

In the Image of God

TFCA Sunday School (K-5) Lesson Plan – May 12, 2024 (last update 5/15/24)

Note: This lesson is geared primarily to the younger grades (K-3) and may need to be supplemented to fully engage 4th and 5th graders.

LESSON OBJECTIVES – For the student to understand that:

- 1) Human beings are created in the image of God – we are a picture of God to the world.
- 2) Because we are made in God’s image, every human being is very valuable at every stage of life.
- 3) Our life in the womb is amazing!

Today we’re looking at what it means to be a human being, starting from the very beginning of your life. (Give every student a quart-size baggie to place lesson items. Have them write name on outside.) Pay attention so when you go home, you can tell someone why each item is in the bag. Also, be ready for a visit during class from some special guests – today we will get to meet a very tiny human being!

#1 – Created Things Handout – write “Good” or “Very Good” under each picture – (some verses on back side)

We’ll start with what God’s Word says, since He’s the one who created us. The first chapter of Genesis describes creation and is super important because we find out what God thinks about what He is making!

When God created our earth, first there was water everywhere. God separated the waters and made the land – Show a big ROCK. - **said the dry land was good** (Gen 1:10)

The next thing God made on the earth were plants. Show a potted PLANT. How is it different from the rock? (can grow, reproduce, is alive) - **said the plants were good** (Gen 1:12)

The next thing God made on the earth were animals (point to Bengal Tiger pic). How is an animal different from a plant? (moves, communicates, thinks) - **said the animals were good** (Gen 1:25)

The last thing God made were people – human beings. Listen carefully to what the Bible says: “So God created man (i.e. humans) in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen 1:27)

(For older students: Can point out that the word “created” is used 3x. In Hebrew, repetition is used like exclamation points today. 3x means really important, the climax of creation.)

God blessed the first humans (Adam & Eve) and told them they were in charge of taking care of the earth and everything in it, and that they should fill the earth with families. After God made human beings, He said everything He had made was **VERY GOOD!** (Gen 1:31)

#2 – What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

The Bible says humans are made in the image of God. An image is a picture. Does God look like us? (no) Are we God? (no) Then how are we an image of God? In what ways does a person reflect/show something about God? And how does that also make us different than animals?

Some things the kids might say –

- human beings talk and think at a high level - read/write, think about the future
- human beings have a job to take care of the world
- human beings have imaginations and are very creative
- human beings have a sense of right and wrong
- human beings lay down their lives for others

Yes! All these things do make humans different and special. The most important thing to remember is when people see us they see something of God, and we are very, very valuable - more valuable than any other created thing. Jesus Himself said - *the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable than many sparrows.* (Mat. 10) Also, how we act can be the image of God for others.

#3 – George Washington images – sin & transformation

Black & white Handout – this is an image of who? When people see this image they think of our First President. It's a good image. Now crumple up the paper and open up again. Is this still an image of GW? Yes, but harder to see. God wanted us to be an image of Him, but the first people (Adam & Eve) said no, they wanted to be God themselves and they sinned and turned away from God. Even though we sin, we are still made in God's image, but it's harder to see.

Color Handout – now this picture is an even better image of GW than before! This makes us think about how God wants to transform us into a perfect image. He loves us so much that Jesus came to earth AS A HUMAN and died to pay for our sins so we could be a beautiful image of God again. When Jesus comes back to make the new heavens & earth – we will be made even more beautiful than when God first made creation! (without spot or wrinkle – Eph 5:27)

#4 - STAND UP BREAK – *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* song - SLIDE #1

<https://youtu.be/WX8HmogNyCY> (starts at sec 50 to do 3# at fastest speed)– Let's review parts of the human body and get out some *energy*. (Older kids may want to try going even faster. You can also do this exercise without video, as most kids know it.)

