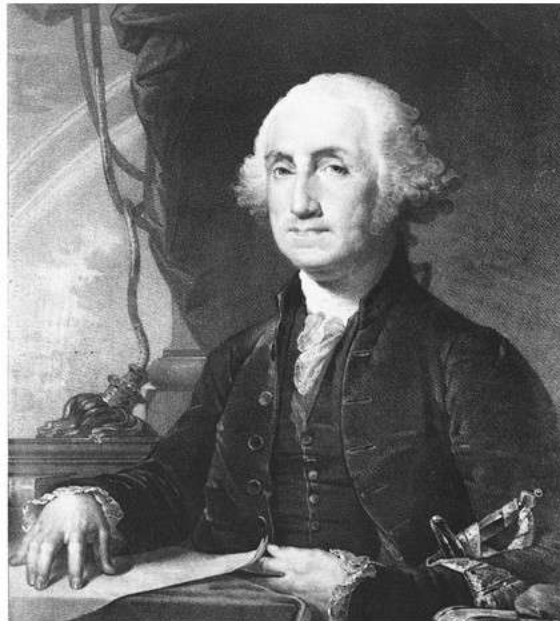


LESSON 2 - A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

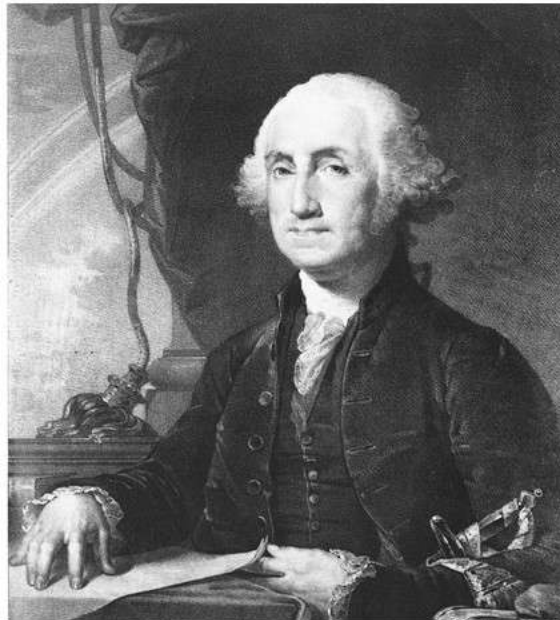
[Ask students to name the person they see in the picture.]

Almost everyone likes a good story. Some people especially like true stories that tell how real people did real things. Other people say, "I love made-up stories best. A person who tells this kind of story can decide to leave in only the most interesting parts and even make sure there will be a happy ending."



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

However, there is a third kind of story that mixes together true and made-up stories. Today's story is an example of this third type of story and is what we call a legend. It is called, "A Dishonest Story About an Honest Man." *Honest means truthful or trustworthy. This is going to be a story that's not really true about a man who really was truthful.* This story is about George Washington—a real person—who acts in the story in an honest way as he often acted in real life. The true part of the story is that George Washington was a real person, and he was very honest. The made-up part is that he cut down his father's cherry tree.



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

This is young George Washington with his father, Augustine Washington.

