

# Young George Washington

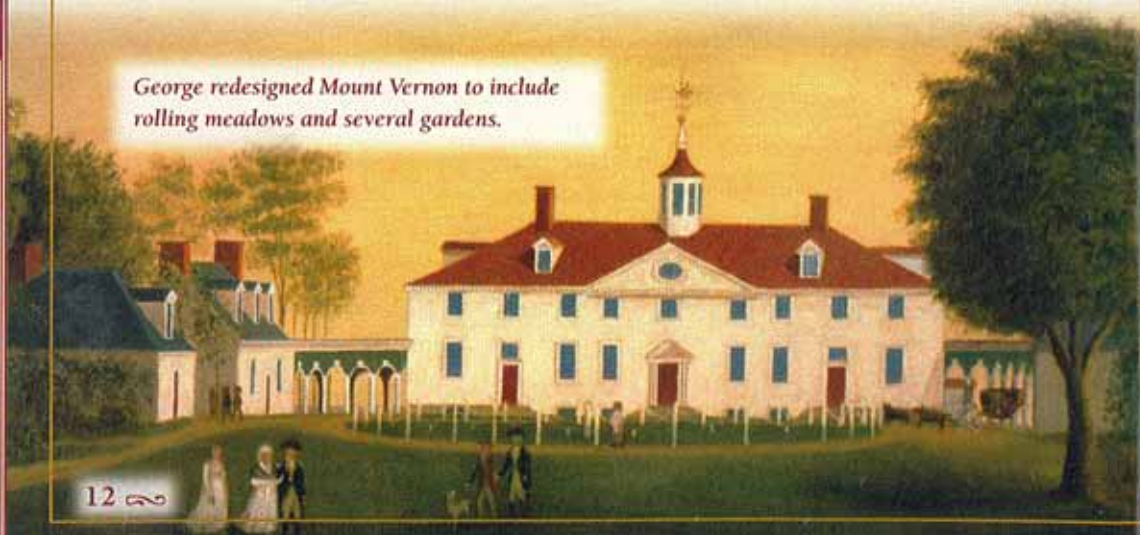


**G**eorge Washington was born on February 22, 1732, at his father's plantation on Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. George's father, Augustine, was a wealthy planter and county judge. George's mother was Mary

Ball, a forceful woman with deep religious beliefs. George was the oldest of six children.

In 1735, George's father moved his family to Little Hunting Creek Plantation, Virginia. When George was 11, his father died, leaving the plantation to Lawrence Washington, one of George's older half-brothers. Lawrence renamed it Mount Vernon.

*George redesigned Mount Vernon to include rolling meadows and several gardens.*

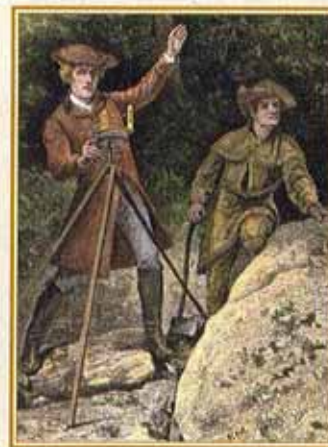


Most sons of wealthy planters started school at age seven. They were taught by tutors or went to private schools. They later finished their education in England. But after the death of his father, George had to help care for his mother and the family farm.



*George used this type of tool to measure land.*

In school, George loved math but he was never good at spelling. That didn't stop him from writing, however. He kept notebooks in which he wrote wise sayings, such as "Be careful to keep your promise," and "Think before you speak." George finished school when he was 14 or 15 years old.



*George Washington became a master surveyor and mapmaker.*

As a teenager, George put his math skills to work and learned to be a **surveyor**. George measured the land and decided where the boundaries should be.

By the age of 17, George became a county surveyor. It was his first public office.

## Did You Know...

George was never happy with his formal education, so he read and studied on his own. In his will, he left money for the establishment of a school in Virginia and a national university.