

Lee Chapel and Museum

## **LEE AS PRESIDENT OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE**

In this lesson plan students will learn about what it was like for Robert E. Lee to be president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

### **What You'll Need:**

- Writing utensil
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons (optional)

### **ACTIVITY 1:**

Read the introduction passage about Robert E. Lee. As students go along with the lesson they will learn more fully what Lee did for the college. When finished reading, complete the activity.

### **ACTIVITY 2:**

Lee was passionate about seeing his students become respectable members of society. Students will answer questions about why it's important to have rules, what it means to work hard, and the concept of earning respect.

### **ACTIVITY 3:**

In this activity students will help construct Lee Chapel. As president of Washington College, one of the improvements Lee made was to give students a place to gather. Students should read the brief passage, when finished, they should cut out the geometric shapes from the bottom of the page. Next, students will glue the shapes on the next page where indicated. The shapes will need to be configured in order to construct Lee Chapel. The picture of Lee Chapel from Activity 1 can be used as a guide.

### **ACTIVITY 4:**

Students will complete the short activity that emphasizes Lee's work on the college grounds. Students will learn that Lee took the time to make the college more beautiful by planting plants. Students will complete the patterns by drawing elements needed by plants in order to survive.

### **ACTIVITY 5:**

Students will identify one job they believe to be practical. They should follow up with why they think it is important to society. As the president of Washington College, Lee believed in a practical education. He wanted to make sure all his students could be successful after graduation.

### **ACTIVITY 6:**

In activity 6 students are given a look at the qualities of a good role model. Traits of good character are listed in a work bank. Students should determine which trait fits on which lines using the given vowels. An example has been done for them.

## ACTIVITY 1:

Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807, at Stratford Hall in Virginia. His parents were “Light Horse Harry” Lee and Anne Carter Lee. Lee attended West Point Military Academy from 1825-1829. After marrying Mary Anna Custis and starting a family, Lee had to put what he learned in school to the test. Lee fought in both the Mexican-American War and the Civil War.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Robert E. Lee and his family moved to Lexington, Virginia. Lee became the president of Washington College. As president Lee helped fix school buildings, improved the grounds and built the Chapel. He hired more staff and enrolled more students. Lee also believed in a practical education. He introduced new subjects into the classroom so students would be able to find jobs after graduating.

Lee was president for five years and so much of his work is still remembered. He passed away on October 12, 1870, leaving behind a legacy. After his death the college was renamed Washington and Lee University in his honor. He was a strong role model for the students, the staff and even the public. Many of Lee’s accomplishments are still part of higher education today.



If you were elected president of a college, list 5 improvements you would make to help your school.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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## ACTIVITY 2:

As president, Lee was there to care for the students at Washington College. He not only wanted them to succeed in their studies, but to succeed as people of good character. Lee's only rule was that one must "always be a gentleman." What do

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Why do you think we need rules?

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As president Lee met with each student once. Here he explained that students must work hard in school, be honest, and treat each other with respect.

Why do you need to work hard in school?

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What do you think respect means?

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Why do you think Lee thought all of these were important?

