

Sleepy Hollow Webquest Notes

These are just a sample of notes...

These are not ALL INCLUSIVE.

Washington Irving Notes

1. Where he was born

- Washington Irving was born in New York City. His house was apartment No. 131 William-street, about halfway between John and Fulton streets.
- This is near present-day Wall Street.

2. To whom he was born

- Parents are Sarah Sanders, who was the granddaughter of an English religious man and William Irving, born in the Orkney Islands was a wealthy merchant.
- They were Scottish-English immigrants.
- His family came from a great deal of money.

3. Facts about when he was born/when he died

- Born April 3, 1783
- Named after President George Washington
- He was born after the Revolutionary War
- Died November 28, 1859
- He died right before the Civil War Buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, near the Old Dutch Church in Tarrytown)
- He died in Tarrytown, New York
- Died a Rich (just not as rich as he would have hoped) New Yorker

4. Siblings

- He was the youngest of 11 children.
- His first book was Salmagundi, written in collaboration with his brother William followed his elder brothers to nearby Columbia College.

5. Facts about early life

- Ill-health off and on throughout his life
- Early in his life Irving liked books a lot
- He went to a spa in Bordeaux, France to treat a sickness in his lungs
- Was a sickly and sometimes weak child
- He was Episcopal

6. Education

- Irving studied law privately in many offices but practiced only briefly
- Studied law in the offices of Henry Masterson in 1798, Brockholst Livingston in 1801, and John Oge Hoffman in 1802
- Irving was an “uninterested student” who merely attended average schools
- Went to school until 16 years old-later went back
- Irving had many interests including writing, architecture and landscape design, traveling, and diplomacy.

7. Travel

- Visited his brother in England in 1815, stayed for 17 years and traveled-went after his mother died

- Traveled in France, the Netherlands, Spain, Scotland, Wales, England, America and Canada, and Dresden
- Moved to Madrid, Spain in 1826
- Spent seventeen years abroad
- Named Minister (ambassador) to Spain by President Tyler
- Spoke French
- Came back to America in 1832

8. **Marriage**

- Engaged to Matilda Hoffman died at the age of 17 in 1809
- Irving was never married and never had children
- Dated Mary Shelley in England-she wrote Frankenstein
- After the death of his fiancée Matilda Hoffman, he sunk into unhappiness and altered from a career as a writer or legal worker
- Was thought to be homosexual by some since he never married which was unusual for the time
- VERY sexist and anti-feminist

9. **Employment**

- He later worked with his brothers in his family business
- He worked at a failing business in Liverpool which quickly declared bankruptcy
- Irving was also a vestryman, warden, and Sunday School teacher.

10. **Professional Career**

- Worked in a hardware store, which was located in both New York, England and Liverpool. For the England shop, he was the representative of business until it collapsed in 1818.
- During the war of 1812 Irving served as a military aide to New York Governor Tompkins in the U.S. Army.
- Irving wrote journals and newspapers as a start for his career in writing
- Irving is best known for writing 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'
- pseudonym or pen name was a fake name used to write with and hide identity
 - He used Diedrich Knickerbocker (this “author” made enough to live off of)
Died Rich NY'er
 - Jonathan Oldstyle (his more classical novels)
 - Geoffrey Crayon (creative pieces)
- He wrote an extensive biography of George Washington
- After moving on from his family’s business, he worked as a writer under the alias of Geoffrey Crayon.
- Started his writing career by writing in journals and newspapers.
- He wrote for 6 decades
- Worked at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid because of financial reasons (1826-29)
- Worked as a secretary to the American Legation from 1829 to 1832 in London
- The Hudson region served as inspiration for his books
- “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” was most likely based on a German folktale written by Karl Musäus (1735-1787), who was among the first to collect local folktales
- His notable works were “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
- 1st: Jonathan Oldstyle then Geoffrey Crayon and then Diedrich Knickerbocker
- The Sketch book has 30 parts
- Wrote short stories, essays, poetry, travel writing, and poetry
- Wrote A History of New York under the pseudonym of Diedrich Knickerbocker

- Used German folktales in his short stories
- He wrote a biography of Christopher Columbus
- Credited for being the founder of the SHORT STORY

11. Facts about adulthood

- Welcomed to high society after the popularity of his short stories in both America and Europe
- Became ill with a herpetic condition and periodically could not walk for many months
 - He was always a sickly individual
- Bought a farm in Tarrytown next to the Hudson River; Dutch cottage now called “Sunnyside”
- Irving was the first American to earn a living by his pen-first American writer to be truly successful
- Thought to be anti-feminist in his writings of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” where he shows his fear of male disempowerment.
- His life was turned into a Broadway show entitled Knickerbocker Holiday in 1938
- The New York Knickerbockers (Knicks) got its name from Irving’s pen name.
- His earnings were lost due to bad investments made by family members-didn’t die with all the money that he hoped for

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Notes

What is a legend?

