



For People Who Care for Young Children

LET'S READ ABOUT THE PRESIDENTS

President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday in February. This is a holiday that has focused on Presidents' George Washington and Abraham Lincoln since their birthdays were both in February. We also use this holiday to remember and honor all the US presidents.

Talk about these presidents with your group:

- **GEORGE WASHINGTON** was born on February 11, 1732. The calendar changed 20 years later, and his birthday became February 22. Washington was a brave and honest man. He became our first president.

- **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** was born on February 12, 1809. He became our sixteenth president in 1861. We remember Lincoln for his determination, hard work and skill.

In this newsletter, you will find some books to read and activities to do, not only on President's Day but also

throughout the year to remember these great men in history.

- *Let's Celebrate President's Day* by Peter Roop (Millbrook Press) This book shares with young readers a history of the holiday and how it is celebrated today. It has a question and answer format. It also includes facts about the White House, the First Ladies, kids in the White House and more.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- **Penny Fun** Ask children to look closely at a penny. "*Do you know whose face is on a penny? It is President Abraham Lincoln. What does he look like?*"

Children love to play with coins. Give each child five pennies and play with them together.

- Stack the pennies on top of each other.

- Place the pennies in a line. In a circle.

- If you give me (adult) one penny, how many pennies do you have now? Let's count them together.

- **Penny Necklace** Make this cute Lincoln penny pendant to wear on President's Day. Cut out three stars from construction paper, one red, one white, and one blue. Vary the sizes. Glue each star on top of one another with the largest one on the bottom. On the top star (the smallest one), glue a penny (Lincoln side up) in the middle of the star. Punch a hole near the top of the star trio. Thread a few feet of yarn or ribbon through the pendant to fit the child's head and knot it tightly.



MORE BOOKS AND ACTIVITIES

● *Abe Lincoln's Hat* by Martha Brenner (Random House) Abe Lincoln found that his stovepipe hat came in handy for more than just covering his head. It also served as a good place to keep important papers.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

● Stovepipe Hat

You'll Need: 2 sheets black construction paper ♦ 1 sheet white construction paper ♦ glue or tape
What to Do:

1. Draw a doughnut shaped brim on a black piece of construction paper. Draw this to fit a child's head.
2. Help the child cut out the brim.
3. Help him cut a strip of white construction paper six to eight inches wide. This will be the hat band that will fit around the child's head.
4. Take a second piece of black construction paper, make a cylinder and adjust it to fit his head.
5. Tape the cylinder together.
6. Help the child attach the brim piece to the bottom of the cylinder with tape or glue. Invite him to glue the white hatband around the

cylinder several inches from the brim.

7. You can make a few hats for the group and leave them in your pretend play area OR each child can make one and take it home.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

● *Honoring the Birthdays of Washington and Lincoln* by Mary Dodson Wade (Enslow Publishers) Mary Dodson Wade covers the lives of both famous presidents and gives a background on the history of the holiday.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

● Sing a special song together—*Our Presidents* (Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Do you know who's on the penny?

On the penny? On the penny?

Do you know who's on the penny?

Abraham Lincoln.

Do you know who's on the quarter?

On the quarter? On the quarter?

Do you know who's on the quarter?

George Washington

President's Day (Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

*Today's a special day,
Yes sir-ee! (Clap twice.)*

*Today's a special day,
Yes sir-ee! (Clap twice.)*

*It's President's Day,
When we shout and say*

"Hurraay,"

*"Have a happy, happy, happy,
happy, day!" (Clap twice)*

● Washington Cherry Tree

After talking about young George Washington, invite children to use their arms and hands to create cherry trees.

You'll Need: brown, green and red washable paint ♦ construction paper ♦ paint brush ♦ soap and water

What to Do:

1. Paint each child's arm brown and hand and fingers green.
2. Have them put their arms and hands on construction paper to make a tree print.
3. Then children can dip their fingers in red paint to make cherries on their trees.
4. Clean up with soap and water.
5. Enjoy CHERRY PARFAITS after the art activity.



● Read *A Picture Book of George Washington* by David A. Adler (Holiday House) This read-aloud book tells a brief account of the life of George Washington, our first President and the “Father of Our Country.”

Young George Washington chopped down a cherry tree. Together with your group, make this cherry parfait in honor of President’s Day.

CHERRY PARFAIT

You’ll Need:



