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George Washington Activities

Handwriting

George Washington practiced his handwriting by copying from the Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation. Three of these rules have been rewritten in more modern terms. Write two rules of your own. Copy them onto “antique” paper (page 87) to practice your own handwriting.

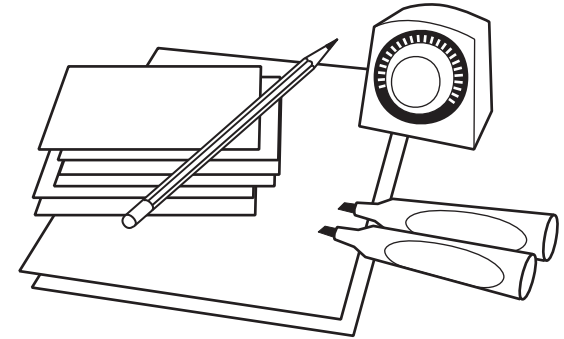


1. Listen closely when someone speaks to you.
2. Think before you speak.
3. Keep your promises.
- 4.
- 5.

Washington Minute

What You Need

- index cards
- markers
- timer
- pencil and paper

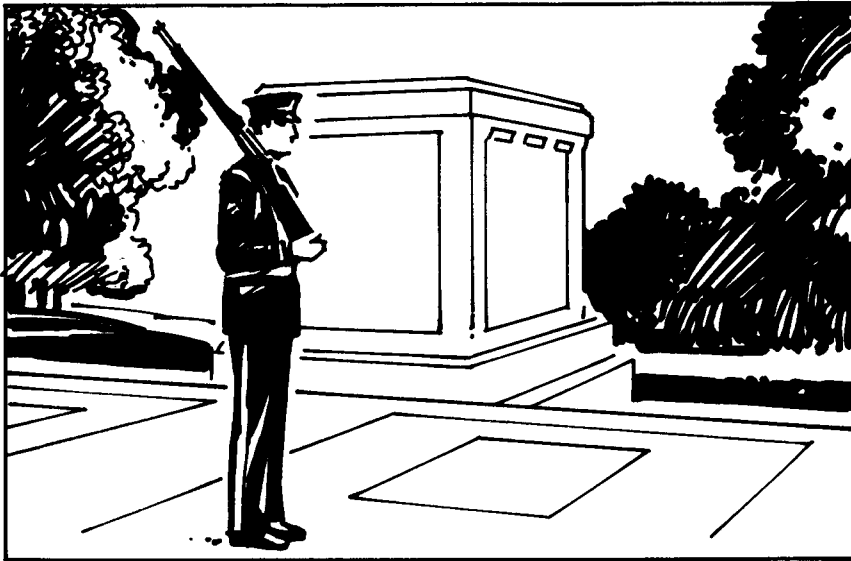


What To Do

1. Print each letter of George Washington’s name on an index card. Use colored markers to decorate the edges of the cards with stars or cherries.
2. Get a partner to play with you and write the words you make.
3. Set the timer for one minute. See how many different words you can form with the cards.
4. Take turns and see who can make the most words in a minute.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Throughout history, people in the armed forces of the United States have willingly fought and died for our country and its principles. When a member of the armed forces dies, he or she is given a military funeral with honors. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, or Tomb of the Unknowns, honors those soldiers who gave their lives but whose identities were not known.

The tomb is a white marble sarcophagus and is in Arlington National Cemetery, on a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. It has figures representing Peace, Victory, and Valor. Peace holds a palm branch to reward the courageous sacrifice the soldier made for America.

On the back of the tomb is this inscription: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”

The tomb is guarded day and night by members of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry, also known as The Old Guard. A strict ritual is followed. The sentinel takes 21 steps, turns and faces east for 21 seconds, turns and faces north for 21 seconds and then takes 21 steps back and repeats the process. He must take 90 steps per minute. The number of steps is a symbol of America’s highest military honor, the 21-gun salute. After each turn, the guard places his weapon on the shoulder that is farthest from the Tomb to show that he stands between the Tomb and any threat.

Walk the Walk

Get a stopwatch or a watch with a second hand. Go to an open area. Start the stopwatch when you take your first step. Count your steps but don’t watch the clock. Can you take 90 steps per minute?

Find Out More

... on the Web

<http://home.att.net/~Michael.Patterson>—This site contains excellent photographs and an extensive list of related links.