NAME: _____

Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

George Washington and His Hatchet

When George Washington was quite a little boy, his father gave him a red hatchet. It was bright and new, and George took great delight in going around and chopping things with it.

He ran into the garden, and there he saw a tree which seemed to say to him: "Come and cut me down!"

George had often seen his father's men chop down the great trees in the forest, and he thought that it would be fun to see a tree fall with a crash to the ground. So he set to work with his little hatchet, and, as the tree was a very small one, it did not take long to come down.

Soon after that, his father came home.

"Who has been cutting my fine young cherry tree?" he cried. "It was the only tree of its kind in this country, and it cost me a great deal of money."

He was very angry when he came into the house.

"If I only knew who cut down that cherry tree," father cried, "I would—yes, I would"—

"Father!" cried little George. "I will tell you the truth about it. I chopped the tree down with my hatchet."

His father forgot his anger.

"George," he said, and he took the little fellow in his arms, "George, I am glad that you told me about it. I would rather lose a dozen cherry trees than hear you tell one lie."

Questions:

1. What kind of hatchet did George's dad give him?

   a. Red
   b. New
   c. Rusty
   d. Pretend

2. Why didn't it take long for George to cut down the tree?

   a. George had a friend help him
   b. The tree was already dead
   c. George had a huge axe
   d. The tree was very small

3. You can tell from the story that:

   a. George is honest
   b. George's father is very poor
   c. George loves to be inside
   d. George's mother is a great baker

4. How might George's father have gotten the cherry tree?

   a. He found it in the woods
   b. George gave it to him for his birthday
   c. It grew from a magic seed
   d. It was purchased from a friend from another county