vanilla yogurt



cherry pie filling



clear plastic cup

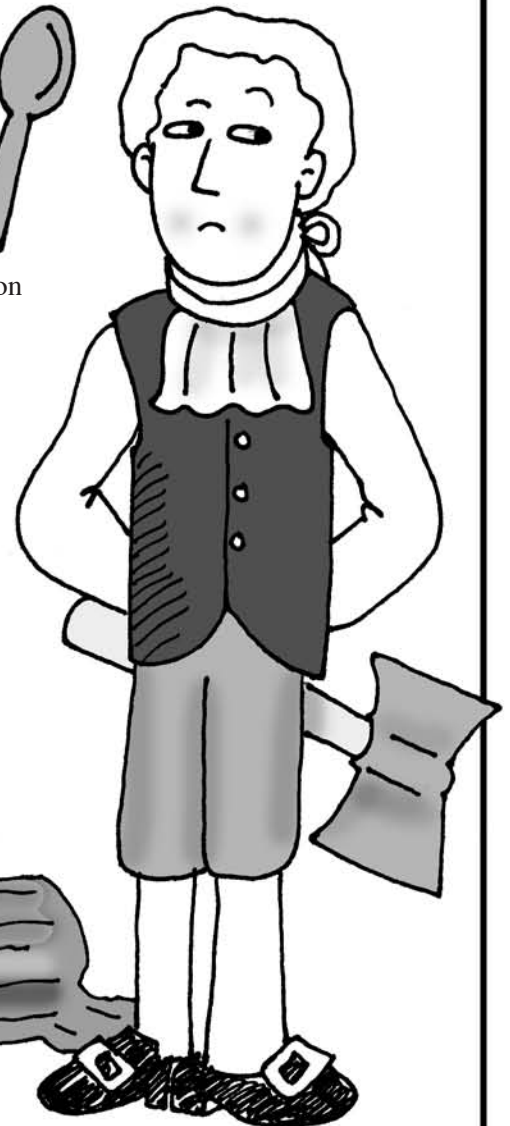
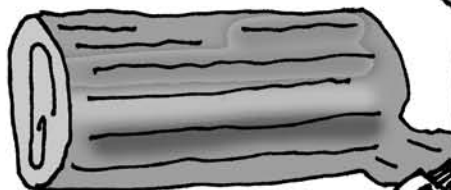


spoon

What to Do:

1. Let children help you layer vanilla yogurt and cherry pie filling into a clear plastic cup. Repeat layers until you reach the top.
2. Count the layers together.
3. Try to make more layers on your next parfait.

CACFP Credit=meat/alternate for snack



BABY AND TODDLER TIME: Patriotic Fun

A baby sees and follows interesting objects with his eyes. Colors are important at this stage. For President's Day, make chains of red, white and blue. Take strips of construction paper and make loops, intersecting one into another. Tape or staple these securely. Why not string a patriotic chain across the baby's crib or play pen? Watch the baby and see if this chain interests him. Does he focus on the colors? Is he excited when the chain sways?

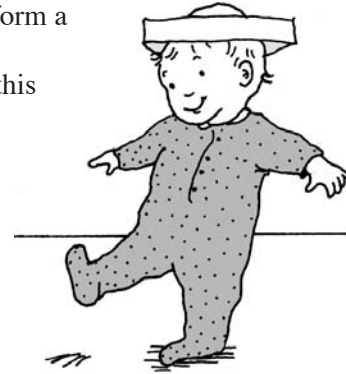
As a child becomes a toddler, his motor movement is important. Make a three-cornered hat like the ones worn in George Washington's time and let him march around the room to some patriotic music. Cut an 8-½ inch x 11-inch piece of construction paper crosswise to form three equal rectangles. Use one of the patriotic colors or all three. Staple (or tape) the narrow ends of the strips together to form a triangular shaped hat. Decorate by drawing a cherry sprig on the front. Invite the child to help you recite this traditional finger play that talks about this special patriotic hat.

My hat, it has three corners (form triangle with hands above head)

Three corners has my hat.

If it did not have three corners, (raise three fingers)

It would not be my hat. (shake head sideways)



AFTER-SCHOOLER IDEA: If I Could Be President!

Present these questions to school-age children.

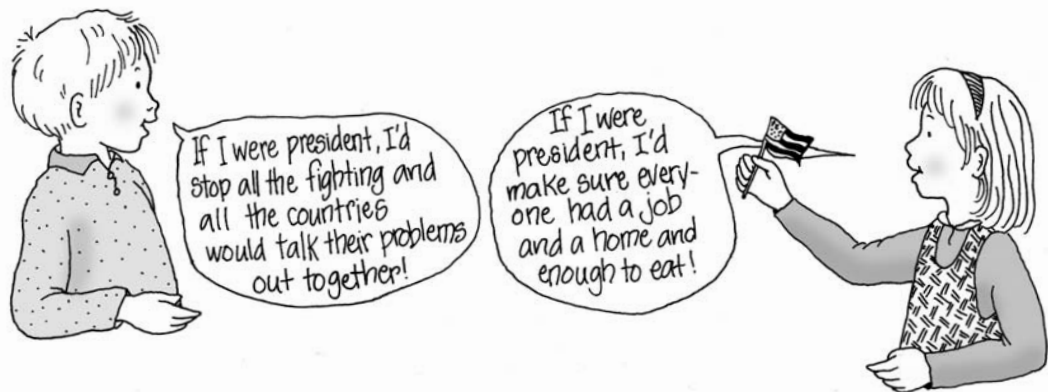
"If you could be president for a day, what would you do?"

"What do you think the President of the United States does all day?"

"Why do we have a president?"

These are great topics for a hand-written story. Make this activity more fun by showing children how to make their essays look old like they were written in Washington's and Lincoln's days. After they finish writing, let them tear around all the edges. Crumple the paper into a ball and dip it into a bowl of cold coffee or cola. The longer you leave your paper in the liquid, the darker it will be (but don't leave it so long that the paper melts). Open the ball and spread the paper to dry on layers of paper towels. For a finishing touch, mix brown poster paint with water in a cup to make a thin, watery paint. Lightly brush the edges of the paper with this brown vintage-looking paint.

Invite each child to share his famous writing with the rest of the group.



Ideas:?????

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