



Mini Fact:
Martha and George Washington raised their grandchildren, Washy and Nelly.

Americans often call George Washington the father of our country. Some people consider his wife, Martha, to be the mother of the United States.

(During her life, Martha Washington was known as Lady Washington.)

The Mini Page celebrates Mother’s Day, May 9, with a story about the busy life of a famous mother and wife, Martha Washington.

Early life

Growing up, Martha Dandridge was taught the skills that it would take to be a good wife in 18th-century America. These included housekeeping, religion, music and dancing.

Her father was a planter and county official. She was the oldest of eight children.

When she was almost 19, she married the richest man in the colony of Virginia, Daniel Custis. He was 20 years older than she. They were married seven years before he died. They had four children, but two of them died. Her husband’s death left Martha a very rich woman.

Martha and George

Martha Custis met George Washington after her husband died. Washington was already famous as a hero in the French and Indian War.



Martha was born on June 2, 1731. This is a painting of her in 1757 when she was 26 years old.

They were married on Jan. 6, 1759, at Martha’s plantation, White House. They moved to Mount Vernon, George’s home.



John Parke (Jacky) Custis (1754-1781) was 4 years old and Martha Parke (Patsy) Custis (1756-1773) was 2 when their mother married George Washington.

Family life

While Martha and George never had children of their own, they did raise the two surviving children she had before she married him.

When he grew up, Jacky Custis married and had four children. He died at the age of 27 when he was serving with George Washington in the Revolutionary Army.

Patsy Custis (1756-1773) died at an early age. The Washingtons were always concerned about her health. Martha was very sad when Patsy died of epilepsy at the age of 17.

Martha’s family was the most important part of her life. She was always very protective of her children.

As a wife

Martha Washington was very friendly and loved meeting new people. This was important because so many people came to visit, and George was not as outgoing as she.

In one year, 1798, they had more than 600 guests. Some visitors stayed for weeks.

Martha did not like public life, but she was a warm and gracious first lady and a great help to the president.

As grandparents

Both of the Washingtons liked having young children around. They raised two of their grandchildren, George Washington (Washy) Parke Custis and Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis. Their father was Martha’s son, Jacky, who had died.

Slave owners

In the painting at the top left, of George and Martha Washington and Washy and Nelly Custis, you can see an enslaved person in the background.

The Washingtons had more than 300 slaves at Mount Vernon. They worked around the house and in the fields.

George Washington’s slaves were freed one year after his death. But some of the family’s slaves were Martha’s from her first husband’s estate. They were not able to be freed by George.

Resources

On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPMartha

At the library:

- “Anna Visits Mount Vernon” by Anna Glanowski

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of Martha Washington are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ARMY, DANCING,
FAMILY, FIRST,
GEORGE, GRACIOUS,
GRANDCHILDREN,
GUESTS, JACKY, LADY,
MARTHA, MOTHER,
MOUNT VERNON,
MUSIC, PATSY, RELIGION,
VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON.

Z N E R D L I H C D N A R G R
S A B Q K Q S U O I C A R G E
S Y D A L X Y M R A A I Z T H
T S V R E L I G I O N P S O T
S T R T Y L I M A F N C N U O
E A V I R G I N I A H T R A M
U P O B M O U N T V E R N O N
G N O T G N I H S A W L W R H
E G R O E G B K R A T S R I F
K Y K C A J G N I C N A D O J



Cook’s Corner

Mango Guacamole

You’ll need:

- 3 medium avocados, peeled
- 1/4 cup red onion, diced
- 1 mango, diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tablespoon salt

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped



What to do:

1. Mash avocados until smooth.
2. Stir in other ingredients.
3. Chill for 1 hour to blend flavors.
4. Serve with tortilla chips. Serves 4.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. basketball star Anthony (5)_____
2. when you wake up (7)_____
3. not right (5)_____
4. large musical group (9)_____
5. person who isn’t brave (6)_____
6. number of months in a year (6)_____
7. where you find new words (10)_____

DAV	LVE	ARD	ONG
ARY	DICT	HES	MOR
ORC	COW	IS	TRA
ION	NING	TWE	WR

Answers: Davis; Davis, morning, wrong, orchestra, coward, twelve, dictionary.



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Mini Jokes

Margaret: Where did Robin Hood buy flowers for his mom?
Mason: At the Sherwood Florist!

Eco Note

California wildlife officials warn that a new **neurological**, or brain, illness is causing some black bear cubs in the state to exhibit overly friendly “doglike” behavior with humans. Several have been fearlessly eating and camping out in backyards as humans look on. One young bear that was picked up was sleepy and underweight, with head tremors and a head tilt. “At this point, we don’t know what causes the (illness),” said wildlife veterinarian Brandon Munk.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about first lady Dr. Jill Biden.

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