

PAIRED TEXTS

George Washington

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When George Washington was a teenager, he joined the Virginia militia in the French and Indian War. This war was fought between the British and the French over land in North America. The Native Americans joined the French in the fight because they were afraid that the British would take over their land. George Washington was fighting on the side of the British. This was before the colonists needed freedom from Great Britain. It wasn't until after the British won the French and Indian War that King George III began to treat the colonists unfairly. He began creating taxes and laws that the Americans found to be unfair.

George Washington, along with representatives from the other colonies, met at the Continental Congress. They decided to fight the British together. In May of 1775, Congress chose Washington to be the General of the Continental Army. He had a tough job because most of the soldiers had no experience in the army. They were just farmers going up against the world's greatest military. There were times when many of the American soldiers wanted to give up. Washington encouraged them and remained by their side through the losing battles and the bad conditions they sometimes faced. He proved to the soldiers that he was trustworthy and they knew they could count on him. He led them to victory over the British.

Washington served two terms as President of the United States. He only made executive decisions that would unite the country, like constructing roads between states and building post offices. He stepped down after serving eight years because he didn't want to rule too long, like a king.

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New Nation

Everyone knows that George Washington was America's first president. But did you know that he didn't want to be? He only agreed because he wanted to help make the nation stronger after the Revolutionary War. This war ended the rule of King George III over the United States. King George had been what the Americans considered a tyrant. He unfairly forced taxes and laws on the people without giving them a say in the matter. Washington didn't want to be the second "King George."

We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!



...very anxious about a government leader, so the delegates knew they had to elect someone who was trustworthy. George Washington was the first and only president unanimously¹ elected as U.S. President.

¹unanimously: all of the people agree entirely, not one opposes

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Jennifer W., 4th Grade Teacher

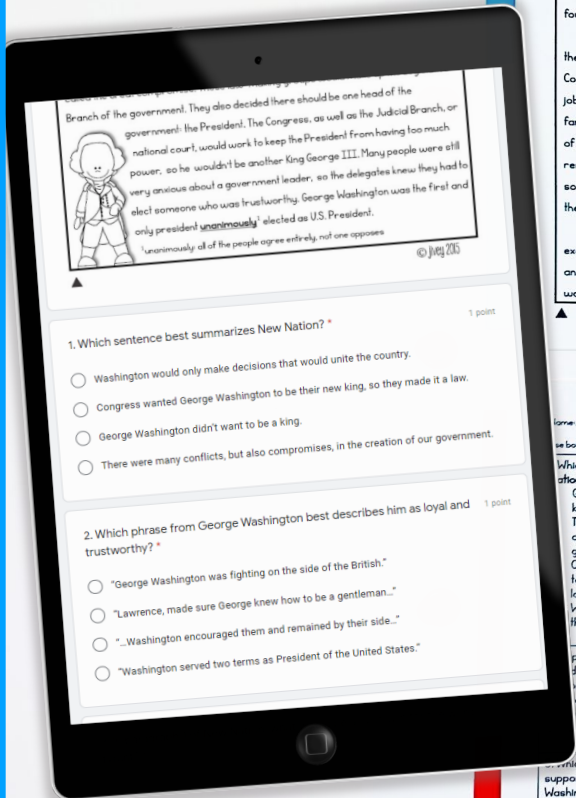
two levels of each
passage for
differentiation

digital (self-grading) and
printable formats

seven multiple choice questions (each question assessing a different standard)

one constructed
response essay prompt

two styles of articles:
2-column and full page



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Use both texts to answer the following questions.

Which
ation?

George Washington didn't want to be a king. There were many conflicts, but also compromises, in the creation of our government. Congress wanted George Washington to be their new king, so they made it a law. Washington would only make decisions that would unite the country.

paragraph 1 of *New Nation*, what
 d be a synonym for the word, tyrant?
 protector
 rescuer
 guardian
 ally

Which paragraph in George Washington's speech supports why the delegates knew George Washington would be "someone that the people already trusted" as stated in New Nation?

