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This is a story that was made up. For a long time, people thought it was a true story.

# George Washington and the Cherry Tree

Once there was a small boy. His name was George Washington. He lived long ago.

George lived on a farm by a river. George had brothers and sisters. They all loved to play on the farm.

George was an honest little boy. He always told the truth.

One day, George got a present. It was a new hatchet. He loved his small hatchet.

A hatchet is used to chop things. So George wanted to chop something. He saw a small cherry tree. Chop, chop, chop, went George. He cut the tree down.

George's father saw the tree. It was on the ground. He called for George.

He asked, "George, who cut down my cherry tree?"

George answered, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it. I did it with my hatchet."

George's father was sad about the tree. But he was glad George told the truth.



George Washington grew up. He was an honest man. He always told the truth. George was brave, too. He fought for his country.

Then George became president of the United States. He was known as the Father of Our Country.



# Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. This story is mostly about

- (A) fathers
- (B) a hatchet
- (C) cherry trees
- (D) George Washington

Inference

2. George Washington was called the Father of Our Country because

- (A) he had many children
- (B) he had no children
- (C) he was the first president
- (D) he was a good father

Inference

3. George used his hatchet to

- (A) chop down a tree
- (B) chop wood
- (C) break things
- (D) hunt

Inference

4. A **hatchet** is most like

- (A) a knife
- (B) an ax
- (C) a fork
- (D) a saw

Critical Reasoning



5. Why did George Washington chop down the cherry tree?

- (A) He wanted to use his hatchet.
- (B) His father told him to.
- (C) The tree was old.
- (D) He was honest.

Inference

6. What does *honest* mean?

- (A) to lie
- (B) to tell the truth
- (C) to be old
- (D) to be young

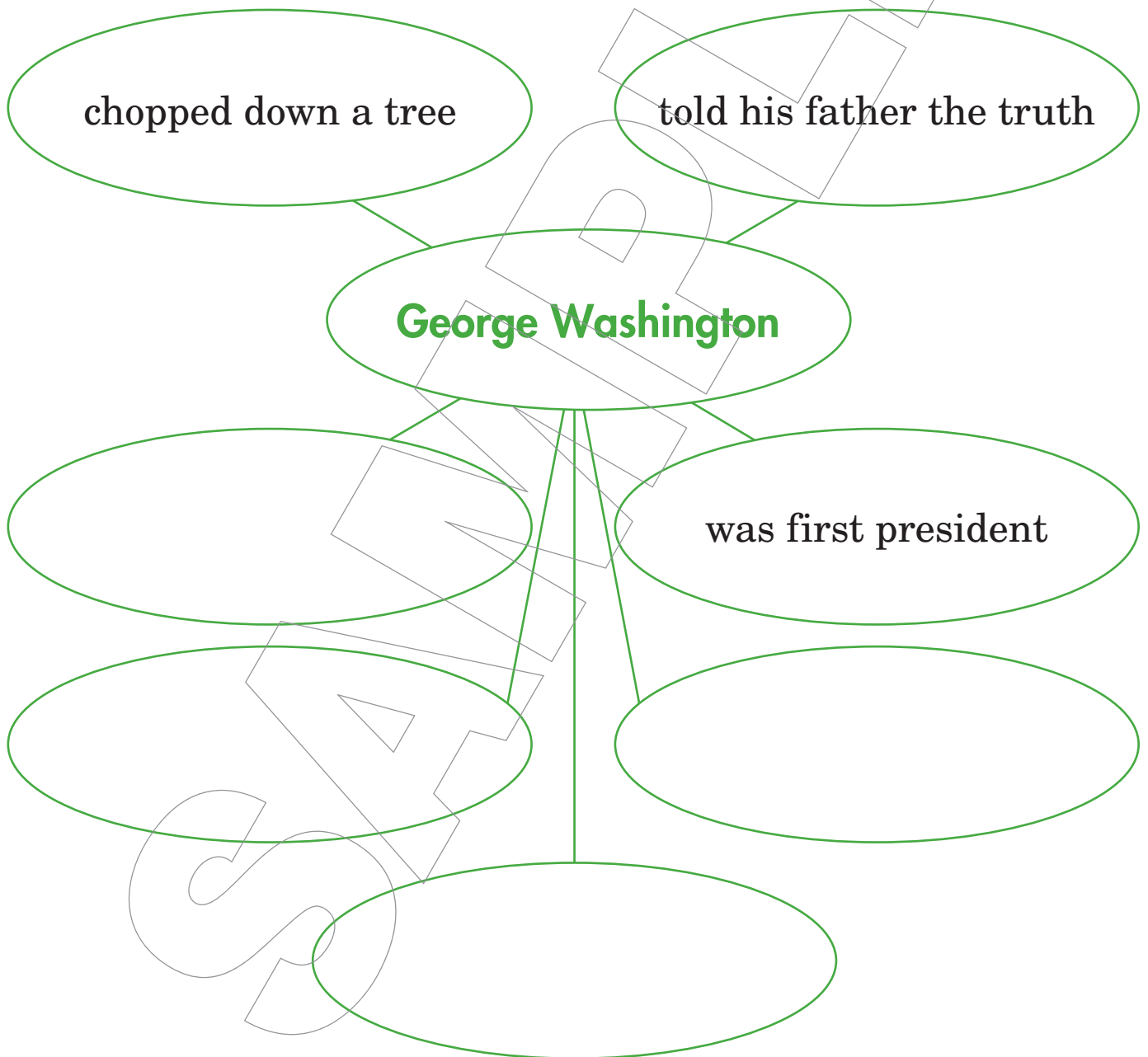
Critical Reasoning



# Summing Up



You have learned some facts about George Washington. Look at the map below. In the circles, write some facts about George. Some of the circles have been filled in for you. Go back and look at the story if you need to.





# Write About It

**Sentences** are one way to write about what we know. They begin with a capital letter and end with a period. Write some facts about George Washington on the lines below. Use the facts from the map on page 43. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. George Washington always told the truth.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_