



Washington Irving



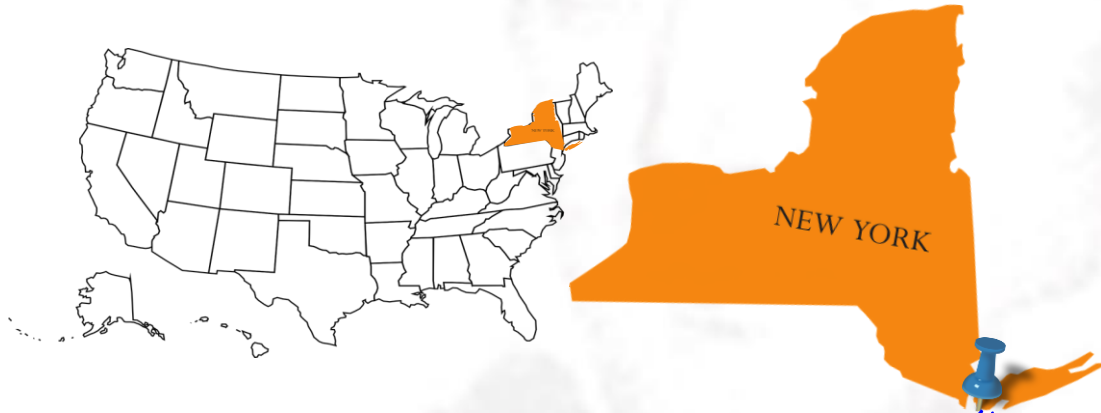
https://eldescribidor.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/irving_w1.jpg



Washington Irving

1783 - 1859

Washington Irving was born into a large **wealthy** happy family. He was the youngest of 11 **siblings**!



Born on April 3, 1783
Manhattan, New York

He was an adventurous kid who didn't like school and **skipped class** to go to plays. He was an avid reader too.

Irving loved **wandering** and dreaming of the day when he could start travelling.

A-Z ↓ VOCABULARY

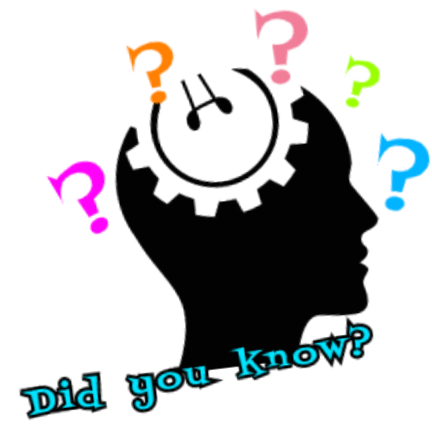
Wealthy or rich

Siblings or brothers & sisters

skip class ... something you mustn't do!

A play like *Romeo & Juliet* or *La venganza de Don Mendo*

To wander means to move around without a plan



Irving was named after the first official president of the United States of America, **George Washington**.

In **1789**, when Irving was six years old, he met his **namesake**.

That was the year when Washington became president.

A
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VOCABULARY

To name after means to give the same name
Namesake is the person who has the same name as you



Watercolor of Washington Irving's encounter with George Washington, painted in 1854 by [George Bernard Butler Jr](#)

When he was around the age of **15**, **yellow fever** had **broken out** in Manhattan, so his parents sent him to **North Tarrytown**, a village close to the area called **Sleepy Hollow**

In the 1990s the village of North Tarrytown was renamed **Sleepy Hollow**.



These two places would be the **setting** for some of his most famous stories.