- a. paragraph 1
- b. paragraph 2
- c. paragraph 3
- d. paragraph 4

What can the reader conclude about George Washington after reading both texts?

- Americans looked up to Washington and considered him a hero.
- The delegates were the only people who trusted that Washington would make good decisions.
- Washington fought for Britain in the Revolutionary War.
- Washington hoped to be the United States king.

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After the Revolutionary War, the United States government was limited by the Articles of Confederation. The delegates, or representatives, of the Constitutional Convention did not want the government to have too much power, as the British government did. There was not a president or a national court. The government was very weak, and the delegates could not agree about how to make it stronger. One of the biggest conflicts was between the large and small states. Everyone could agree that the people should have a say in the government, but no one could agree on how to count the votes. The larger states wanted the population to determine the number of representatives each state could have. The smaller states wanted all of the states to have an equal number of representatives. Finally, after much debate, the delegates decided on a two-house Congress with a Senate and a House of Representatives. It was called the Great Compromise. These law-making groups would make up the Legislative Branch of the government. They also decided there should be one head of the

government: the President, The Congress, as well as the Judicial Branch, or national court, would work to keep the President from having too much power, so he wouldn't be another King George III. Many people were still very anxious about a government leader, so the delegates knew they had to elect someone who was trustworthy. George Washington was the first and only president unanimously elected as U.S. President.

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Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Why do you think George Washington was considered the Father of Our Country?

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TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EVERY PASSAGE

on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the
passages to denote the
level of passage

the same questions can
be answered no matter
the level given



PASSAGES INCLUDED:

★ the history and origin of Valentine's Day, and the myth of Cupid

★ George Washington's short biography, and early US government creation

★ the history of St. Patrick's Day, and a poem called "Pot of Gold"


ANSWER KEYS NOTE CORE STANDARDS

Valentine's Day

On February 14th, people hope they will be struck by one of Cupid's arrows so they will fall in love. Although Cupid is a Roman god of love and symbol of Valentine's Day, the day is not celebrated because of him.

An ancient Roman ceremony, called Lupercalia, occurred each year from February 13 - 15. The ritual was believed to ward off evil spirits and cleanse the city, helping the health and fertility of those that attended. On the second day of the ceremony, there was a match-making event where men and women would be coupled and often married.

That traditional festival was banned at the end of the fifth century, and so people began to celebrate the Saint named Valentine instead. A saint is a person that lived a holy life, such as a priest, and after death, is recognized for their work. Valentine was a priest who lived during the third century and believed in love. A woman of Rome, named Claudius, wanted a strong army. He thought she made the best soldiers because then they wouldn't be worried during war. Claudius prohibited, or outlawed, marriages of ignored the emperor's orders and continued to perform in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, he was put in jail until he was executed on February 14. Stories of one of the judge's daughters came to visit him and he fell in love with her before he died, signing it, "from Your Valentine." Saint Valentine might have been the first to send a love letter. A businesswoman that first made valentines popular by designing cards of paper and lace that Americans call expensive imported cards from England. There was a law that she had to create an assembly line to fulfill the order of the Mother of the American Valentine.





MYTH OF CUPID

There once was a king with three beautiful daughters. The youngest of the three, named Psyche, was the most beautiful. People sang songs about Psyche and called her the goddess of beauty, which angered Venus. Venus was the goddess of love and beauty. She decided to punish the princess.

Venus's son, Cupid, was an archer (a person who shoots with bows and arrows). Most arrows would harm or kill someone, but not Cupid's. He would shoot someone's heart to give it joy or sorrow. Venus sent Cupid to shoot Psyche and make her fall in love with him. Cupid would cause her to fall in love with him.

