



Welcome to Revolutionary War Activities for Kids: Patriotic Copywork

On the following pages, you will find twenty quotes* from America's Founding Fathers that express what the ideals of freedom, justice, and peace meant to them. They are more than beautiful words. They represent the ideals and the reasons why these men—many of them of very comfortable and financially stable means—risked not only their fortunes but their reputations and their own lives in order to secure these rights for their children and the generations that would come after them. They are quotes worthy of remembering and of pondering.

There are three pages at the beginning of this book that list the quotes and their sources that are ideal for using in dictation. Following these pages you will find the copywork organized by its author. For example, there are two quotes by George Washington. You will find these first as copywork to trace, then written out as copywork to copy, and then blank lines for the student to use for his own copying of the text.

My prayer is that this copywork is a blessing to your family and draws you closer to the One who is the Source of true freedom.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36 KJV

*Please note: many quotes contain original spellings and punctuation.





George Washington

“Thursday the seventh Instant, being set apart by the Honourable the Legislature of this province, as a day of fasting, prayer, and humiliation, to implore the Lord, and Giver of all victory, to pardon our manifold sins and wickedness’s, and that it would please him to bless the Continental Arms, with his divine favour and protection’ - All Officers, and Soldiers, are strictly enjoined to pay all due reverence, and attention on that day, to the sacred duties due to the Lord of hosts, for his mercies already received, and for those blessings, which our Holiness and Uprightness of life can alone encourage us to hope through his mercy to obtain.”

General Orders, March 6, 1776

“We have therefore to resolve to conquer or die: Our own Country’s Honor, all call upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world. Let us therefore rely upon the goodness of the Cause, and the aid of the supreme Being, in whose hands Victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble Actions—The Eyes of all our Countrymen are now upon us, and we shall have their blessings, and praises, if happily we are the instruments of saving them from the Tyranny meditated against them. Let us therefore animate and encourage each other, and shew the whole world, that a Freeman contending for Liberty on his own ground is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth.”

General Orders, July 2, 1776

Patrick Henry

“Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

Speech to the Virginia Convention at St. John's Church, Richmond, Virginia, March 25, 1775

“Doctor, I wish you to observe how real and beneficial the religion of Christ is to a man about to die... I am, however, much consoled by reflecting that the religion of Christ has, from its first appearance in the world, been attacked in vain by all the wits, philosophers, and wise ones, aided by every power of man, and its triumphs have been complete.”

On his deathbed, June, 1799

Samuel Adams

“Nothing is more essential to the establishment of manners in a State than that all persons employed in places of power and trust be men of unexceptionable characters. The public cannot be too curious concerning the character of public men.”

Letter to James Warren, November 4, 1775

“If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great security.”

Letter to James Warren, February 12, 1779





Benjamin Franklin

“Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such thing as Wisdom; and no such thing as public Liberty, without Freedom of Speech.”

The New England Courant, July 9, 1722

“Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.”

Original Quotation Date Unknown

James Madison

“A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest while we are building ideal monuments of renown and bliss here, we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven.”

Letter to William Bradford, November 9, 1772

“I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.”

Speech to the Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 16, 1788

Thomas Jefferson

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

“To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”

Virginia Statutes of Religious Freedom, 1779

“He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual; he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world’s believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good dispositions.”

Letter to Peter Carr, August 19, 1785

“Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights.”

Letter to Richard Price, January 8, 1789





Thomas Paine

“If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.”

The American Crisis, No. 1, December 23, 1776

“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.”

The American Crisis, No. 1, December 23, 1776

“Character is much easier kept than recovered.”

The American Crisis, No. 13, April 19, 1783

“A thing moderately good is not so good as it ought to be. Moderation in temper is always a virtue; but moderation in principle is always a vice.”

The Rights of Man, Part 2, 1792

John Adams

“Let us dare to read, think, speak and write.”

A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1765

“A Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.”

