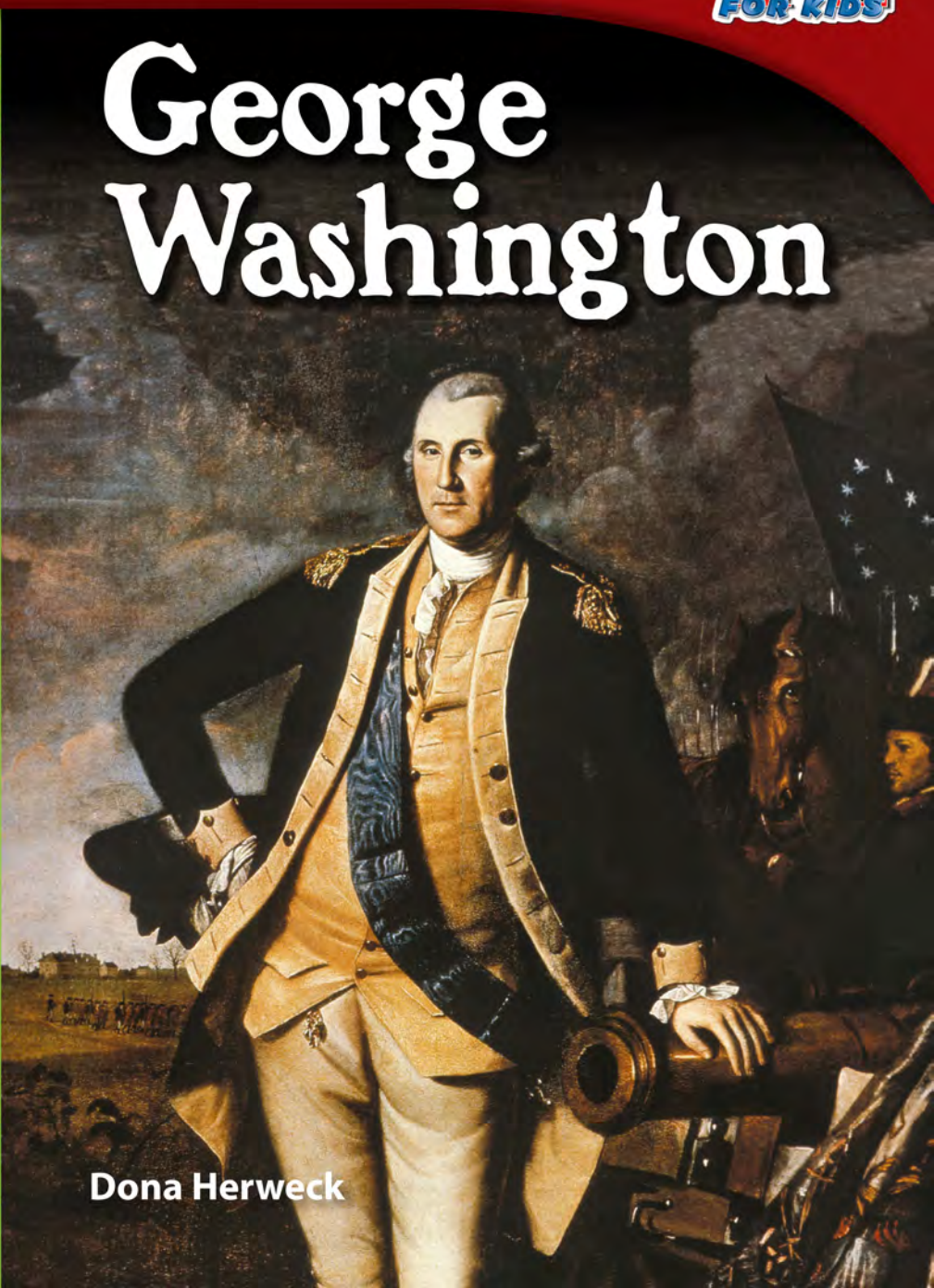
TIME FOR KIDS

George Washington



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The Cherry Tree

Young George had a new axe that he couldn't wait to use. The shiny metal was sharp and the wooden handle was smooth and glossy. George's parents thought he was ready to have an axe of his own. They knew they could trust their honest son to use it wisely.