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VOCABULARY

Yellow fever is a serious infectious disease

To break out means to begin

The setting is the location where the story happens



Pen Name



pseudonyme



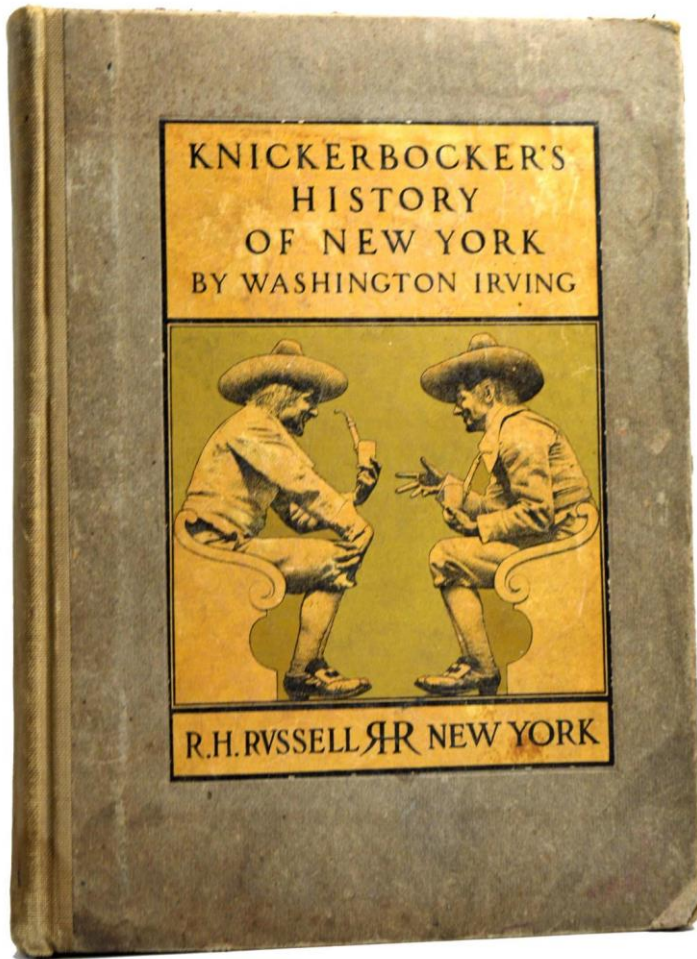
nom
de plume

Irving had a great sense of humour and he used funny **pen names** or **pseudonyms** to publish his stories.

Jonathan Oldstyle

Geoffrey Crayon

Diedrich
Knickerbocker



Irving used the pen name **Knickerbocker** to publish his first book

nom de plume

A History of New York.

It was a success and very soon knickerbocker was a synonym for

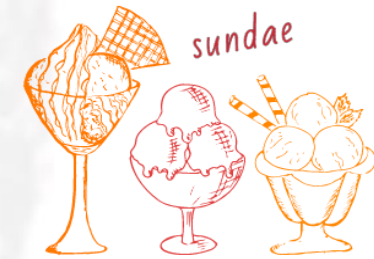
"a native New Yorker".

Washington gave us the word **knickers** too.



This popular dessert is also called **knickerboker**
- **multicoloured ice-cream sundae**

/'sʌndeɪ// 'sʌn,deɪ// 'sʌndi/



helado con fruta, crema, jarabe etc



So how do you make one?

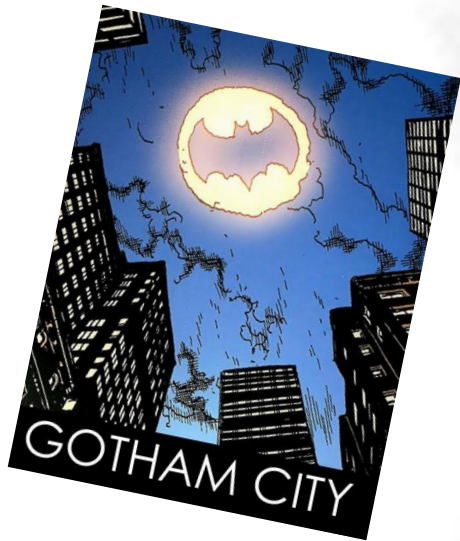
First, put some pieces of fruit at the bottom.
Then, strawberry ice-cream, vanilla ice cream and
chocolate ice-cream at the top.
Next, **drizzle** it with chocolate and strawberry sauces.
Finally, put some cream and a fan wafer.



Don't forget a cherry on the top!

A↓
Z↓
VOCABULARY

To drizzle is to put a little bit on top
Yummy or delicious



Washington Irving was the first person to refer to New York as '**Gotham City**'.

He used this name for the first time in his **1807** satirical **periodical** *Salmagundi*.

Of course, the **Batman comic strip** and films have most definitely made this phrase known worldwide.