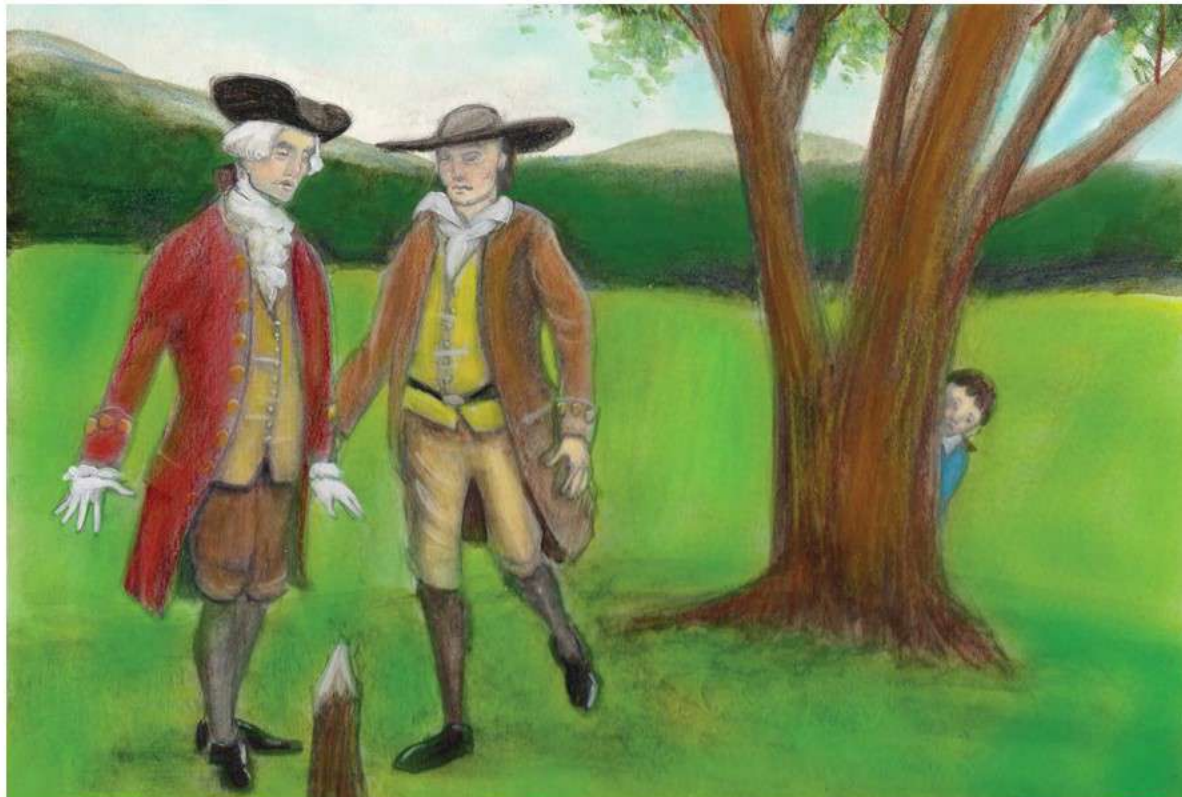
Augustine Washington loved his farm by the river. He loved the rolling, green meadows in which he raised horses and other animals. He loved the woods. He loved the rich soil that allowed him to grow plants for food on the farm or to sell in town. He loved the fruit trees on his farm that gave him beautiful flowers in spring, delicious fruit through the summer and autumn, and graceful shapes to look at in winter.

A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

Augustine especially loved his cherry trees. When his son George was about five years old, Augustine said, "George, I will teach you which sorts of cherry trees grow best here and how to take care of them so they will grow tall and strong and give delicious fruit." *Were Augustine's cherry trees important to him? How can you tell?*

A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

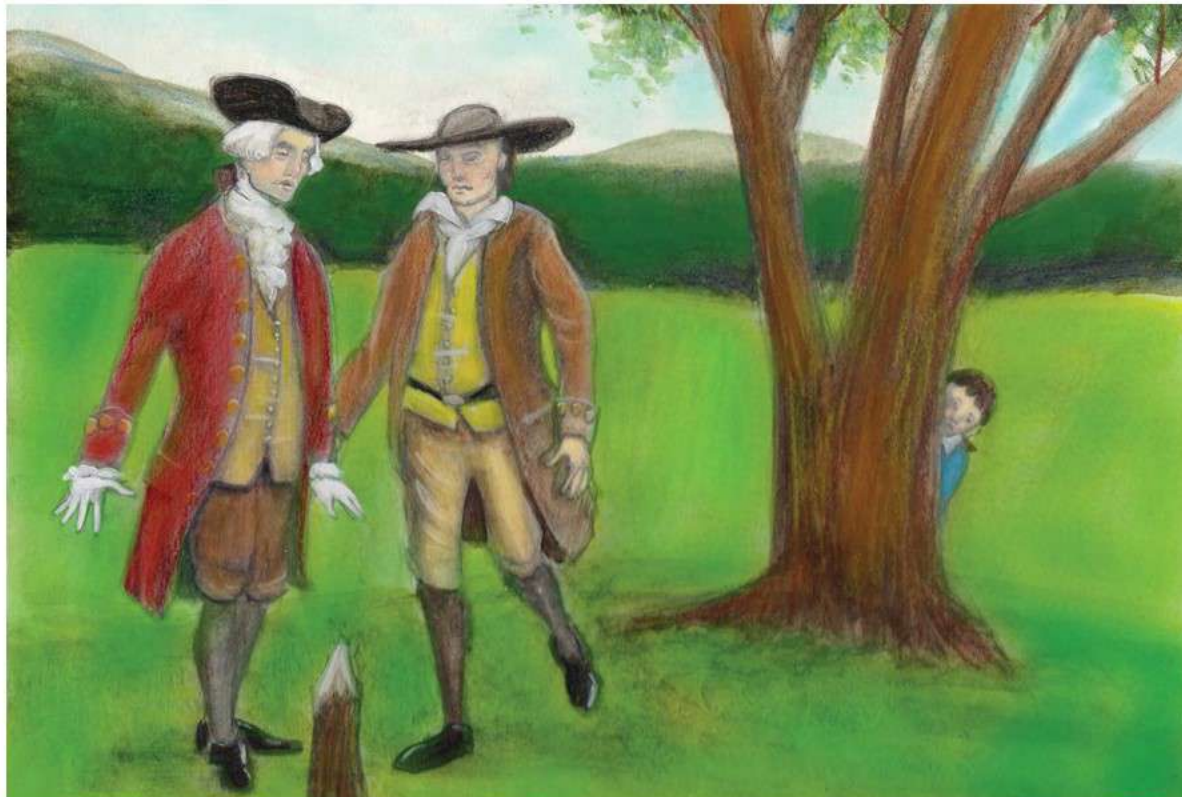
So you can imagine how upset Augustine was to find one day that someone had chopped down one of his prize trees. This particular day he was walking with his foreman, a man who worked for him and helped him run his farm. Augustine said, "This was no accident. Someone did it on purpose. Look how neat a job of cutting this was; no wild animal could have done that. Who would do such a thing?"



