



MOUNT VERNON

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Discover information about George Washington by viewing a virtual tour of Mount Vernon.
2. Use information to solve a Double Puzzle.
3. Analyze information from electronic technology.
4. Draw inferences and conclusions from information.

TEKS: 3.1C, 3.14

Materials Needed: Internet access (www.mountvernon.org), short book about Washington (such as *A Picture Book of George Washington* by David Adler), copies of the I Spy at Mount Vernon handout, copies of the George Washington Scramble handout.

Vocabulary: estate, integrity, inflexible, mansion

Teaching Strategies:

1. Introduce lesson by displaying the following quote by Thomas Jefferson, describing George Washington. "His Integrity was the most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known. He was, indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man."
2. Lead students in a discussion of what "integrity" is, and what the phrase, "his justice the most inflexible" means. Identify these characteristics as those of a good citizen and leader. Ask students to identify someone in their lives who is a person of integrity.
3. Read a short biography of George Washington, such as David Adler's *A Picture Book of George Washington*, to give students some background information. Check for understanding of basic facts.
4. Pose the question, "What can you learn from seeing someone's house, even if you don't know them?" "What could someone conclude from seeing your house/room?"
5. Tell students that they will be learning about George Washington by visiting the website of his estate, Mount Vernon.
6. Go to www.mountvernon.org. This website has pictures, information, and activities for students. (There is an excellent timeline under the "Meet George Washington" tab.)
7. Distribute the I Spy at Mount Vernon handout, requiring students to watch for certain artifacts in the different rooms in the mansion.
8. Take a tour of the estate by clicking on "Visit His Estate," then "Virtual Mansion Tour." Follow the directions to click on different rooms on three different floors of Mount Vernon. It's not necessary to visit all the rooms. The handout references the Large Dining Room, Little Parlor, Study, Master Bedroom, Nelly's Room, and Small Dining Room.
9. As students are watching the virtual tour, they should notice the items mentioned on the I Spy handout: a harpsichord, large dining table, globe and telescope, ornate green mantle, pictures of the children, fireplaces in each room, and the absence of bathrooms and kitchen (which were outside).
10. After viewing the tour and locating the items, ask students to draw some conclusions about George Washington and the life he lived. What did they learn about George Washington by seeing where he lived?

11. There are many other resources on this website, including an excellent Bingo game under “Educational Resources,” then “Lesson Plans.”
12. Students will use the information learned to solve the Double Puzzle about George Washington and Mount Vernon. Students will unscramble the words Potomac, President, Martha, General, Farmer, and Revolution to find the answer, Mount Vernon.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students will research the history of Mount Vernon, dating back to when it was known as Little Hunting Creek Plantation. How has it changed since then? Notice the layout of the estate and locate the slaves’ quarters. What did George Washington do regarding his slaves? Some slaves were Martha’s. What did she do?

I SPY AT MOUNT VERNON

As you look at the rooms at Mount Vernon, locate the following items and tell where you saw them.

Item	Room
1. Harpsichord	_____
2. Telescope	_____
3. Globe	_____
4. Fancy green mantle	_____
5. Fireplace	_____
6. Pictures of the children	_____
7. Crib	_____

Where was the kitchen? _____

Where was the bathroom? _____

What did you learn about Washington from seeing his estate?

George Washington

Unscramble each of the clue words then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

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