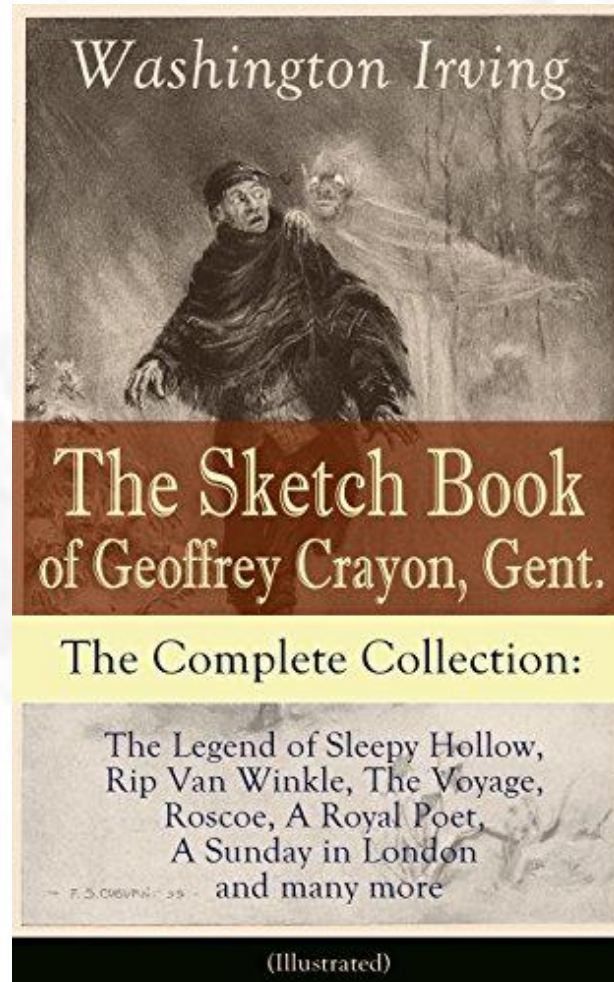


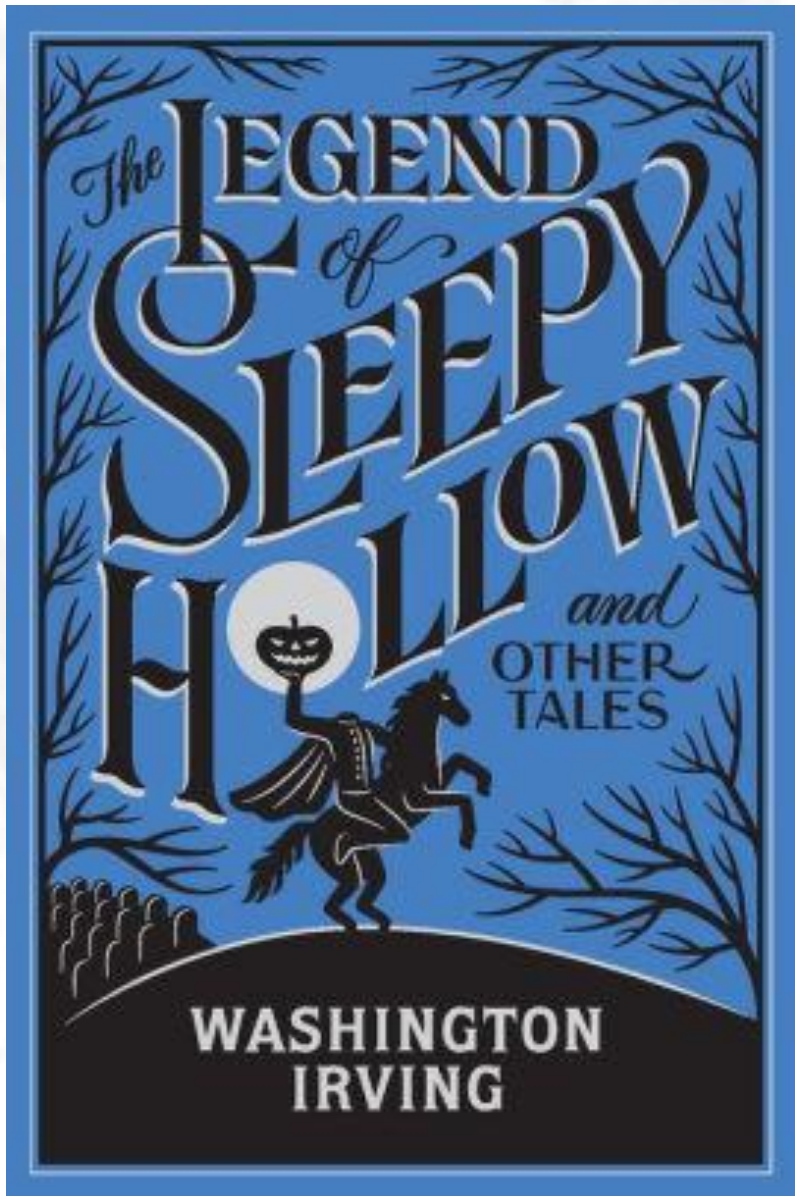
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VOCABULARY

periodical or magazine
Comic strip or cartoon

Two of his most famous stories appear in *The Sketch Book*, which he published under the pseudonym *Geoffrey Crayon*.