#5 – **Baby Model Handout** (from Heritage House, "Precious One" fetal model)

We've learned that human beings are made in the image of God, which makes us very unique and valuable. God didn't say just some human beings, He said all. So that means human beings before they are born, as well as after. We become a human being when we are first created inside our mothers. We start very tiny, as one cell.

This is a human at 10 weeks old who has already grown a tremendous amount. Find the baby's head, shoulders, knee, toes (from song). What's the main difference between this baby and you? (you are bigger). Babies before birth are like us – they just need time to grow into kids and then adults. Based on our age, we can be called a human embryo (first 8 weeks), or a human fetus (wk 9-38), or a human infant, or a toddler, or a child, or a teenager, or an adult, or a senior adult. We look different at each stage, but we're still the same person, just a different age.

Fun Facts at 10 weeks old:

Fingernails and toenails start to form
You have your own unique fingerprints
Bones are hardening throughout your body
Your eyes have finished forming
You already have a preference to be right or left handed
You start to suck your thumb

Kids can put this model (inside wrapper) in their bag if they'd like to take it home and will treat it respectfully.

#6 - Watch *Baby Olivia* video - SLIDE #2 <https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/>- starts at sec35 – discuss how baby embryo and baby fetus grows – always fully human. Develops in the mother's womb for 9 months. If time – discuss what they noticed, e.g. at 3 weeks a heartbeat is detected; at 11 weeks playing, jumping; at 14-18 weeks the mother feels the baby move (quickening); at 27 weeks the baby can recognize voices & songs.

#7 - Visit from Pregnant Couple – ask questions, listen to heartbeat with doppler (a fetal heartbeat is faster than after birth. The heart starts beating after 3 weeks of life!).

Possible questions: (1) how many months old is your baby? (2) can you feel your baby move inside of you? (3) can your baby hear us talking? (4) what is the role/job of the dad while the mom is pregnant and after the baby is born? – encourage the “young men” in your class, that they will be great dads.

Pray for the pregnant couple and their little baby. Pray for all people to know they are precious in God’s sight. Pray that all people will be treated as valuable.

#8 - QUIZ - SLIDES #3-7

Some people don’t believe that human beings are special. Some people believe only certain human beings are special and others are not. God, our creator, tells us about our value. Do our differences make some of us more valuable to God? Let’s do a quiz together and think about this. Here are some differences:

Size – it doesn’t matter how big or small, or old or young we are

Level of Development – it doesn’t matter how smart or skillful we are

Environment – it doesn’t matter where we live (including inside our mother’s womb)

Degree of Dependence – it doesn’t matter how much we need others to care for us

Final Exam – which of these pictures is an image of God?

We need to treat each person we meet with kindness and respect because they are made in the image of God.

#9 – Watch Me Grow Handout (from Heritage House) – shows each month of development in the womb. Can discuss in class or students can take home to look at with parents.

#10 - If any extra time

Have fetal model displays that children can explore

Let children listen to their own heartbeats with a stethoscope

Learn this song: *God Created Man* (with hand motions) by Seeds Kids Worship

Take Home in Baggie –

Good & Very Good handout

George Washington b&w and color images

10wk baby model (if the student wants one)

Watch Me Grow brochure

Letter to parents telling what was covered in class

Have students place items in baggie as you go through lesson so these are not left on table at end of class. The brochure and parent letter can start off in baggie depending on how rushed you might be at end of class.

Answers to questions/topics that, although not mentioned by teachers, might be raised by students:

How did the baby get in there? - It takes both a mommy and a daddy to make a baby. If you want to know more, you can ask your parents.

Abortion – Sadly, some people don’t understand that babies in the womb are people too and very valuable, just like you and me. Abortion is when some say it’s ok to take that precious baby’s life away. We know that’s wrong because of what God says and also because we can see inside the womb now and know that we are human beings from the very beginning of our lives.