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

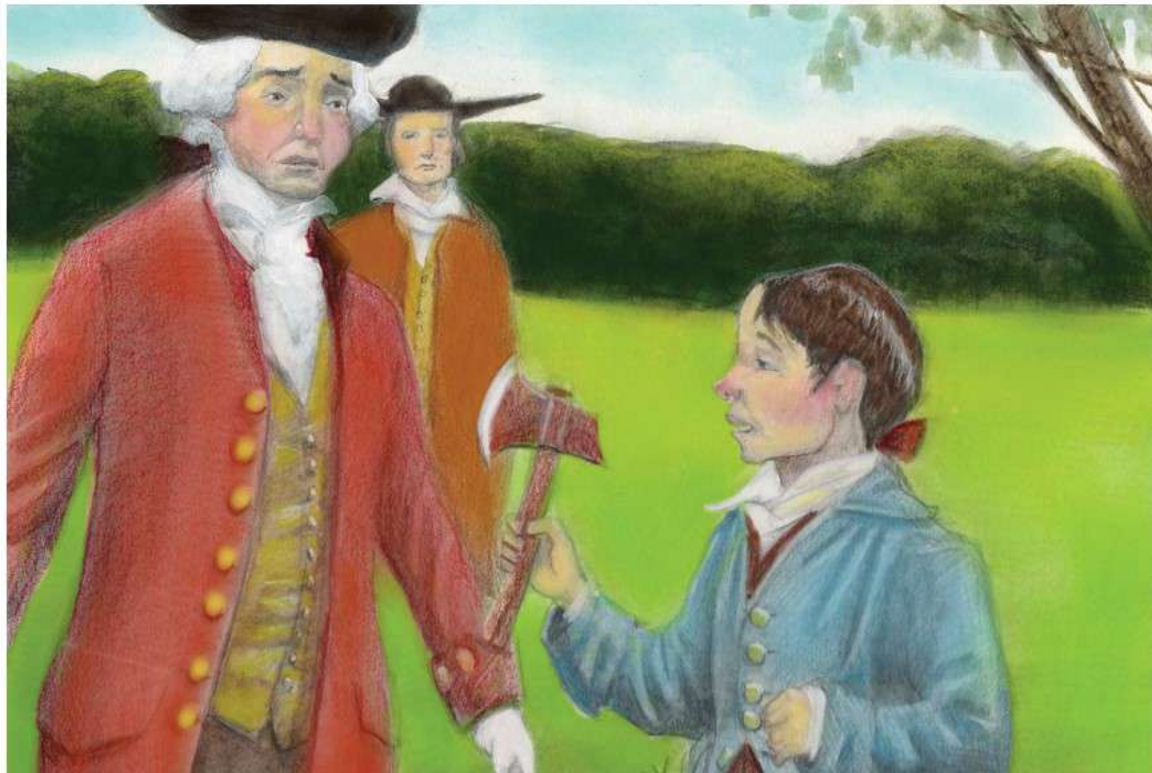
His foreman replied. "I just can't imagine who would have the nerve to do it, sir, or the reason." *Who do you think cut down the cherry tree?*

Caught up in their conversation, the two men did not notice little George Washington approaching from the house. The boy silently listened to the two grown-ups. *Where is George hiding in the picture?* He looked at his father's face and saw disappointment and anger.