Pen Name





The LEGEND
of SLEEPY
HOLLOW and
OTHER
TALES

WASHINGTON
IRVING

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

takes place in a small town in New York State. **Ichabod Crane** (a weak, ugly school teacher), **Katrina Van Tassel** (a beautiful young girl) and **Brom Bones** (Katrina's handsome boyfriend) are the characters in the story.

The "legend" of sleepy hollow is that there is a **headless horseman** who rides around and disappears in a flash of fire.



Sleepy Hollow is a 1999 American gothic horror film directed by **Tim Burton** and starring **Johnny Depp** as Ichabod Crane.

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Z VOCABULARY

Headless means with no head



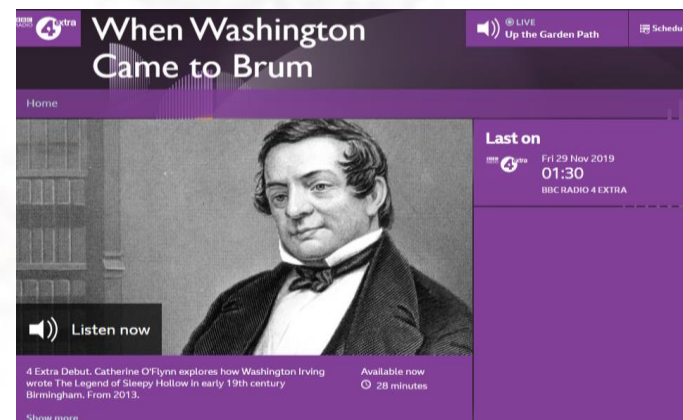
Only for extremely interested people



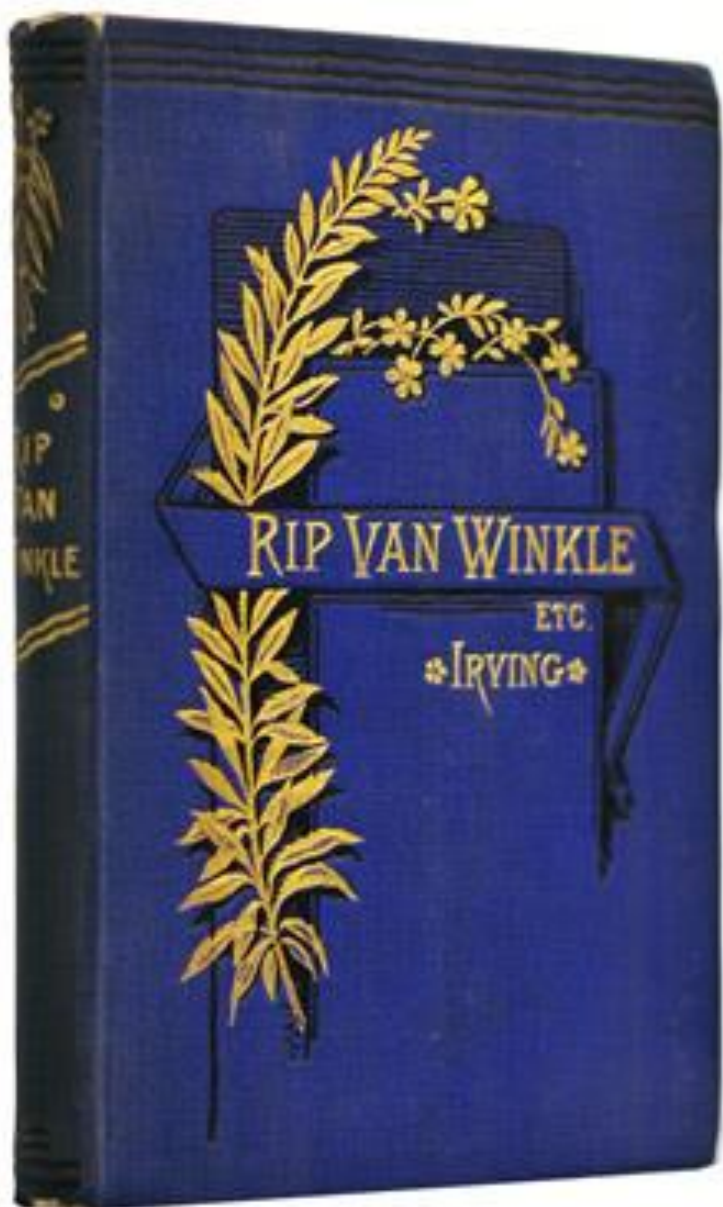
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007wlpw>

Do you dare to listen to a BBC documentary on how Irving wrote this story?