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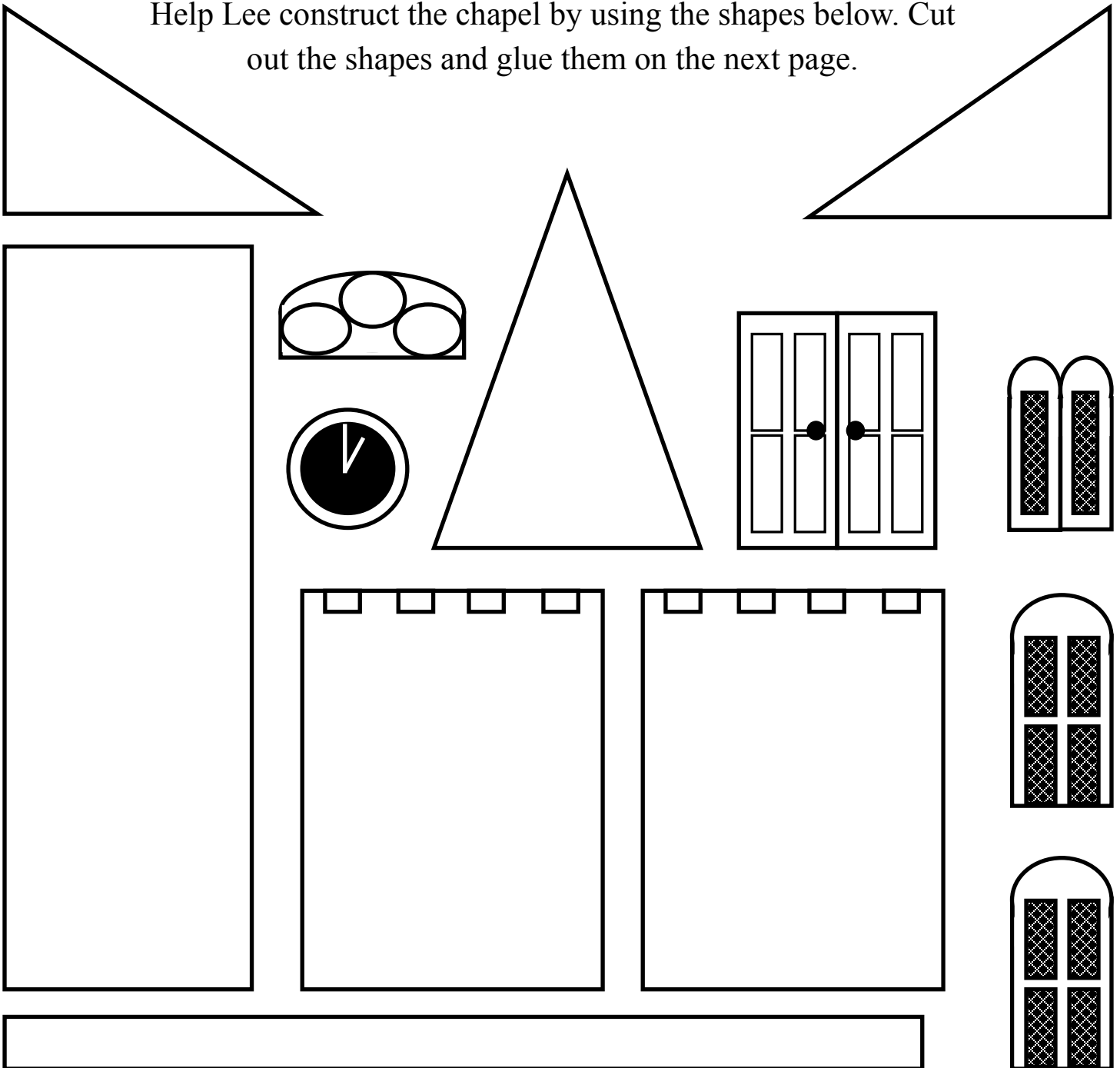
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### ACTIVITY 3:

Robert E. Lee asked that the school build a chapel. He wanted a place to have his office and a place for students to gather. The chapel was finished in 1868. After Lee passed away his office was left to serve as a memorial to his hard work. In 1883, an addition was added to the building to house the Lee family crypt and the Recumbent Lee statue. In the 1890s the chapel was wired for electricity. The chapel is still going through changes today. We have to update the building so it's safe for our artifacts and to welcome visitors.