Creation account in Genesis

And God said, "...let the dry land appear."...And God saw that **it was good**. (Gen 1:9)

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed..."
And God saw that **it was good**. (Gen 1:12)

And God said,"Let the earth bring forth living creatures..." And God saw that **it was good**. (Gen 1:25)

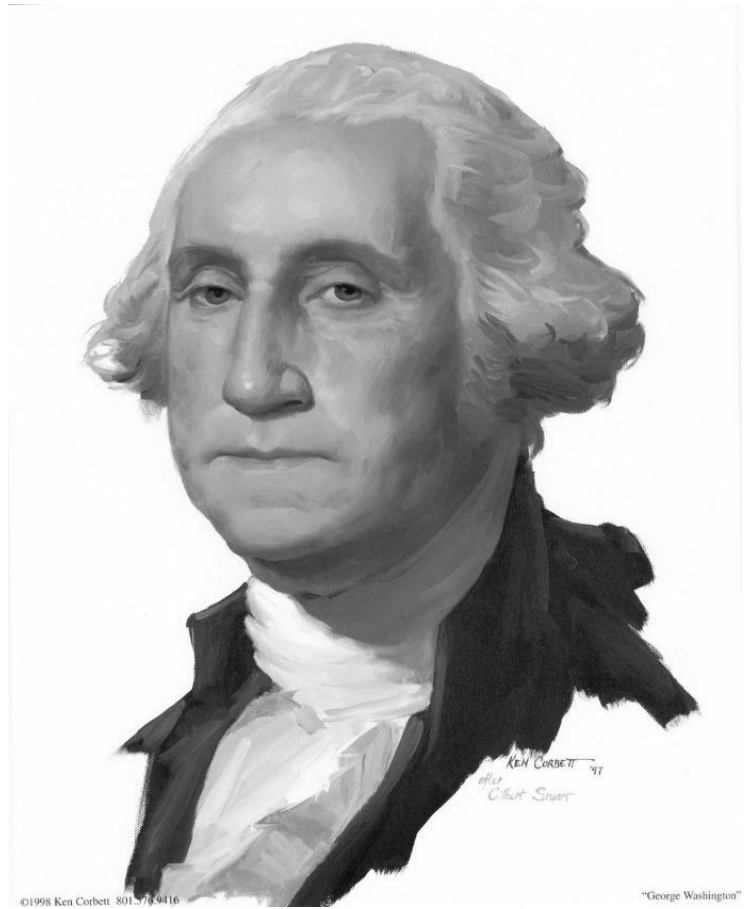
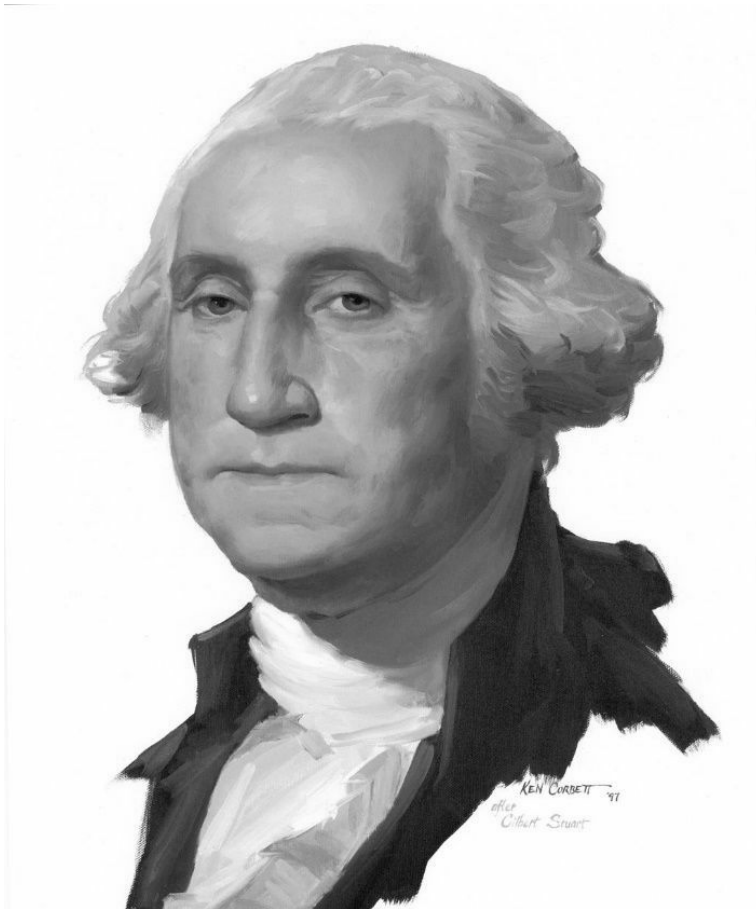
Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, **it was very good**. (Gen 1:31)

