



Leadership  
East Palo Alto Unit 472  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California

Lou Thompson, Chairman  
February 2008



## Quiz: How Much Do You Know About Young George Washington?

*Introduction by Laura Young, Quiz by Kenneth C. Davis*



Think your family knows a thing or two about America's first president, George Washington? Think again.

According to Kenneth C. Davis, *New York Times* bestselling author of [Don't Know Much about History](#), what most of us were taught in elementary school was a simplified, sanitized, "historically tummy-tucked" version of his life. Says Davis, "The *real* Washington was far more interesting."

After spending countless hours in libraries, scouring through old books and eyewitness accounts, Davis created a five-question quiz of some of the most surprising Washingtonian facts for his book [Don't Know Much about Anything](#), which we've excerpted below.

### True or False

1. Washington's father died when he was eleven.
2. Like Thomas Jefferson, Washington attended the College of William & Mary.
3. Washington was a math whiz.
4. Washington made up the cherry tree story himself.
5. Washington's false teeth were made of wood.

1. T :: At the time, George inherited a small farm and slaves. Three years later, he went to live with his older brother Lawrence at the Mount Vernon plantation. His relationship with his mother was distant, and as an adult he never introduced her to his wife or invited her to his home.
2. F :: Washington did not attend college and had very little formal education.
3. T :: He supposedly loved to count windowpanes and could calculate the number of seeds in a bag of clover. His mathematical skill was one of the reasons he became a surveyor in his teens.
4. F :: The story of chopping down the tree was invented after Washington's death by Mason Weems, who wrote a fictionalized biography of Washington meant as a moral lesson for children.
5. F :: By the time he became president, Washington had only one of his own teeth left. But he had several sets of false ones made from cow's teeth, hippopotamus ivory, and even human teeth.

**President's Day :: February 18, 2008**