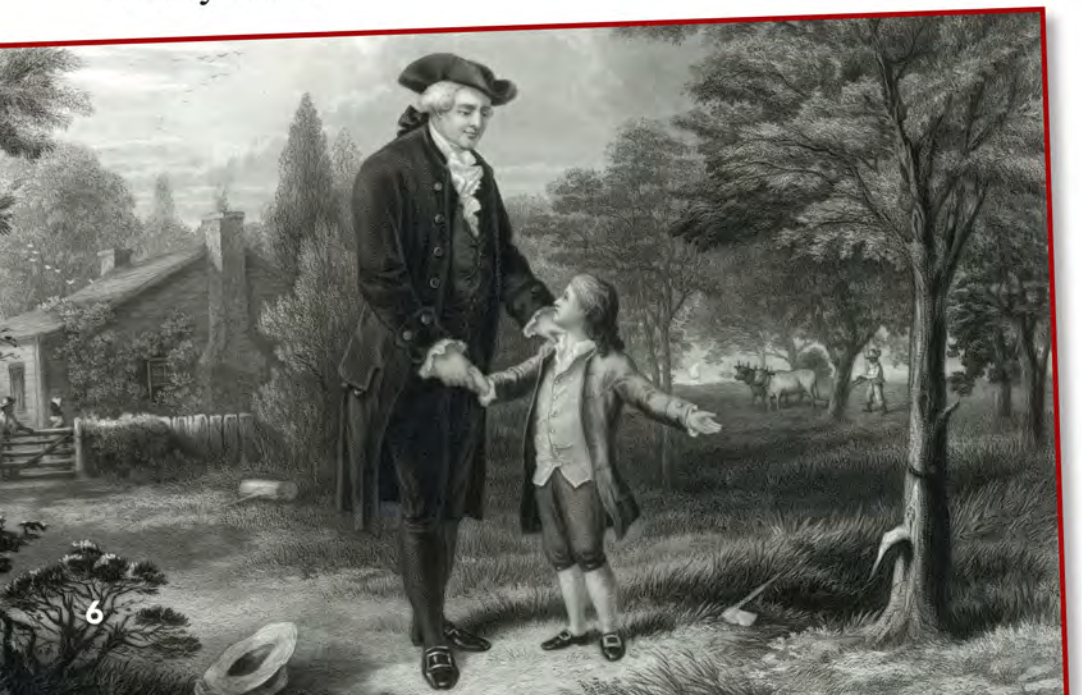


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Most of the time George made good choices about what to do. But now he wasn't thinking. He felt he would burst if he didn't try using the axe. It was then that he saw the cherry tree.

George's father had just planted the tree. But George didn't think about that. The young tree was just the right size for chopping, and that is just what George did. He chopped down the cherry tree.

George knew right away that it was wrong. He was ashamed. So he bravely walked to his father and said, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I chopped down the cherry tree."





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Did this really happen? No, but people like to tell the story anyway. It shows that George was an honest and brave person.

Do you know who George grew up to be? He was George Washington, the first **president** of the United States of America.

Early Life



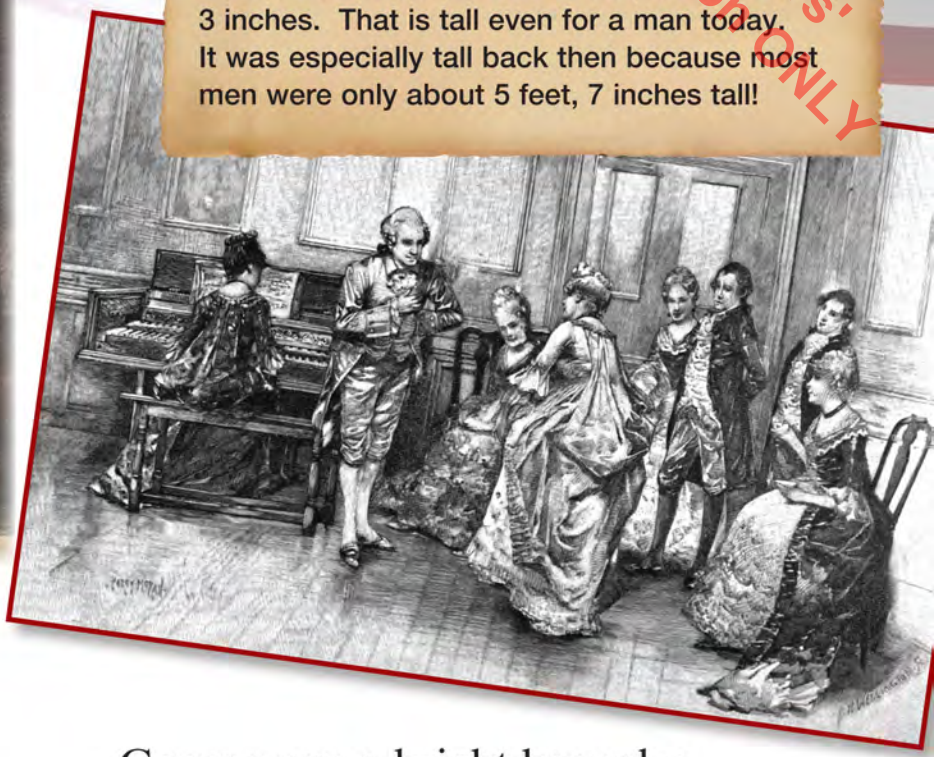
George Washington was born in Virginia on February 22, 1732. At that time, all of America belonged to England.

George's parents, Augustine and Mary, were wealthy farmers. George's father died when George was 11, so his older half-brother, Lawrence, helped to raise him.

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How Tall Was George?

When George was only 13, he was 6 feet, 1 inch tall. When he was a man, he was 6 feet, 3 inches. That is tall even for a man today. It was especially tall back then because most men were only about 5 feet, 7 inches tall!



George was a bright boy who especially liked math. He was tall and strong and liked to be active outdoors. As he grew older, George enjoyed music and going to the theater. He also liked to dance, but he was shy around girls.