



At the age of 16, George Washington's first job was as a land surveyor for Lord Thomas Fairfax, who hired a group of men to measure parts of his 5 million acres of land. George quickly discovered that the company of men consisted of good friends and some who weren't quite as nice. They got angry easily and drank so much whiskey that they became sick. George was cautious around these men, for he didn't want to follow their ways.

Did you spot the "I will"? George chose friends who would be a good influence on him.

George had learned many things living in the wilderness. One of those lessons was to think about the consequences of all his actions—where he walked, what he ate, and even what he said. Remembering a fresh set of bear tracks he had come across, he suggested to the team that they go around to the right on the way back to camp.

Did you spot the "I will"? George remembered that there are consequences to actions, and he chose the safest route.

Back at camp, the men prepared for bed after eating a simple meal of fish caught from a nearby river. One man gathered leaves to lie on, and another wadded up an old shirt for a pillow. George cut some hay from a nearby field to lie on. Late in the night, George awoke to crackling noises and sparks flying around him. "Fire!" he heard someone yell as he opened his eyes to see the hay around him ablaze.

George knew he had not been as careful as he should. "May this be a lesson to all of you," said the leader sternly. "One more mistake like this and we could all be dead." George took the correction to heart and never again treated dangers, such as fire, so lightly.

Did you spot the "I will"? George learned from his leader's correction.

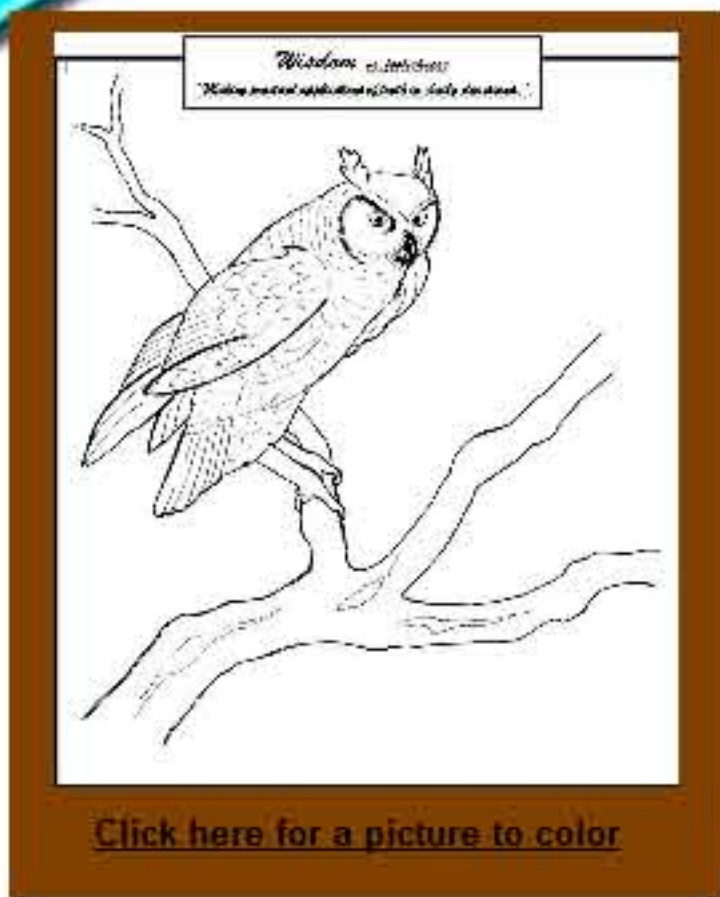
The next day the team realized they were being watched by Indians. Alarmed, one worker reached for his rifle. "Wait! Let's think about what we should do." George said. The leader of the expedition approached the two Indians. George and his friends shared food and drink with their new friends. George was glad they had arrived at the right thing to do.

Did you spot the "I will"? George asked himself, "What is the right thing to do?"

George Washington proved to be not only a wise surveyor, but Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, President of the Constitutional Convention, and the first President of the United States of America. Indeed, he was one of the wisest leaders the world has ever known.

Concept by Character First

Story by Kelly Sorge



Owl Crossword Puzzle

Find each of the owl names in the word search below.

WISDOM	LARGE EYES	PERSPECTIVE	FRIEND
FOOLISH	HONEST	GREAT HORNED	LISTEN
UNDERSTANDING	BOLD	CONSEQUENCE	EXPERIENCE
KIND	DISCREET	ENCOURAGE	CAREFUL

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

[Click here](#) to print this.