Here you can listen to BBC4 radio production of the story.
Not easy, real English!
However some of you might be willing to give it a try



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s7yjr>



RIP VAN WINKLE

ETC.

IRVING

Rip Van Winkle is a **lazy** American man, one day he goes to the Catskill mountains where he runs into an odd group of men. He drinks some of their mysterious **brew** and **passes out**.

When he wakes up under a tree he is **astonished** to find that 20 years have passed and things are a lot different. This is a **charming** story about how America changed due to the **civil war**, only in a different and more **subtle** way than ever told before.

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VOCABULARY

Lazy is a person who doesn't want to work

Brew is the same as a drink

To pass out is to lose consciousness

Astonished means very surprised

Charming or lovely

A subtle way is like a delicate manner



If you want to know about the American Civil War, click here

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/american-civil-war/>

Irving **toured** several countries in **Europe**.

Later, he lived for **several** years in **Spain**, serving as **Ambassador**.

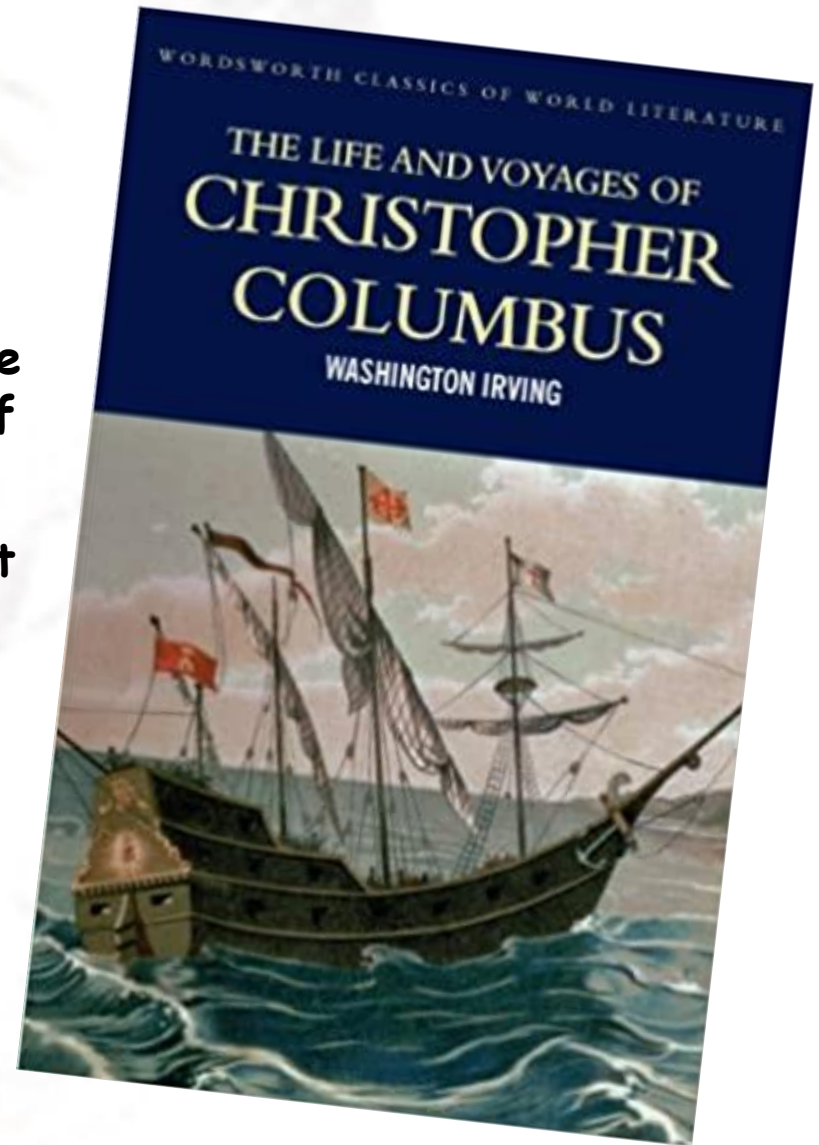


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VOCABULARY

To tour is to travel from place to place

Several means more than two but less than many

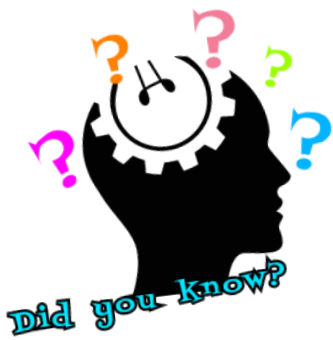
In 1826,
fascinated by the figure of
Christopher Columbus (1451-1506),
Irving arrived in Madrid to study some
documents **related** to the discovery of
America,
and two years later he published what
is considered to be the first
biographical **account** of Columbus.



