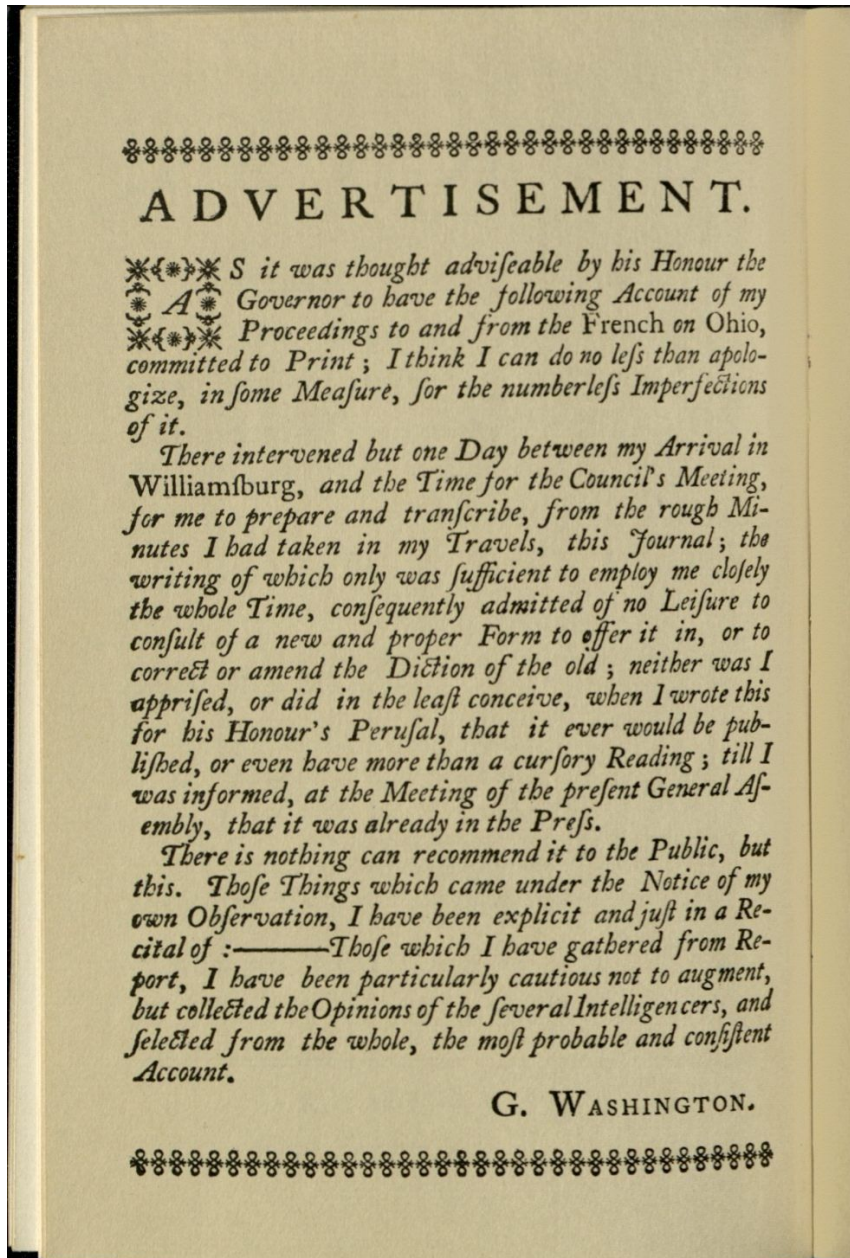


The Journal of Major George Washington, 1754



BACKGROUND

At the age of 21, Major George Washington was asked by the Governor of Virginia, Robert Dinwiddie, to deliver a message to the commander of the French forces in the Ohio Valley. During his mission, Washington wrote about his experiences, including information about the geography of the land he was traversing. When he returned to Virginia, he was asked to write up a report of the mission and submit it to the Governor. George Washington, not having much time, quickly wrote an account and gave the journal to Governor Dinwiddie the next day. Much to Washington's surprise, the journal was published in Williamsburg and London. He wrote the following Advertisement in response to the publication.

*Source: The Journal of Major
George Washington, 1754*

VOCABULARY

intervened: the time allowed
apprised: informed

cursory: quick, not detailed
explicit: stated clearly, detailed

1a. What type of primary source is this? _____

1b. When was it created? _____

2. What do you notice about the letters or the spelling of words during this time period? Why is that important to know? _____

3. The word **account** in the first sentence has multiple meanings. How is the word used in the context of this document?

a. an explanation of behavior

b. a statement of reasons

c. a written description of events

d. a formal record

4. What event does George Washington describe in his journal? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer. _____

5a. Why did Washington write this document? Provide evidence from the first sentence to support your answer. _____

5b. In the second sentence, what reasons does Washington give to support your answer for 5a? Underline the evidence in the text.

6. Reread this statement from the text:

... neither was I apprised, or in the least conceive, when I wrote this for his Honour's Perusal, that it ever would be published, or even have more than a cursory Reading...

Which word or phrase in the statement helps the reader determine the meaning of the word "Perusal"?

- a. published
- c. wrote

- b. reading
- d. apprised

7. In the last sentence, what does Washington tell the public about the writings in his journal?

Provide evidence from the text to support your answer. _____

8. What does this document tell us about the character of a young George Washington? _____
