



## Trivia for Presidents' Day, Feb. 15, 2016

- George Washington's birthday is actually February 22, 1732 and Abraham Lincoln's February 12, 1809. George would be 284 years old, and Abe, 207, this year.
- George Washington didn't have wooden teeth, but he did have teeth problems. When he attended his first inauguration, he only had 1 tooth left — a lonely lower, left bicuspid that held his dentures in place.
- Abraham Lincoln was a great lover of animals. He didn't fish or hunt because he did not like to kill animals, even for food. At the White House, Lincoln kept all sorts of pets including two goats. Lincoln's son, Tad, used to play with these goats, creating all kinds of havoc at the White House.
- In the years leading up to his presidency, George Washington's life was peppered with dangerous experiences. On his way back from the famous expedition to the French Fort le Boeuf during the French and Indian War, he fell off his raft in an icy river and nearly drowned. Later in the same trip, an Indian standing less than 50 feet away shot at him and missed. Later in 1755, four bullets punctured Washington's coat and two horses were shot down from underneath him.
- Abraham Lincoln often stored his important papers in his tall stove-piped hat. Maybe one of these was about voting rights - Lincoln was the first major U.S. leader to feel that women should be allowed to vote.
- George Washington was so strong that he could crack walnut shells between his thumb and forefinger. He was also widely acknowledged as the best horseman in the 13 Colonies.
- Abraham Lincoln grew to the rather astounding height of 6 foot 5 inches, a height that was exceptionally tall in the 1800s. He was also quite thin and gangly; weighing only about 180 pounds.
- George Washington kept and bred many hunting hounds. He is known as the "Father of the American Foxhound," and kept more than 30 of the dogs. According to his journals, three of the hounds' names were Drunkard, Tipler, and Tipsy.
- In 1876, a gang of counterfeiters attempted to snatch Abraham Lincoln's body from his tomb, which was protected by just a single padlock. Their scheme was to hold the corpse for a \$200,000 ransom and get the gang's best counterfeiter out of jail. The bad guys were caught and Lincoln's body was quickly moved to an unmarked grave; eventually, his coffin was encased in a steel cage and buried under 10 feet of concrete.
- George Washington only had about 8 years of formal schooling and was largely self-taught, but he was so good at math he became a paid surveyor at age 16. And talk about going through a pile of pencils - he wrote more letters (20,000+) than any other President in our history.
- Thanks to his long limbs, Abraham Lincoln was an accomplished wrestler as a young man. Defeated only once in about 300 matches, Lincoln reportedly talked a little smack in the ring. According to Carl Sandburg's biography of Lincoln, Honest Abe once challenged an entire crowd of onlookers: "I'm the big buck of this lick. If any of you want to try it, come on and whet your horns." There were no takers. Lincoln's grappling exploits earned him an "Outstanding American" honor in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.