Letter to Abigail Adams, July 7, 1775

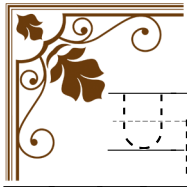




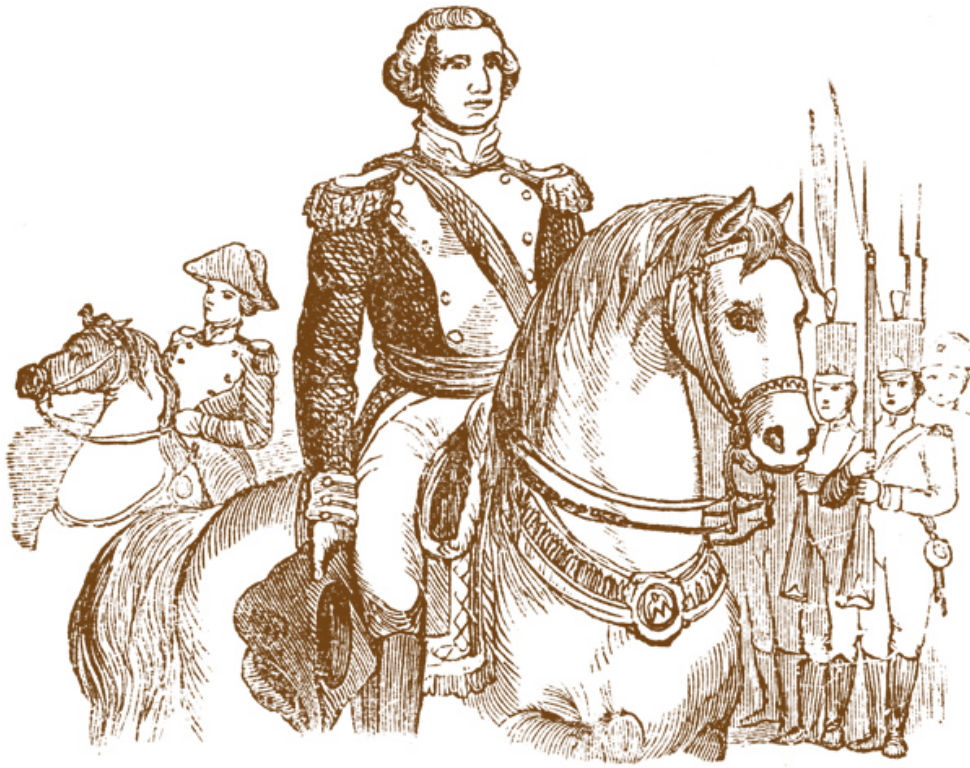
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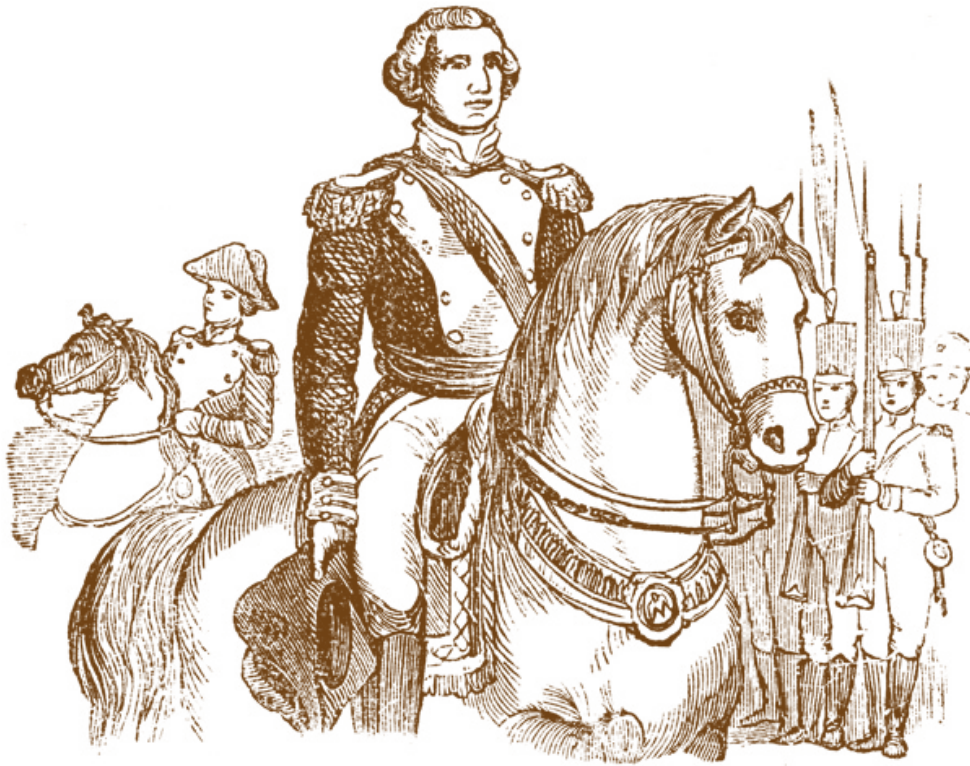
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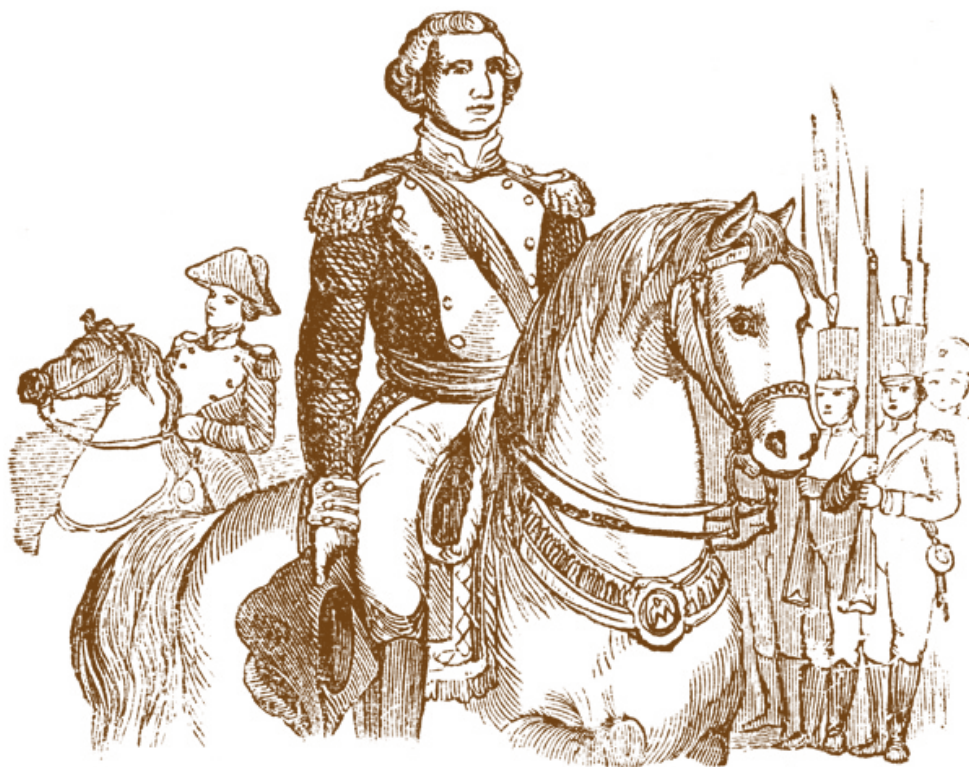
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Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for letter formation.

