

Rocket Phonics Bonus

The Amazing George Washington Part 2

Vocabulary:

flanking: the part of the **army** to the **right** or left of the

o ea ie

main body
ay ea

squad: a small **group** of **troops**, about 12

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ravine: a small **valley**

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gallantry: noble-minded **behavior**

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artillery: mounted **guns**

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pursued: **chased**

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prophesied: **predicted**

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For two months, the French at Fort Duquesne had been adding more soldiers. The French scouts had told them about the march of Braddock's men. Knowing the size of the two forces, the fort's commander had chosen to set an ambush.

They chose a spot seven miles from the fort. The troops arrived there after noon on July 9, 1755. The French and Indians were just settling into their positions when the first British troops marched up.

This first group was Colonel Thomas Gage's division of 350 soldiers and 250 workers and ax men. Their group had two cannons and the tool wagons. Ahead of them were a few guides and some small

flanking squads.
kw o z

General Braddock and the main army were
j u u ay o ea
behind this group. His section included the artillery
oo k shu o ea
and baggage. More than 40 miles behind was Colonel
ij ie z ker u
Dunbar and over 600 men, with the army's heavy
o o ea z ea
baggage.
ij

Gage's first men had just crossed a small ravine.
ay j z k t u ea
Heavy woods grew on either side of them. Suddenly,
ea ou z oo ea ea
Gage's scouts and flanking troops ran back. Then an
ay j z k ow
Indian ran toward the engineer who was marking
ea u j ea
their road. The Indian stopped and waved his hat
ea u t ay
above his head.

All at once a barrage of musket balls hit Gage's
u o zh i z ay j z
troops. The British could not see even one enemy.
ea ea
Only the smoke of the guns showed that the shots
oa z oa

came from the trees.
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The startled British soldiers could only fire
o ul oa j z
helpless[♦]ly back at the trees. Their shots simply hit
ea z ea
bark and cut saplings.
o z

It was a night[♦]mare scene. Horses, many
ay ea oa z
wounded, screamed, reared and bolted. Dead and
oo k oa
injured British covered the ground. The ax men and
k u ow ks
wagon drivers fled as their officers tried to rally them.
u ie z s z ea
The soldiers stayed, but were in a panic. Showers of
oa j z k z
deadly bullets rained down on them, but they could
ea i ay
only fire at rocks and trees.

Braddock heard the shots and hurried ahead
u ea u
with the main column of troops. But Gage's troops
ay k ay j z
were retreating. They left their two cannons to the
i k u z
enemy. And the retreating men ran into Braddock's
ea i u

main army, adding to the confusion.

ay o ea

k u yoo zhu

Meanwhile, bullets kept pouring into the ranks of men. They stood in frightened groups. They fired desperately at trees, rocks and brush.

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i oa

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ou ie oo

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i ea

The Virginia group, familiar with the Indian style of fighting, hid behind trees. From there they could calmly aim.

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ea u ie

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k o ea ay

This backwoods fighting was new to General Braddock. It went against all his ideas of discipline, order and gallantry. He ordered his troops to stay in their ranks. He even beat them with his sword if they tried to take cover behind trees or logs.

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Braddock showed great courage as he urged his men. Bullets rained at him, and five horses were shot from under him. His secretary was killed and two of

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Wash♦ing♦ton.
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The ie bright red coats of the British made them
k
easy targets. And the officers were the special targets
o s z sh u o
of the French and In♦di♦ans. The bloody slaughter
ea u z u ea o
lasted more than two hours. God's care of
z z k ay

Wash♦ing♦ton was clear through the battle.
o u k ul

After the battle, Wash♦ing♦ton wrote to his
ul o u oa
brother about it. “I had four bullets through my coat
u i k
and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt.”
z ka y t
He real♦ized how amazing this was, for he added,
ie u ay
though “death was leveling my companions on every
u k u yu z
side of me.”

By the time Braddock was hurt, every mounted
u ow
officer had been killed except one. Wash♦ing♦ton.
s ks o u

When Braddock fell, the last of the troops
retreated in panic. Washington organized the 30
Virginian troops left to cover the British retreat. Of the
British and Virginians, 740 were killed. Of the French
and Indians, only 33. Braddock died a few days
later from his wounds.

The French and Indians never pursued the
survivors. Instead they celebrated their victory.

The remaining troops arrived at Colonel Dunbar's
camp. Dunbar hurried the entire force to Fort
Cumberland. This fort was in Virginia (now West
Virginia). The awful battle showed Washington's
courage and clear thinking. It won him praise.

After this battle one Indian spoke about
Washington. He said, "I had 17 fair fires at him with

my rifle and after all I could not bring him to the
ground.”

Another Indian said he had shot at
Washington 11 times. This Indian was a skilled
marksman. But at that point he stopped shooting at
Washington. He was sure the Great Spirit protected
him.

Fifteen years later, Washington was with a
group exploring wilderness lands. He was where
the states of Ohio and West Virginia now meet. An
old Indian chief traveled far just so he could meet
Washington.

With his party, the chief approached
Washington. Some of his words follow.

“I have traveled a long and weary path that I

might see the young warrior of the great battle....”

The chief said that in the battle he had pointed out

Washington to his men. He told them to aim at him.

“Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for you, knew

not how to miss.” The chief added, seeing the Great

Spirit guarded you, “we immediately ceased to

fire at you.”

The chief pointed at Washington. He

prophesied, “...he will become the chief of nations

and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of

a mighty empire. I have come to pay homage to the

man who is the particular favorite of Heaven and

can never die in battle.”

What a founding father we have!

The Amazing George Washington Part 2 grade 5

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