

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of a central horizontal line with diamond-shaped ornaments, and vertical lines with similar ornaments, all connected by ornate floral flourishes at the corners and midpoints.

Washington Irving was born in New York in 1783 and is best known for his short stories “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle,” which are considered by some to be the first American short stories.

He had health issues all of his life and spent many years in Europe. While in Europe he wrote *The Sketch Book* which combines beautiful descriptions of historic places with stories, essays, and fiction. His times of travel in Europe also influenced him to write *Columbus* and *The Companions of Columbus* as well as two books about the Moorish history of Spain, *A Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada*, and *The Alhambra*.

He always had a love of reading and traveling. In his work *The Sketch Book*, he says, “Books of voyages and travels became my passion, and in devouring their contents, I neglected the regular exercises of the school. How wistfully would I wander about the pier-heads in fine weather, and watch the parting ships, bound to distant climes—with what longing eyes would I gaze after their lessening sails, and waft myself in imagination to the ends of the earth!”

His last literary work was the “Life of Washington,” which he wrote about the father of the United States, and the man he was named after, George Washington. He died in 1859.

On the following pages you will find a timeline of Washington Irving’s life and a notebooking page. Do some research into the life and work of Washington Irving and record your observations as you look more closely at the life of this famous author.



## Washington Irving

### Timeline

Washington Irving was born	1783
1806	
	1812
1819-1820	
	1819-1820
1828	
	1829-1832
1832	
	1842-1846
1859	

Minister to Spain

Died in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Served as a Military Aid

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Answer Key

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