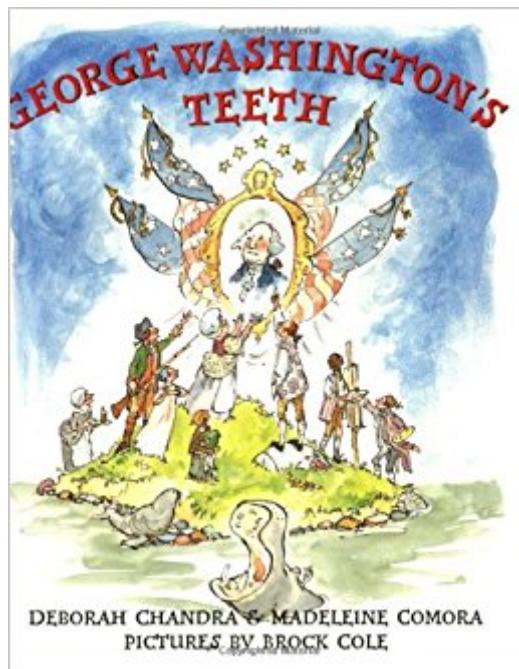


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# George Washington's Teeth



## Synopsis

From battling toothaches while fighting the British, to having rotten teeth removed by his dentists, the Father of His Country suffered all his life with tooth problems. Yet, contrary to popular belief, he never had a set of wooden teeth. Starting at the age of twenty-four, George Washington lost on average a tooth a year, and by the time he was elected president, he had only two left! In this reverentially funny tale written in verse and based on Washington's letters, diaries, and other historical records, readers will find out what really happened as they follow the trail of lost teeth to complete toothlessness. Illustrated in watercolors with subtle humor by Brock Cole, the main story is followed by a four-page time line featuring reproduced period portraits of Washington.

## Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (December 26, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312376049

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #205,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Hunting & Fishing #77 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies #171 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

The creators of George Washington's Teeth unhinge the jaws of history to examine the mouth of America's first president, tracking the poor man's dental woes as he gallops to war, crosses the Delaware, and, with only two teeth left, takes his place as leader of the country. Washington was plagued by black, rotting teeth from the time he was 22, losing about one a year until he was nearly "toofless" and had to have his first dentures made from a hippotamus tusk (that's right, not wood!). Poets Deborah Chandra and Madeleine Comora begin their quirky historical tale at a lively clip: "The Revolutionary War/ George hoped would soon be won,/ But another battle with his teeth/ Had

only just begun..." Indeed. Evidently he was losing teeth even as he crossed the Delaware: "George crossed the icy Delaware/ With nine teeth in his mouth./ In that cold and pitchy dark,/ Two more teeth came out!" (Cleverly, illustrator Brock Cole mimics Emanuel Leutze's famous painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware," making Washington seem more uncomfortably tight-lipped than dignified.) The story ends happily ever after with the crafting of a nice new pair of ivory false teeth that allow George to dance around the ballroom through the night. Truth be told, however, he would be deeply troubled by his teeth until the day he died. A four-page, illustrated historic timeline of Washington's life (and mouth) completes this carefully researched, very funny, charmingly illustrated picture book that works to humanize a larger-than-life historical figure and in turn, history itself. Brilliant! (Ages 7 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a clever approach to history, Chandra and Comora string together spry stanzas describing the dental difficulties that plagued George Washington. Rhyming verse explains how the general's rotten teeth gradually fall out during the Revolutionary War: "George crossed the icy Delaware/ With nine teeth in his mouth./ In that cold and pitchy dark,/ Two more teeth came out!" Cole complements this verse by rendering a sly watercolor twist on Emanuel Leutze's famous painting George Washington Crossing the Delaware, in a full-spread treatment: Washington still stands in quiet dignity, but the boatmen are grinning. By the time Washington is elected president, just two teeth remain in his mouth. Kids will love the details, such as the way Washington uses a pair of his molars to fashion a mold from which the dentist makes a set of dentures (these are carved from hippopotamus ivory, and even shown, in a photograph in the afterword). Infusing his bustling watercolor vignettes with comic hyperbole, Cole easily keeps pace with the lighthearted narrative. One especially funny image shows the president sprawled on the floor, legs in the air, after viewing a newly painted portrait ("George stood up to have a look-/ He fell back on his fanny./ 'It doesn't look like me!' he roared./ 'It looks like Martha's granny!' "). An annotated timeline at the end includes quotes from the leader's letters and diaries chronicling his relentless efforts to hide his dental problems and the extent to which they caused him chronic pain and embarrassment. A highly palatable historical morsel. All ages. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My students always walk away from this read aloud with a new found appreciation for oral hygiene! This book is entertaining and interesting from beginning to end. It tells how George Washington lost

his teeth. My kindergartners LOVE this as a read aloud, and always have a bunch of questions at the end. There is a great timeline in the book, and a picture of George Washington's fake teeth. My students are mesmerized from beginning to end. Your students will never again forget to brush their teeth!

Bought this book for my friend's kids (she's five, the oldest is seven). They loved it! (Well, except the six week old, but she wasn't so interested...) It was adorable and hilarious. I got them the book because the five year old didn't want to brush his teeth one day, and I warned him that George Washington didn't have any teeth at all. He didn't believe me, so I went hunting for a book to show him. They actually made me read it three times in a row before they would move on to anything else. It tells a great story, it rhymes, and it lets the kids count along with the number of teeth he has left! I couldn't have been happier.

This is one of my daughter's favorite books. She went through a very long American Revolution phase and this book figured heavily. But... it is gross! I'm a bit of dental wimp so the graphic, albeit cartoon, pictures of 18th century dental techniques were pretty hard to take! The text is a poem though and reads well. Good info at the back about the real story too - since the poem takes a few liberties. Definitely makes one thankful for modern dentistry, however uncomfortable it still is...

I am a school counselor and used this book in one of my lessons. I enjoyed the story as much as the students did. They loved the counting of the teeth and the rhythm of the book. The story of George Washington is told in such a whimsical way. Anything to get kids interested in history works for me! The illustrations in the book were great, but the section in the back with real pictures and more textbook facts were a great addition to the book.

The illustrations are just fabulous! Am a retired history teacher and welcome the chance to teach my 6 yr. old grandson about our first president. Am sure he will love this book.

This is my second purchase of George Washington's Teeth. I bought this copy to donate to my son's school in honor of my grandmother who was a school nurse there. It is wonderfully written, historical and a great way to encourage kids about the importance of dental hygiene and learn a little about history at the same time.

My students love this book!

On George Washington's Birthday, I read this book to 45 4th grade students, and they loved it. It's a great story for reading aloud, and the students kept count as George's teeth fell out one by one. Two weeks later, the students went to Mount Vernon and saw George's teeth, an excellent reinforcement of a story well told.

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