



*The North Star always guided George, true and steady.*

He did not turn back.

Instead, he stood tall, pulled his coat tighter against the wind, and searched the sky until he spotted the North Star shining through a break in the clouds.

George chose to stay. He would find his way. He would weather the storm, turning his courage into leadership.

By the age of twenty-one, George Washington was no longer just a surveyor. He was now a soldier.

The Governor of Virginia gave him a mission that few men would have accepted.

French forces were building forts deep in the Ohio wilderness—these were British colonies, and Britain believed this territory belonged to them.

George's task was to forge through hundreds of miles of winter forest and deliver a message to the French commander: Leave the land—or face war!

The journey was brutal. Rivers were frozen with thin ice that cracked beneath a traveler's weight.