

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# George's Teeth

**Directions:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

George Washington, our first President, had teeth problems. Ever since he was young, George's teeth hurt. They slowly fell out over the years, and dentists placed fake teeth in their place. Finally, George lost all of his teeth and had to wear false teeth, or dentures. He had two made. For many years, people thought that George Washington's teeth were wooden. But, in fact, they were made from hippopotamus ivory, and gold.

The teeth, although very expensive for that time, were not comfortable for George. The upper and lower plates were connected by springs that pushed the plates against his mouth. George had to close his jaws tight to keep the teeth in place. If he relaxed his jaw, his mouth would pop open. If you look at paintings of the first President, he never looks happy. But he wasn't mad, he was trying to keep his teeth in.

George's teeth bothered him until he died. The dentures had to be constantly refitted and chewing and eating were very difficult. Today's dentures are much more comfortable and allow people to chew and eat with ease. But, it is still better to have your own teeth, so brush well two times a day and floss!



Answer the questions.

1. Did George lose all of his teeth at once? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were George's dentures made from?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Were George's teeth problems over when he got his dentures?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did George rarely smile in his pictures? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How can you take care of your teeth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

