upon Martha's death," but "Martha ended up freeing those slaves before she died."
- C. the Revolutionary War ended
- D. Martha died

6. Washington decided to step down from public service after two terms as president. He set a precedent that every future president except one has followed. To explain his decision and share his advice for the future, he wrote a Farewell Address. It was printed in Philadelphia's *American Daily Advertiser* on September 19, 1796.

Which of the following statements would George Washington likely agree with?

Read the following passage from George Washington's Farewell Address. In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations, Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heartburnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

- A. The best form of government is one that separates the Northern, Southern, Atlantic, and Western districts.



B.

Sometimes people in one area spread falsehoods about people in a different area.

Washington wrote, "It occurs as a matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations...One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts." In other words, Washington cautioned against divisive words and behavior between the geographical regions.

- C. No other president would ever be as great as he was.

- D. Being jealous helps people get along with each other.