The Bible declares

Human Life is sacred because human beings are made in the image of God and are set apart to glorify God.

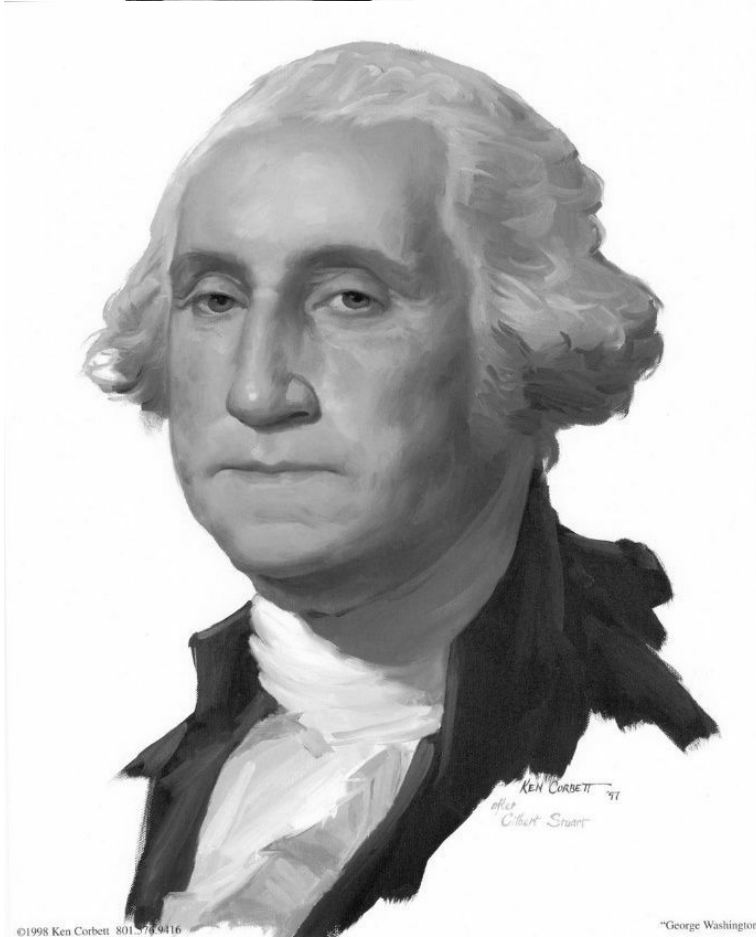
Even every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. Isaiah 43:7

For you formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well. Ps 139:13-14



