

1st Grade

Discover America

Course 7 - Teacher Guide



**COURSE 7: AMERICA'S FIRST
PRESIDENT**

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Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Name the first President of the United States.
- List several characteristics of George Washington.
- Explain how George Washington's military experiences shaped his character.



America's First President - 1st Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Constitution** - a rulebook for the United States that guides citizens on how the government works and instructs them to act fairly.
- 02 **leadership** - showing others the right way to go and helping them do their best.
- 03 **military** - a group of people trained to protect their country and keep everyone safe.
- 04 **president** - the leader of a country.

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Introduction

ASK Students

What is the document that established a new system of government in the United States after gaining independence from the British?

Do you know who the leader of our country is?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

The leader of the United States is called the **President** of the United States. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn about the first President of the United States.

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode 7:
America's First President



Scan Me!

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Lesson

ASK Students

Who was the first President of the United States?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

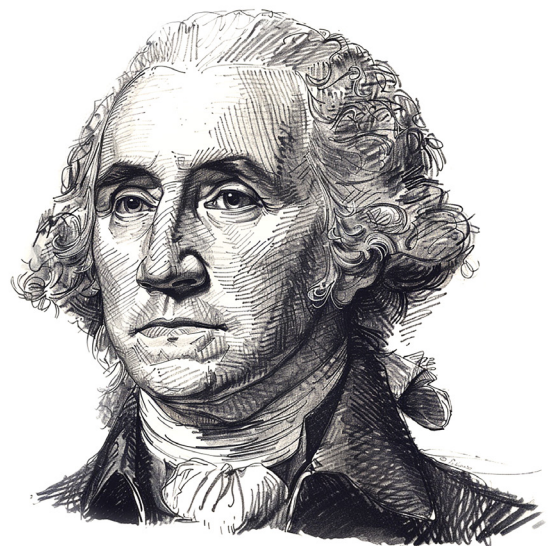
George Washington was a very important leader in America's history. He was our first president and did many great things for our country. Let's learn about his life.

George Washington was a strong and good leader. He was tall and looked very impressive. But what made him a great leader was his honesty. He always tried to do what was right and set a good example for others.

ASK Students

What does it mean to be a good leader?

(allow students to respond)



George Washington

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Lesson

TELL Students

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Virginia. His family was rich, and his dad was a judge. When he was 17 years old, he worked as a land surveyor, which means he measured and looked at land. This job helped him learn a lot about America's land, and it was useful when he became a soldier.

In 1754, he became a major in the Virginia Militia, where he worked with the British. Later, in 1775, he had to fight against the British in a war for America's freedom.

When he agreed to lead the American soldiers, he knew it wouldn't be easy. But he was ready to risk everything to help America be free.

ASK Students

How did George Washington serve in the **military**?

(allow students to respond)

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Lesson

TELL Students

During the toughest times of the American Revolution, Washington never lost hope. Even when things looked grim, he believed they could win.

One of his major victories was freeing the city of Boston from the British. On December 26, 1776, he surprised the enemy by crossing the Delaware River and winning a crucial battle against the British's hired soldiers, the Hessians.

At Valley Forge, during the winter of 1777 to 1778, things were really tough. His soldiers were hungry, cold, and sad. But Washington worked hard to make them stronger and better fighters. With the help of Baron von Steuben, he turned his army into a powerful force ready to face any challenge.

Finally, after many years of fighting, they won a big battle at Yorktown in 1781. The British general, Charles Cornwallis, surrendered, and that ultimately ended the war. Thanks to George Washington's **leadership** and determination, America won its independence from Britain, and the thirteen colonies became a free country.



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Lesson

TELL Students

When America needed a leader, everyone thought of George Washington. He didn't want to be president at first, but he agreed in 1789. He served as president for two terms and did a good job. In 1797, he retired.

George Washington always thought about what was best for the American people. He wanted to be a good example and lead with fairness and honesty. That's why he is remembered as a great leader in our history.

ASK Students

Why did George Washington agree to become President of the United States?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Good leaders are important! George Washington was a good leader because he put others before himself, did his best and did what was right.

George Washington Biography

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer with information that you have learned.

My name is:

I was born on:

Here is a picture of me:

Two facts about me:

- 1.

- 2.

I'm remembered for:

America's First President

Resource List

- 01 <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/resume/>
- 02 <https://www.gingrich360.com/2021/01/01/news-world-ep-179-the-immortals-george-washington/>
- 03 <https://www.gingrich360.com/product/the-first-american/>
- 04 <https://www.history.com/news/george-washington-french-indian-war-jumonville>
- 05 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/valley-forge/>
- 06 <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/yorktown-campaign/>
- 07 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/george-washington-resigns-as-commander-in-chief>
- 08 <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-first-president/political-parties/>
- 09 <https://www.heritage.org/commentary/the-man-who-would-not-be-king>
- 10 <https://www.history.com/news/george-washington-farewell-address-warnings>

