

2nd Grade

# Discover America

Course 7 - Teacher Guide



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

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2nd Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

## Core Values

- Community
- Faith
- Life
- Liberty

# Learning Objectives

## Students will be able to:

- Explain how George Washington's military experiences shaped his character.
- List two characteristics of a good leader.
- Summarize the military experiences that propelled George Washington to become the first President of the United States.



## America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Key Terms

- 01 **character** - what makes a person who they are; defined by the measure of their honesty, integrity, and treatment of others.
- 02 **Constitution** - a rulebook for the United States that guides citizens on how the government works and instructs them to act fairly.
- 03 **experience** - what you learn from doing things or being in different situations.
- 04 **military** - a group of people trained to protect their country and keep everyone safe.
- 05 **president** - the leader of a country.

# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# 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!

# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# 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. His life made a big impact on our country. The way he lived his life inspired many people. It still inspires people today.

## **WATCH**

Learn More With Liberty Video:  
*George Washington's Way of Life*



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# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Lesson

## ASK Students

What does life mean?

(allow students to respond)

## TELL Students

The word 'life' means to **experience** the world and the people around you. The word can also be used to describe how someone might have lived. The word 'life' can explain how your body works and how you spend your time. It is also an idea as well as a feeling. When you think of the word 'life' you may want to think about these questions:

- 01 What is the most important group of people in your life?
- 02 What are some of the things that impact your life each and every day?
- 03 In what ways do people like teachers, leaders and authority figures impact your life?

When George Washington agreed to lead the Continental Army, victory for the patriots was not guaranteed. General Washington knew they might fail, and life would be lost. But, he was willing to risk everything. He dedicated everything to ensure Americans have the right to life and freedom.



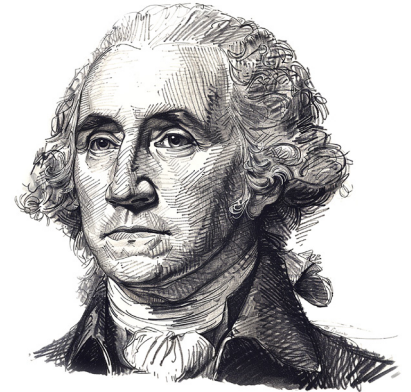
# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Lesson

## ASK Students

How did our first President live?

(allow students to respond)



George Washington

## TELL Students

Many say George Washington is the greatest leader our country has ever had. Of all the Founding Fathers, George Washington is the most important. He was born on February 22, 1732, in Virginia. He had gone to school for only five years when his father died. He dreamed of becoming a sailor in the British Royal Navy. Because of this dream, he wanted to go to sea. His mother, however, had heard dangerous stories about seamen and did not want him to live that kind of life. George Washington was likely disappointed but he did what his mother asked. 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. After a long fight, the British surrendered, and America became free.

# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Lesson

## ASK Students

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

(allow students to respond)

## 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.



George Washington

# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Lesson

## 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.

## WATCH

Scan Me!



### Optional Course Videos:

*Learn More With Liberty: George Washington's Family Life*

*Learn More With Liberty: George Washington Enter Political Life*

*Learn More With Liberty: Why Life Mattered to George Washington*

*Please utilize this additional resource to further the discussion on course content with your students.*