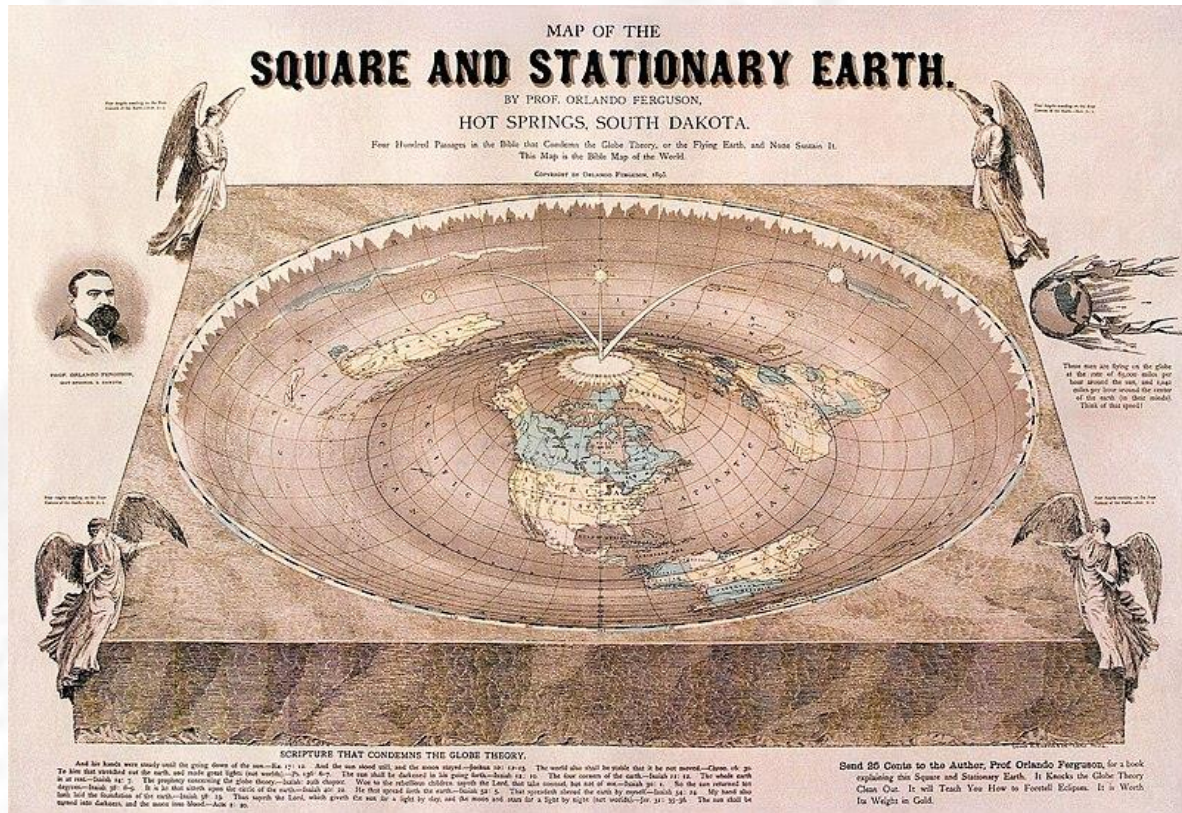
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VOCABULARY

Related or associated

An account is a description of a particular situation, a narrative



Irving was partly responsible for the 'flat earth' myth.



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A
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VOCABULARY

Flat earth – tierra plana

Irving's 1828 book

A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus cemented the myth that medieval people thought the world was flat, whereas Columbus believed it was round. This is not

Indeed, the main **bone of contention** in the 1490s - at the time of Columbus's 'discovery' of the New World - was more the size, rather than the shape of the world. But sometimes a myth can be more powerful than fact, and many still believe that Columbus's contemporaries all thought the world was flat and it might be possible to **sail over the edge** of it.

Why did Irving invent the story then? Possibly to make Columbus look even more of a man ahead of his time than he was, as the great man who helped to find the New World, Irving's own **homeland**.