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

George stepped forward, looking pale and worried. To the shock of his father and the foreman, George said quietly but firmly, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I chopped down the tree with my little axe. I wanted to see if I could do it, but now I know it was a bad thing to do."



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

Augustine Washington looked at his son. He could see from the expression on his face *or the look on his face* how badly George felt. Meanwhile, the foreman, surprised by the boy's confession, turned back to look at Augustine Washington. *George Washington's confession was when he admitted that he was the one who cut down the tree.* He thought, "Mr. Washington sometimes has a very bad temper. Poor George! I hate to think what is about to happen to him."



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

But to his surprise, he heard the father tell his son, "It was a bad thing to do, George, and you should be punished for doing it. However, I so respect you *or admire or think well of you* for coming forward and telling me the truth that, if you will promise not to do such a thing again, I shall not punish you."

"I promise, Father," said George, and he kept that promise.



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

So you see, even as a young boy, George Washington was honest and took responsibility for his actions.

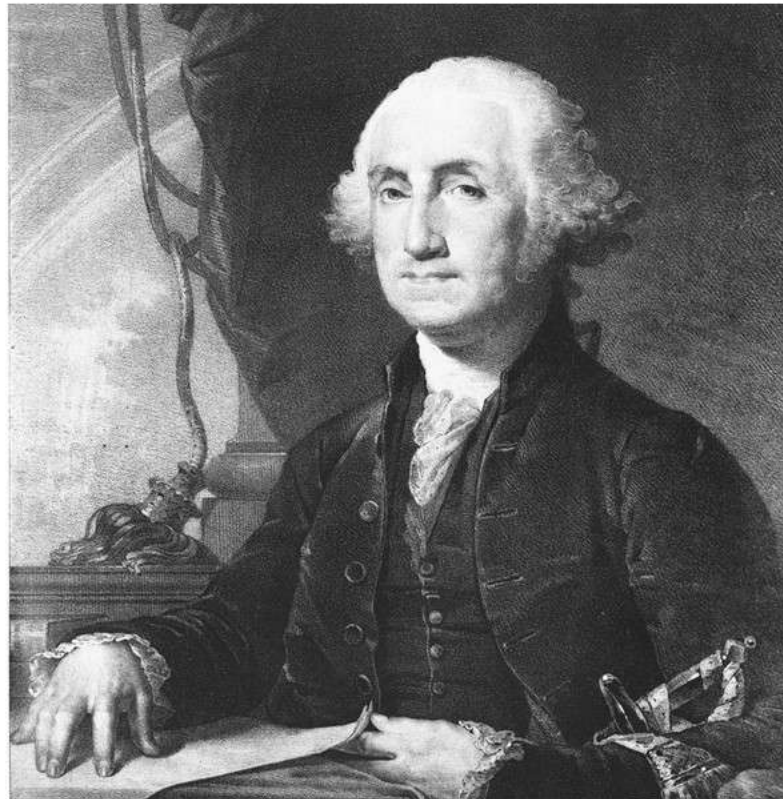
Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us could be like that?

That is the famous legend of "George Washington and the Cherry Tree." It's important to remember that this story about George Washington and the cherry tree is a legend because it is partly true and partly made-up. *What part of the story was true? What part of the story was made up?*



