**Source: Frank Lee Biography Answer Key**

**Analysis Routine**

1. What clothes did Frank Lee wear? Why do you think he wore these clothes? Did he choose to wear these clothes?  
     
   Frank Lee wore a livery suit. He wore this suit because this is what most house servants wore at the time. Since he was the first person that visitors saw he needed to be dressed nicely. He did not choose to wear these clothes, George Washington ordered them for him.
2. List four of Frank’s tasks. What skills did he have to use in order to do them well?

Frank was responsible for greeting and announcing all visitors to the family. He was also responsible for waiting on the family at meals. In order to do these things he would have needed to be well spoken and polite. Frank was also responsible for monitoring the storage of the food and wine. He was also responsible for overseeing the cleaning of the house. In order to do these tasks he would have had to be very organized and good leader. He also would need to know rules about serving food and setting a table.

1. One of Frank’s responsibilities was to transfer food from the Kitchen to the Dining Room. Do think he ate any of the food that was prepared for the Dining Room. Why or why not?  
     
   Answers will vary but should mention that he probably did not eat the food that was prepared for the Dining Room. As an enslaved person he was not allowed to eat with the family and ate separately.
2. What is one thing in Frank’s biography that surprised you?  
     
   Answers will vary but should use complete sentences and use evidence from the primary sources.

**Frank Lee** **Biography**

Frank Lee came to Mount Vernon with his brother in 1768 when, as enslaved people, George Washington brought them there. He was given a work assignment in the house. Frank was first an enslaved waiter. Then he became the long-time enslaved butler for the Mount Vernon mansion.

Frank Lee was usually the first person a visitor to Mount Vernon saw. He dressed in a white-and-red livery suit. Liveries were special uniforms worn by house servants that George Washington ordered for him to wear. Frank would greet and announce a visitor’s presence to the family. Visitors remembered meeting him and described him as polite, kind, and light-skinned. These descriptions provided a rare opportunity to better understand the characteristics of an enslaved person at Mount Vernon. He had a lot of duties. He also oversaw the Washington’s tableware. He waited on the family at meals. He monitored the stores of food and wine. He supervised the cleaning of the house. He also looked after some of the estate’s dogs.

Frank Lee married into one of the largest families on the estate. His wife was Lucy, Mount Vernon’s cook in the 1790s. They had at least four children. In addition to the small cabin next to the mansion where he and his family lived, Frank also had a room in the cellar of the Mansion. This may have been his office or possibly where he slept when he was needed in the house at odd hours.