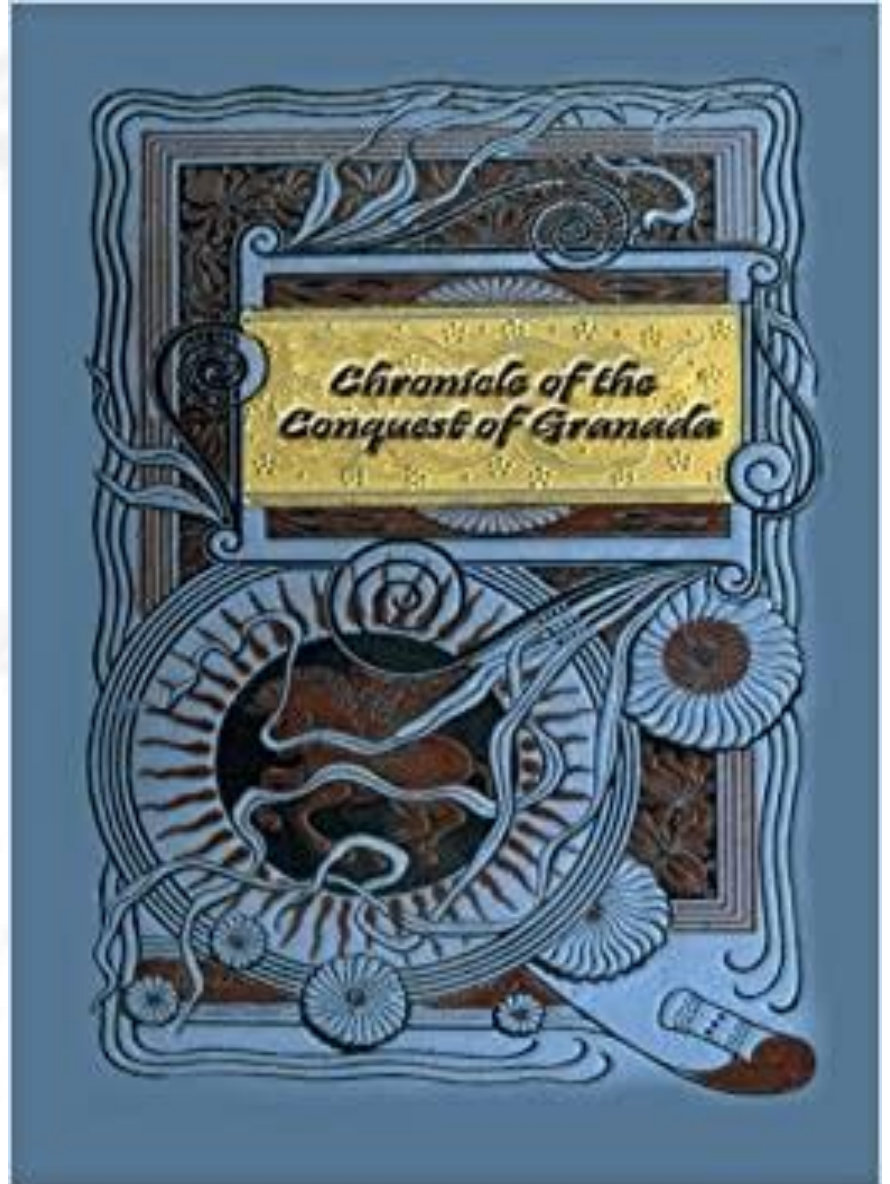
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VOCABULARY

Bone of contention - manzana de la discordia

Sail over the edge means that your boat would fall when it came to the end of earth

Your homeland is the country where you come from

He also wrote
a history of Granada.

