

Name _____ **George Washington**



George Washington

George Washington was the son of a landowner and planter in Colonial Virginia. His father died when Washington was eleven, and he was raised by his older brother Lawrence. Washington learned to read and how to do math, and at the age of sixteen, he began working for a surveyor, measuring and mapping lands. As a young man, he led the Virginia militia in the French and Indian War.

After the war, he married Martha Dandridge Custis, who was a widow. When Lawrence died, Washington took over the Mount Vernon estate where he and Martha lived with Martha's two children from her first marriage. Washington was elected to the Virginian legislature. During this period in American history, the American colonists were becoming increasingly unhappy with the way Britain was treating them. Washington was one of those representing Virginia at the First and Second Continental Congress. When the American Revolution began in 1775, Washington was appointed to be the general of the Continental Army.

The Continental Army was made up of colonial farmers and did not have the advantages of the British military. However, Washington held the army together and eventually led them to victory over the British in 1781. He helped to draft the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

In 1789, George Washington became the first president of the United States. Many of the roles, responsibilities, and traditions having to do with the office of the president were started by George Washington. He created the first presidential cabinet, which included Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. After two terms as president, Washington stepped down. He believed that it was best for America that no single president remain in power for too long. He died two years later from a throat infection on December 14, 1799.

Why is George Washington called the "Father of Our Country?"