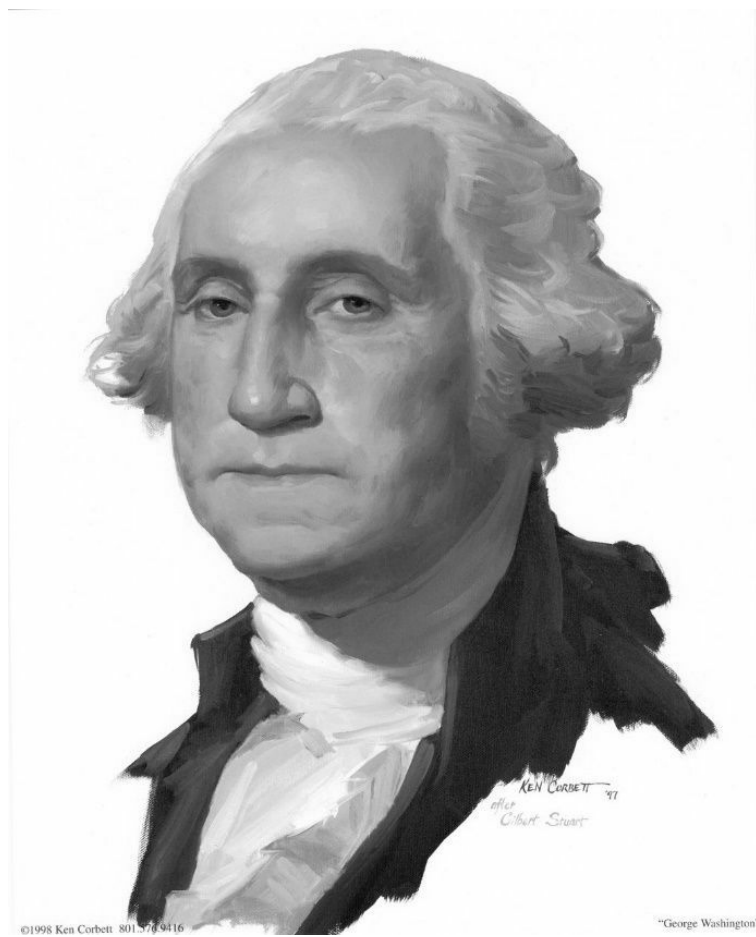
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"George Washington"