- A legend is an unconfirmed story that is often fiction, despite the story containing historical figures.
- It is based on real places, real people but cannot be proven true or untrue.
- Stories of Greek and Roman deities and heroes referred to as legends and myths
- A story told as a historical event
- Can be elaborated versions of events in history; not necessary
- Legends have been elaborated and extended over time
- Can be written or told orally
- A legend is a tradition or a narrative handed down from the past
- Legends are different than myths due to the fact that legends have some historical truth to them and are less supernatural unlike myths

Why is “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” a legend? (What does it have that qualifies it as a legend?)

- “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is a legend because it is available in different versions depending on who tells the story, indicating that it is fiction, despite the story having historical settings and people.
- “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” qualifies as a legend because it is a story that has been told thousands of times by both word of mouth, books, and movies.”
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” also consists of historical accuracy in the sense of the location and in the characters.
- Ichabod, Brom, Katrina were all real people. Sleepy Hollow is a real place.

Summary of the plot of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

- The story is about a man named Ichabod Crane who falls in love with a woman named Katrina Van Tassel, although a showoff named Abraham Van Brunt (Brom Bones) is also in love with her.
- Ichabod goes to a party with Katrina and starts to dance with her while Abraham glares at him.
- Afterwards the guests tell stories about "The Headless Horseman", a headless soldier who is said to return to the site of the battle he was killed in.
- Ichabod, frightened by the story starts to go home when he is chased by The Headless Horseman.
- The next day, he goes missing, with only his horse's saddle, his hat, and a smashed pumpkin left under a bridge.
- Because of this, Katrina is forced to marry Abraham, who is hinted to have killed Ichabod.

Setting of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

The story takes place in the village of Sleepy Hollow, a town near Tarrytown.

Characters of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (who are the characters, their traits, etc.)

Ichabod Crane - A schoolteacher who has feelings for Katrina.

Katrina Van Tassel - A beautiful woman who is courted by Ichabod and Abraham.

Abraham "Brom Bones" Van Brunt - A strong, boastful man who brags for the affections of Katrina.

Headless Horseman - Thought to be a Hessian soldier (German) who lost his head in the Revolutionary War and was captured in Patriot's Park during the battle Sleepy Hollow.

Conflict: over a girl!

Only trace of Ichabod after his fight with the headless horseman was his hat

Possible themes based upon what you have read

Love, Good vs. Bad, Death, Suffering, and Deception

Other points:

Legends reflect a community's culture!

The "Village" of Sleepy Hollow Notes

Actual location (where is Sleepy Hollow)

- Sleepy Hollow is located just outside of Tarrytown and about 25 miles away from Manhattan.

Describe Sleepy Hollow during the time of the story (type of community, etc.)

- Washington Irving shared that the village of Sleepy Hollow had little valleys, brooks, bridges, and was believed to be haunted by the local dead population.
- At the time Sleepy Hollow was considered to be a village of agriculture (a farm town) but later transformed into a manufacturing district.

- The Elizabeth Van Tassel house was a tavern prior to and during the Revolutionary War.

Describe Sleepy Hollow now

- Sleepy Hollow is now a modern suburb, yet it still has some of the various landmarks mentioned in the story, such as The Sunnyside Manor and Elizabeth Van Tassel House.
- Today, these locations are esteemed tourist sites.
- Sunnyside Manor has been restored and contains Irving's possessions.
- Sleepy Hollow also consists of parks, forests, rivers, streams, lakes, and hiking trails.
- The marshy area of the initial encounter between Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman has now been drained, but the stream is still there.

Identify & discuss notable points of interest in connection to the story

- Ichabod Crane's path up Albany Post Road (US Route 9, Named Broadway in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow)
- Elizabeth Van Tassel House; Now Landmark Condominium
- Old Dutch Burying Ground and Church in which Ichabod and Brom Bones and Irving's model for Katrina were all buried. This is also where the resting place for the Headless Horseman is.
- Patriot's Park was where Irving's model for the "Headless Horseman," or the decapitated Hessian (German) soldier was captured during the Revolutionary War.
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is the resting place of the headless horseman, Andrew Carnegie, and even the author Washington Irving.

Other information:

- Ichabod's famous ride went up Route 9
- Sleepy Hollow during the story was a farm town
- Sleepy Hollow now is a bustling suburb
- Sleepy Hollow loves Halloween!
- Irving is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery but his story characters are buried in the old Dutch burying ground
- The inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow were mostly of Dutch descent
- The Village of North Tarrytown changed their name to Sleepy Hollow in the 1990's.
- Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow are both located on the Hudson River
- General Motors abandoned their factory in Sleepy Hollow hurting the town's economy