# America's First President

# Washington Timeline

1732



1749



1754



1775



1789



1797

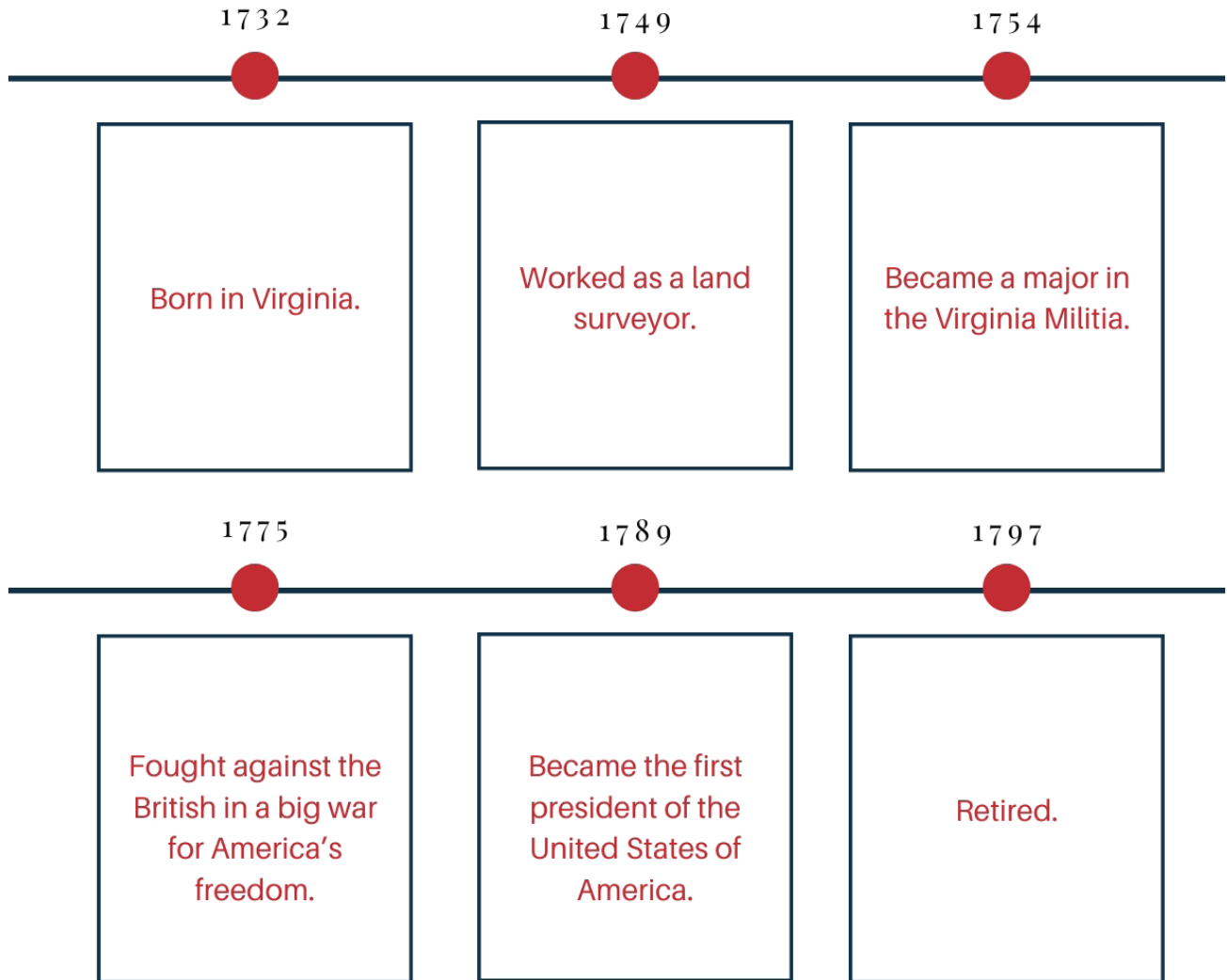


**Using the blank timeline of George Washington's life, match the following events to the year in which they occurred:**

- Became a major in the Virginia Militia.
- Became the first president of the United States of America.
- Born in Virginia.
- Retired.
- Worked as a land surveyor.
- Fought against the British in a big war for America's freedom.

# America's First President

# Washington Timeline



**Using the blank timeline of George Washington's life, match the following events to the year in which they occurred:**

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- Became the first president of the United States of America.
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# America's First President - 2nd Grade

# Knowledge Check

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each question and answer set carefully. Circle the correct answer.*

- 01 Who was the first President of the United States?  
a) Thomas Jefferson  
b) George Washington  
c) James Madison
- 02 Where was George Washington born?  
a) New York  
b) Virginia  
c) Massachusetts
- 03 In what year was George Washington a major in the Virginia Militia?  
a) 1732  
b) 1749  
c) 1754
- 04 What job did George Washington have before becoming a soldier?  
a) Teacher  
b) Land surveyor  
c) Doctor
- 05 Why is George Washington remembered as a great leader? *Write your answer below:*

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# America's First President - 2nd Grade

## Answer Key

- 01 Who was the first President of the United States?  
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- 03 What year was George Washington a major in the Virginia Militia?  
a) 1732  
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- 04 What job did George Washington have before becoming a soldier?  
a) Teacher  
b) Land surveyor  
c) Doctor
- 05 Why is George Washington remembered as a great leader?

Answers will vary.

# America's First President **Resource List**

- 01 <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/resume/>
- 02 <https://www.gingrich360.com/2021/01/01/newts-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>