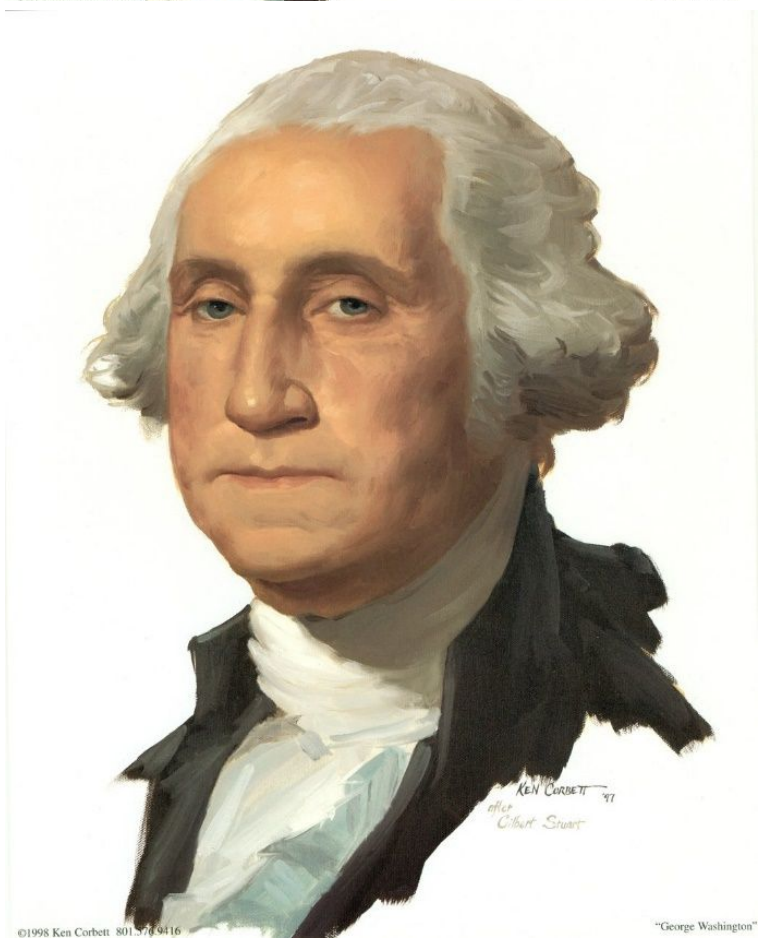
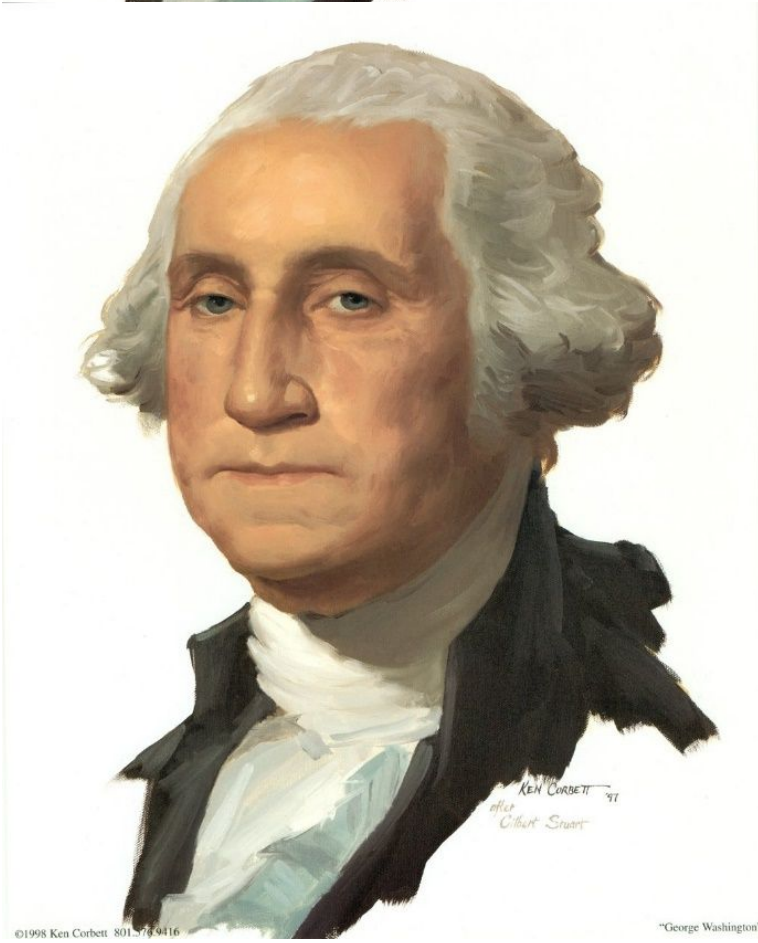
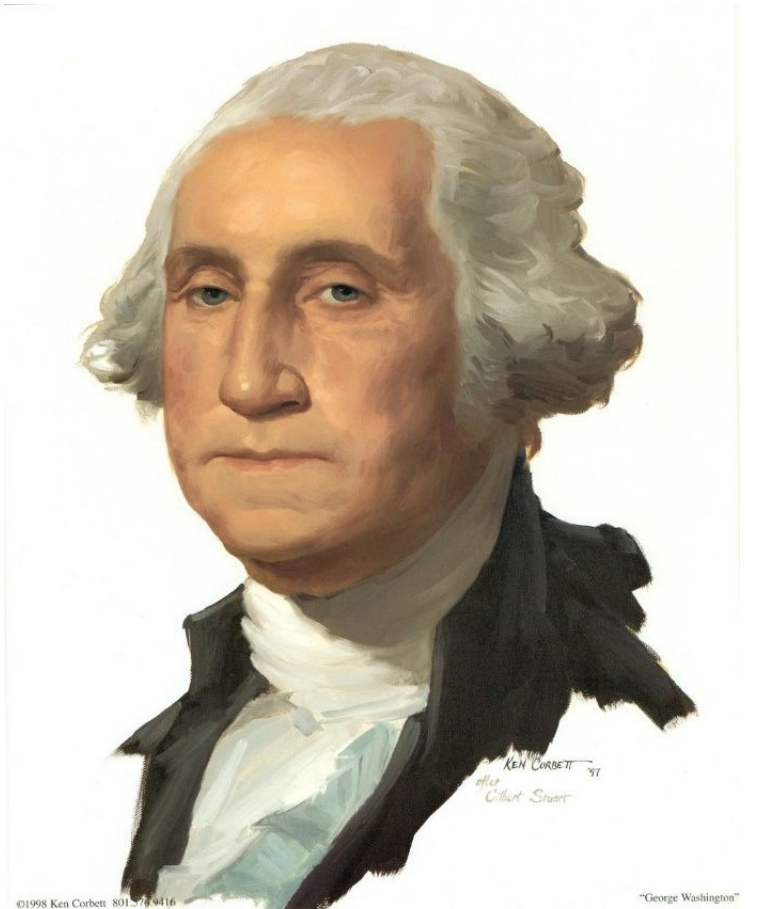
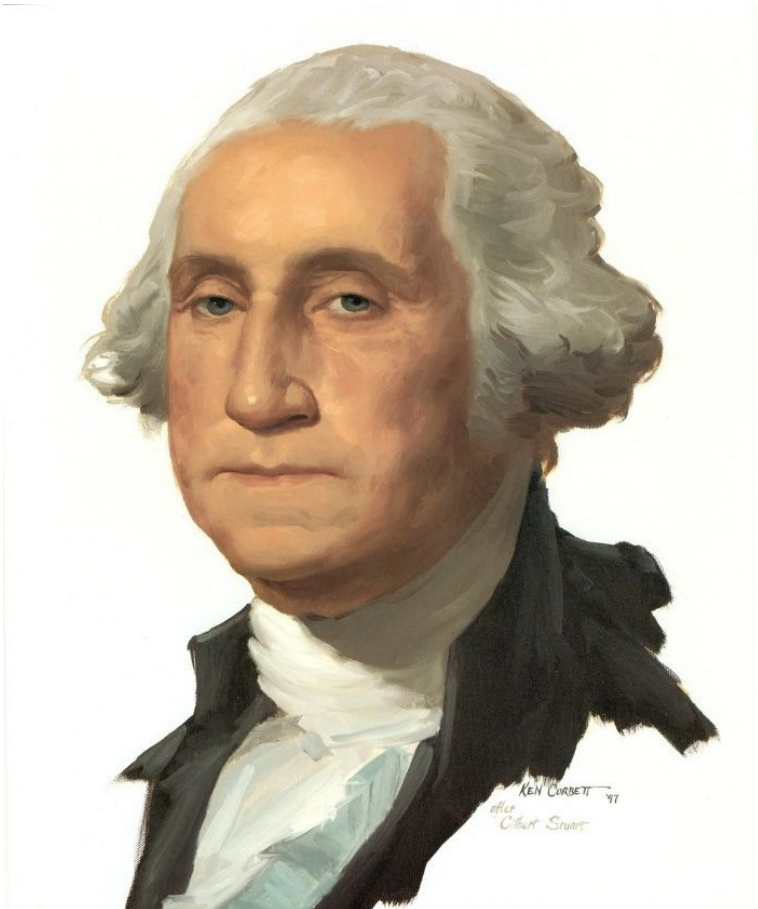
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Precious One: 10-12 week old pre-born baby