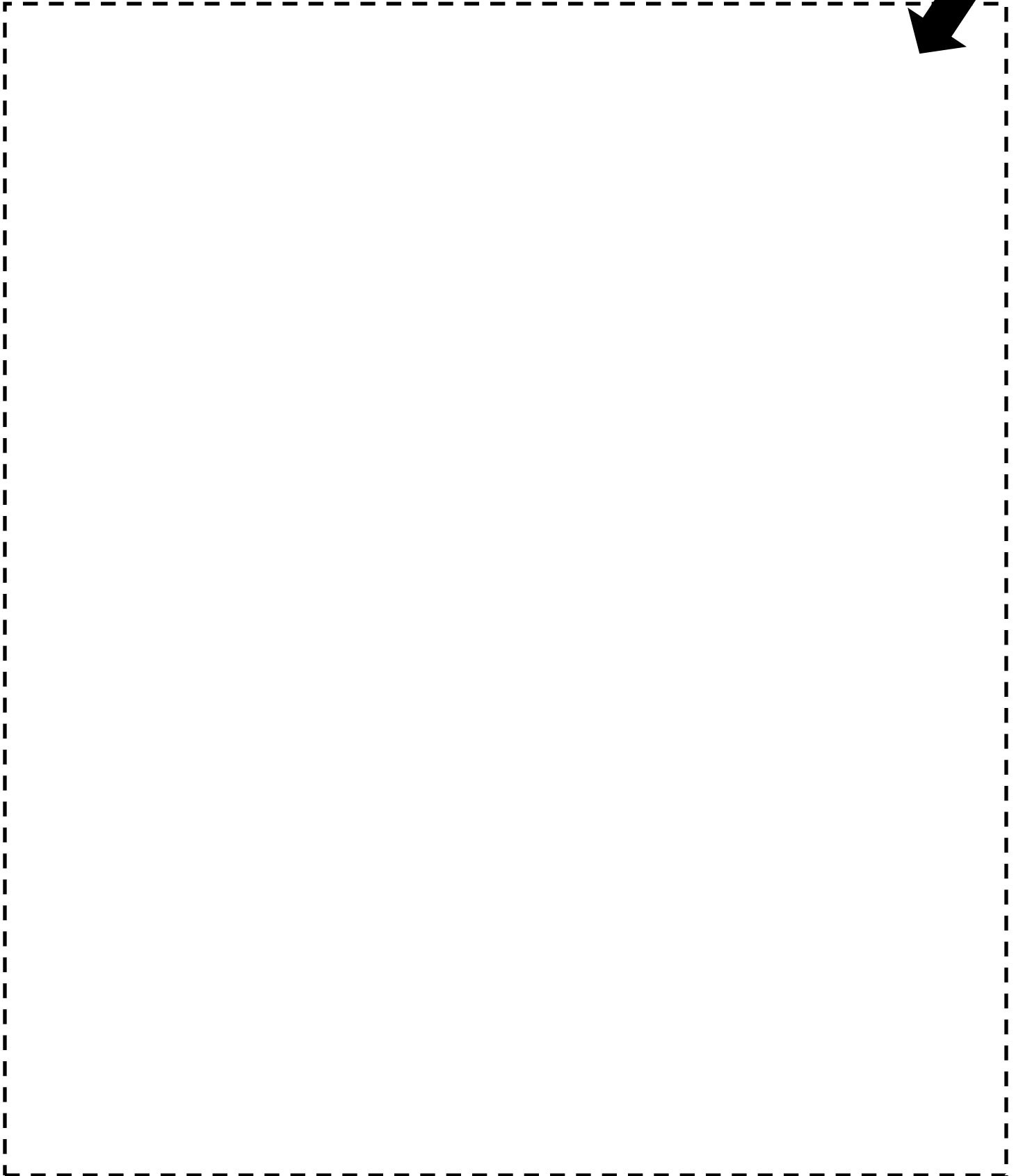
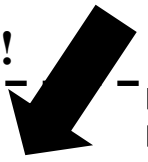
Help Lee construct the chapel by using the shapes below. Cut out the shapes and glue them on the next page.



### **ACTIVITY 3:**












Use your shapes to construct Lee Chapel. Use the photo from the story in Activity 1 to help you recreate it.

**Glue shapes here!**



### ACTIVITY 4:

As president Lee and his staff helped rebuild buildings and take care of the grounds. Lee replanted trees, bushes and flowers to make the college more beautiful and enjoyable. In order for Lee's plants to grow they needed sunlight, water and good soil. Complete the patterns to help Lee's plants grow.

<b>1.</b>						
<b>2.</b>						
<b>3.</b>						

### ACTIVITY 5:

Lee was known as a practical man and that didn't stop when he became president of Washington College. Lee helped introduce new subjects to the curriculum like engineering, journalism and astronomy. He wanted students to be able to secure a job once they graduated as well as be able to think and reason. Lee believed that with a practical education they could start to rebuild and unite the nation.

**Name one job that you think is practical?**

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**Why do you think that job is important to society?**

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## ACTIVITY 6:

Robert E. Lee's hard work on the college and chapel didn't just come from anywhere; nor did his good character, honesty and responsibility. All of these are influences of Lee's hero and role model.

Did you know George Washington was one of Lee's role models? Washington, our first president, was friends with Lee's father, "Light Horse Harry Lee." Washington was hard working, honest and respectful. All of these Lee admired.

Who is your hero or role model? \_\_\_\_\_

Use the given vowels to complete the words describing a hero or role model. The words are listed in the word bank. Cross each word out as you go. An example has been done for you.

<i>B r a v e</i>
<i>                  i      i</i>
<i>  e          e          u</i>
<i>  a      i</i>
<i>                  o          i</i>
<i>  i</i>
<i>  e                  u</i>
<i>  o      e</i>

### WORD BANK

Respectful

Caring

Brave

Kind

Forgiving

Helpful

Responsible

Honest

Remember role models don't have to be superheroes, they can be ordinary people. You may be someone's hero and not even know it!