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

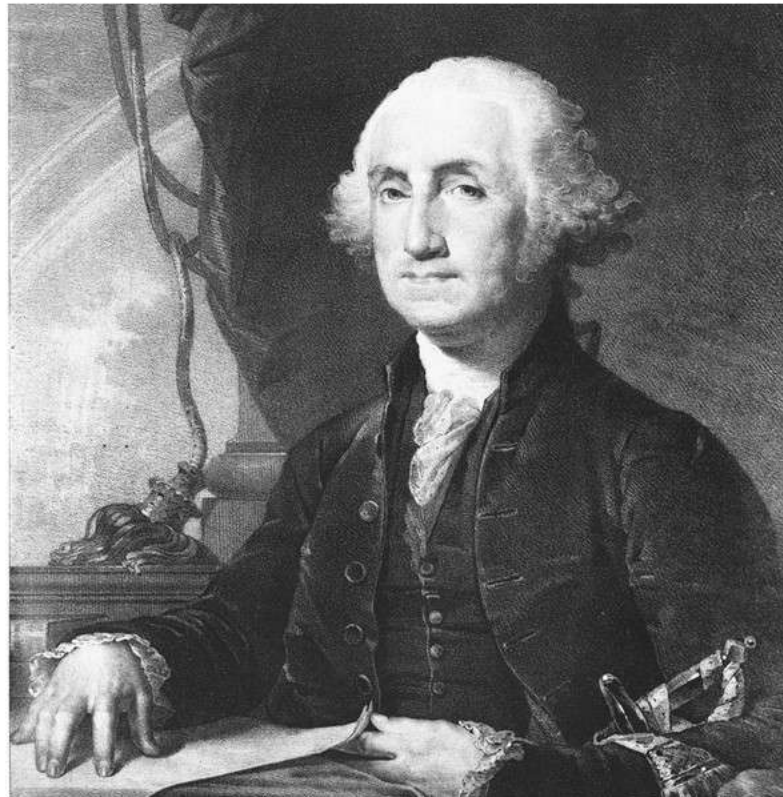
You might ask, "Was George Washington really an honest man?" Actually, he was! After he grew up and became president of the United States, one of the things for which he was most famous was his honesty.



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

What is even more interesting is the way in which people looked up to the real George Washington. *Looked up to is another way of saying respected.*

What does the word respected mean? Washington was not perfect. He made mistakes, as everyone does at times. A few times he made decisions with which his friends disagreed. When that happened, they usually said, "We would have chosen differently, but we know he made this choice for a good reason and not just to help himself."



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

Even the king of Great Britain, King George III, admired Washington. *Washington fought against the king of Great Britain's armies for many years and won. That's how the colonies (started by the Pilgrims and others) became the United States, a country free from the rule of the king of Great Britain.* After King George lost control of the colonies to the people there, who now thought of themselves as Americans, he expected Washington to make himself king of the new nation. Instead, Washington decided to give up control of the army he led and go home to Mount Vernon, his farm in northern Virginia. When King George heard George Washington's plan, he said, "If he can do that, he is the greatest man in the world!" *Do you think King George respected George Washington? Why or why not?*



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

George Washington is often described as “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” There are many reasons for that: George Washington was the most important leader in winning the war that freed the American colonies from the control of Great Britain and the king. *The American colonies no longer had to*

follow the king of Great Britain’s laws. They now had the liberty, or freedom, to make their own laws.

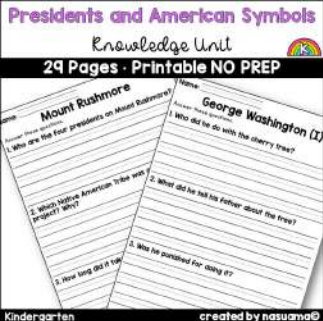
Washington was one of the most important people involved in setting up the new government and starting the new country in the right direction. He was also the most admired and trusted person in that new country.



A DISHONEST STORY ABOUT AN HONEST MAN

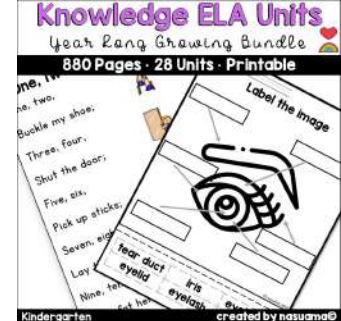
Today, we still look up to George Washington. In fact, he is considered one of our greatest national heroes. *National means having to do with a nation.* His face is on the front of the one-dollar bill and on the front of the quarter. All across America there are cities, towns, and streets named after him, from Washington, D.C., to the state of Washington. *[Show the state of Washington on a U.S. map.]* More than two hundred years after he died, some people still ask, "What would Washington do?" when making important decisions. George Washington never chopped down that cherry tree, but he left us something that blossoms brightly in all seasons: the example of a brave and honest man.





PRESIDENTS AND AMERICAN SYMBOLS

BUNDLE



Name: _____

George Washington (I)

Answer these questions.

1. Who did he do with the cherry tree?

2. What did he tell his father about the tree?

DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?

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