- **WEEK 1:** Conception; the baby is smaller than a grain of sugar, but the instructions are present for all that this person will ever become.
- **WEEK 2:** The baby attaches and burrows securely into the wall of its mother's womb.
- **WEEK 3:** The baby's blood vessels and sex cells form. Foundations of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system are laid.
- **WEEK 4:** The baby's heart has begun to beat. Eyes, ears and lungs begin to form.
- **WEEK 5:** Tiny arms and legs appear, as well as the baby's head. The baby's blood is now separate from the mother's blood.
- **WEEK 6:** Tiny fingers and toes develop. The baby's brain has 3 parts for emotion and language, hearing, and sight.
- **WEEK 7:** Buds of the baby's milk teeth appear. The baby's ears are present, and brain activity is detectable.
- **WEEK 8:** The baby begins spontaneous movement and is now well proportioned, about the size of a thumb. Every organ is present, but immature. The skull, elbows, and knees are forming.
- **WEEK 9:** If prodded, hands and eyelids close. Genitalia become visible, indicating whether the baby is a boy or a girl. Muscular movement begins.
- **WEEK 10:** The baby's fingerprints begin to form. Nerve and muscle connections have tripled. Eyelids fuse together temporarily to protect the baby's delicate developing eyes.
- **WEEK 11:** The baby "practices" breathing and facial expressions, even though the baby can also urinate, and stomach muscles can contract.

