

## A Picture Book of George Washington

### ABOUT THE STORY

Part of a picture book biography series designed to introduce beginning readers to famous Americans; *A Picture Book of George Washington* recreates Washington's America, portrays both the public and private man, and describes the many trails and accomplishments of his presidency.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Adler got his start in storytelling by making up tales for his brothers and sisters. He received his M.B.A. from New York University and taught math to children for several years. He has written more than a hundred books, including picture book biographies of such notables as Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman (all Live Oak Readalongs).

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

John and Alexandra Wallner have illustrated other books in the Picture Book biography series, including *A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln*, and *A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson*.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Almost everyone has heard of George Washington. His birthday is a national holiday. But how much do we really know about him? Tell children that by reading this story of his life, they will find out why he is one of the most famous Americans who ever lived.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "What was George Washington's first job?"
- "Who fought in the French and Indian War?"
- "Why did King George tax the colonists?"
- "When was the American government formed?"
- "Why do you think the American people elected George Washington as president?" (*Draw conclusions*)
- "What character traits did George Washington have that helped him be a good president?" (*Analyze*)

#### **Vocabulary**

Have children draw a line between each of these words from the book and its definition.

colonists  
widow

partly enclosed body of water  
agreement between countries

harbor  
capital  
treaties  
elected

people who live in colonies  
chosen for public office by voters  
a woman whose husband has died  
seat of government

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Social Studies: The City of Washington**

Have children locate Washington, D.C. on a map. Then have them look in encyclopedias or books about the capital to answer these questions:

- Why did Americans decide to build a new city and make it the capital?
- What other cities were the capital before Washington was built?
- What problems did builders have when they built the city?

#### **Math: Adding Presidents**

Identify the presidents whose faces appear on the following coins and bills: dollar bill- George Washington; quarter-George Washington; penny-Abraham Lincoln. Then have children add the amount of money represented by these presidents:

Washington + Jefferson (2 possible sums)

Jefferson + Lincoln

Washington + Roosevelt (2 possible sums)

Lincoln + Roosevelt

#### **Social Studies: Washington Time Line**

Write the following list of dates and events on the board. Have children put the events in order with their dates and place them on a time line.

1732 1754-63 1759 1775-83 1789 1792 1799

George Washington marries Martha Curtis; The American Revolution is fought; George Washington dies; George Washington is born; The French and Indian War is fought; George Washington is elected president; George Washington is re-elected president.

#### **Art: Building the Washington Monument**

Show children pictures of Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Explain that the monument is a memorial to our first president. Provide cardboard and white construction paper, scissors, and glue or tape so children can build their version of the Washington Monument.

### INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

#### **Seeing Mount Vernon**

Have children visit George Washington's Virginia home, Mount Vernon, by using the keywords *Mount Vernon* to find its website on the Internet. Encourage them to explore the rooms and ground electronically.