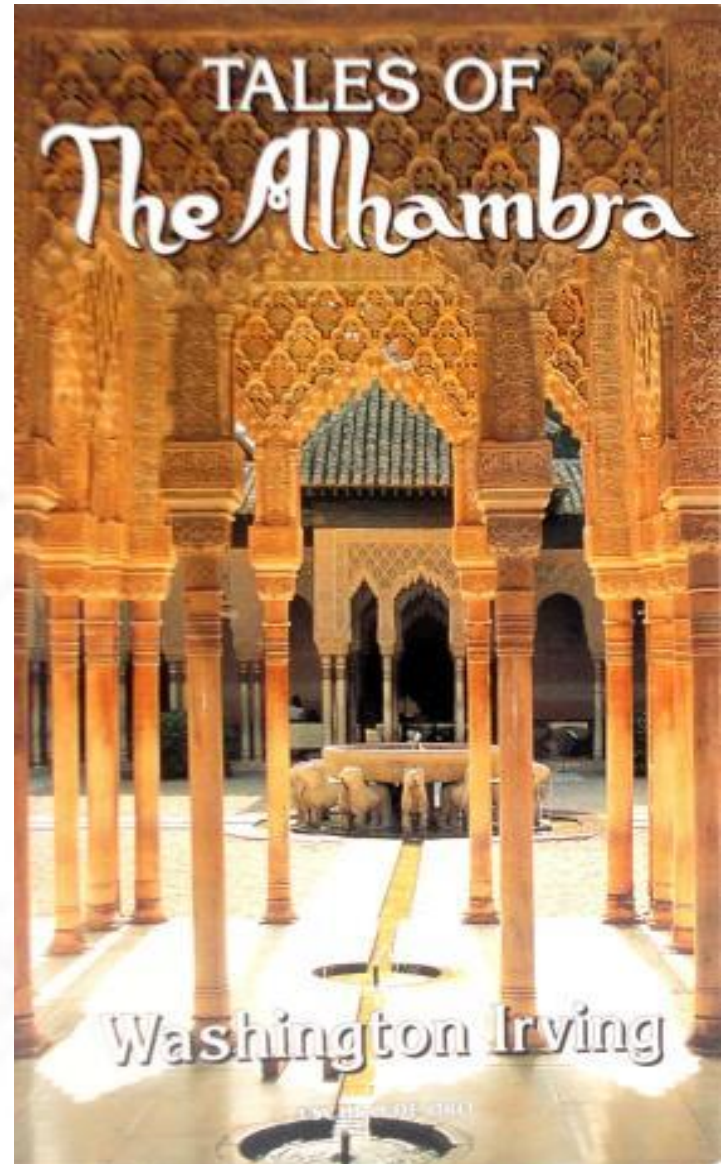


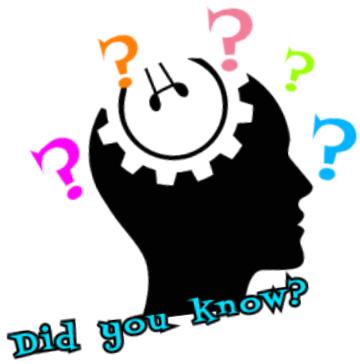
And, of course, the well-known *Tales of the Alhambra*, which was first published in London in 1832 under the title "*The Alhambra; a series of tales and sketches of the Moors and the Spaniards*".

Irving describes Granada during the period he spent here as secretary to the American Legation: its streets, people and **customs**, at the same time he told the stories associated to the Nasrid Palaces.

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VOCABULARY

Customs or traditions





Washington Irving wrote this book in the Alhambra. He actually got permission to live in **The Emperor's Chambers** - Nasrid Palaces

If you go there, you will be able to see this commemorative plaque on the wall.





Go for a walk in the Alhambra **woods** and you will see this sculpture of the famous New York writer.

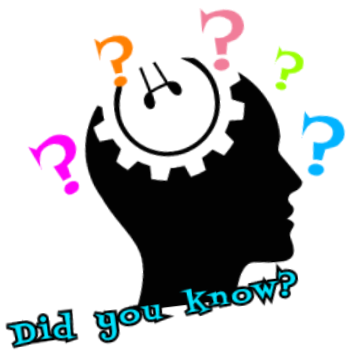
It is to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death.

Remember that he is considered the first American **Hispanist** and ambassador of the romantic vision given to the Alhambra by the 19th century travellers.

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VOCABULARY

*Woods is a lot of trees together forming a forest
A Hispanist is a specialist in the Spanish language & culture*





In the Paseo del Generalife, there is a hotel named **after** him because he lived there **for a while** when he came in 1829.

It has been closed for 16 years, but it finally reopened its doors in 2016.



A
Z
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VOCABULARY

*I gave you this information on slide 4, remember?
for a while is the same as for some time*

After a 17-year absence Irving returned to New York in 1832, where he was **warmly** received.

Except for four years (1842-46) as minister to Spain, Irving spent the **remainder** of his life at his home, "Sunnyside," in Tarrytown, on the Hudson River, where he **devoted** himself to writing.

Irving **passed away** at his estate on November 28, 1859.



A
Z
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VOCABULARY

warmly or amicably, cordially
Remainder is the rest of, the time that remains
Devote is another word for dedicate
Pass away is a synonym for die

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks for watching. Hope you enjoyed it!