Medical facts sources: Carlson, B., Human Embryology & Development, 6th Edition, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 1998. O'Rahilly, R. and Muller, F., Embryology, 2nd Edition, London: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. Crown rump length: Reevaluation of relation to menstrual age with high resolution ultrasound. *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 1998. Front 10-12 week model ©2013 Heritage House 76, Inc. 11-1-2018. Item #

visit www.hh76.org or call 1-800-858-3040.
rsaud, T., The Developing Human, Clinically Oriented Embryology, 4th Edition, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 1998. Hadlock FP, Shah YP, Kanon DJ, et al. "Fetal crown rump length: Reevaluation of relation to menstrual age with high resolution ultrasound." *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 1998. Life Issues Institute, www.lifeissues.org, 8 weeks after conception, on



Watch Me Grow! Brochure

With monthly development of preborn baby



HOW BIG ARE YOU ?



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



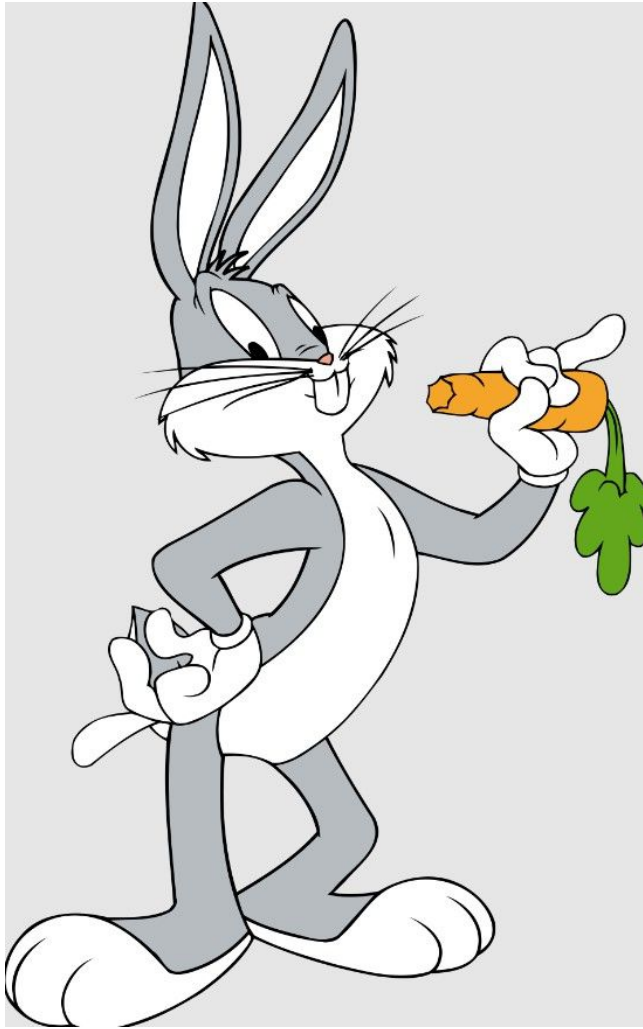


WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



DO YOU NEED HELP?





**FINAL
EXAM**