Psyche was so distraught that she had lost her true love, she traveled the world looking for him. Venus saw that Psyche was searching and told her if she completed four tasks, she would help her find Cupid. Venus thought the tasks would be too hard for Psyche and she wouldn't have to help her. Even though each was harder than the last, Psyche was able to complete them... until the last task. Venus wanted her to deliver a box to the god, Pluto, but should not look inside the box. Venus had placed eternal sleep inside the box. Psyche was too curious. She fell into a deep sleep. Cupid zipped all that Psyche had done to find so he forgot his anger and brought her out of her sleep. Cupid took Psyche to the god, Jupiter, who gave her the gift of immortality so they could be married forever.






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George Washington, along with delegates from the Continental Congress and decided to fight the British in the Revolutionary War. He chose Washington to be the General of the Continental Army. Most of the soldiers had no experience in the army. They fought against the world's greatest military. There were 17,000 British soldiers and 15,000 American soldiers. Washington encouraged the soldiers to give up, but Washington encouraged the soldiers to fight. He was trustworthy and they kept them to victory over the British.


Washington served two terms as President. He was the first President of the United States. He was the only President to serve two terms. He was the only President to be elected as President.



NEW NATION

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POT OF GOLD


THE CHILD:
Who buried the big pot of gold
At the foot of the rainbow old?
I shall search, I shall search till I find it,
And into gold-dust I will grind it.

To find everything that I see
And make it look lovely to me,
I care not how long it may take
This wonderful fortune to make.
I have so many years all before me,
And there are no clouds hanging o'er me;

So today, and tomorrow, and the next
I shall search, and I shall not be vex'd
If I find it not till long after;
I'll beguile all the way with bright laughter,
With sweet song, and sunshine, and play.
I shall not grow weary all day;
For the butterflies, flowers and bees,
And the birds all atune in the trees,
And the squirrels, so cunning and shy,
That scamper so when you come nigh,
Will all be my playmates and friends
Till I come where the rainbow ends.

And then there's the meadow brook,
That skips past many a nook,
And stops in its onward course never,
But sings and flows on forever.

I can gather a few scattered chips
Out of these I can fashion fine ships,
And launch them upon the swift stream;
Then the fish in its waters that gleam
Will tempt me to linger and play.
Thus the time will pass quickly away,
And my heart be both happy and bold
All the way to the big pot of gold!



St. Patrick's Day


If you aren't wearing green on March 17, watch out! You just might get pinched! This tradition was started by Irish-American school children to celebrate the spirit of the Irish. Why the color green? Ireland is known as the "Emerald Isle." This is because the land is so green from being covered in shamrocks, or three-leaf clovers. It is also a color of spring, which arrives a few days after St. Patrick's Day.

The shamrock also became a symbol of St. Patrick's Day because of how the saint, who is celebrated on this day, used the three-leaf clover. Saint Patrick helped spread Christianity through Ireland in the fifth century. He would use a three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity (one leaf represented the Father, one represented the Son, and the last represented the Holy Spirit). Finding a four-leaf clover is very rare. It is considered a good luck charm if you do. The leaves of a shamrock with four leaves represent faith, hope, love, and happiness.

In Ireland, there has always been a feast to celebrate Saint Patrick. But, when Irish immigrants moved to America, the tradition grew into a much bigger celebration of all Irish people. It was a way to bring people together through their culture. The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland, but instead in New York in the 1760s! It wasn't until the 1930s that St. Patrick's Day Festival began in Dublin, Ireland. The Irish had a parade and several other celebrating activities.

Many people still feast on St. Patrick's Day. One customary dish is corned beef and cabbage. This was a tradition that was made popular by Irish-Americans. Immigrants from Ireland were often very poor and couldn't afford much. Beef and cabbage were two inexpensive foods, so these became the feast foods for the holiday in early America.

Another tradition on St. Patrick's Day is trying to catch a leprechaun. A leprechaun is an old Irish fairy. Most fairies are thought to be pretty and sweet. Leprechauns are not. They are poorly-dressed tiny old men who scare and trick people away from their pot of gold hidden at the end of the rainbow.




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