

3rd Grade

# Discover America

Course 7 - Teacher Guide



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

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3rd Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Freedom
- Independence

## Core Values

- Community
- Faith
- Life
- Liberty

# Learning Objectives

## Students will be able to:

- Describe George Washington's early career in the military.
- Explain why liberty mattered to George Washington.
- Identify at least one guiding principle that defined George Washington's leadership.



## America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Key Terms

- 01 **George Washington** - served as the first president of the United States; a leader who helped America become its own country.
- 02 **Constitution** - a rulebook for the United States that guides citizens on how the government works and instructs them to act fairly.
- 03 **liberty** - being free to live, think, and act without control from others.
- 04 **military** - a group of people trained to protect their country and keep everyone safe.

# America's First President - 3rd 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 first leader of our country was?

(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 - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## **ASK** Students

Who was the first President of the United States?

(allow students to respond)

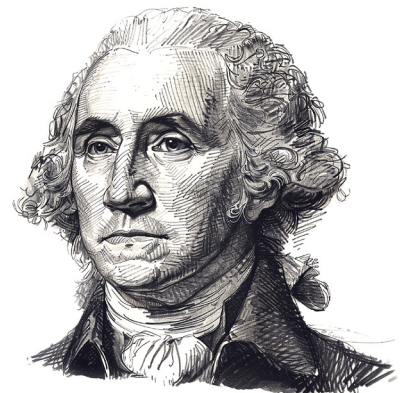
## **TELL** Students

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.

## **ASK** Students

What was life like for George Washington before he served our country as the commander of the Continental Army?

(allow students to respond)



George Washington

# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

The first president of America was a very strong and respected man. George Washington was tall and looked powerful, but what made him really strong was his honesty and courage. He always tried to do what was right. Washington inspired others to do great things because he was brave and never gave up.

When Washington was 17, he worked as a surveyor, which means he explored and mapped out parts of America. This job helped him understand the land and weather, which later helped him as a soldier. He traveled through forests, climbed mountains, and crossed rivers, learning about America's vastness and beauty.

In 1754, Washington became a major in the Virginia Militia. He fought in a war between the British and French in America. He learned a lot about fighting and battles. However, he also realized that sometimes it's better not to fight. Even though he made mistakes, he always learned from them.

## WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:  
*George Washington's Early Military Career*



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# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## **TELL** Students

During the war, Washington showed great leadership and bravery. He led his soldiers through tough times and never gave up hope. He became known for his calmness and determination, which inspired everyone around him.

Later, when America needed to fight for independence, Washington became the leader of the Continental Army. He didn't want to fight, but he knew it was necessary for freedom. Even though it was hard, he agreed to lead and build the Continental Army in America.

Following the battles at Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress asked Washington to lead the army against the British. He accepted the job humbly and started preparing for war. He trained his soldiers and made plans for battle.

Despite facing many challenges and setbacks, Washington never lost hope. He believed in the dream of freedom for America and was determined to make it happen. His leadership and courage inspired people all across the country to keep fighting for their rights.

In the end, Washington's efforts paid off, and America gained its independence from Britain. He became a hero to the nation and was later elected as the first president of the United States.

# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## ASK Students

What does life mean?

(allow students to respond)

## TELL Students

The word '**liberty**' means being free to live, think, and act without control from others. When you think of the word 'liberty' you may want to think about these questions:

- 01 What does freedom mean to me personally?
- 02 In what areas of my life do I feel most and least free?
- 03 How does my understanding of liberty impact my relationships with others?
- 04 What role does the government play in promoting or limiting individual liberty?

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.

## WATCH

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



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# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## **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.

## **ASK** Students

Have you ever had to make a difficult decision?

Has it ever been challenging for you to stick to what you know is right?

What makes a good leader?

(allow students to respond)



# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

Facing situations where you have to stand up for a friend against bullies, share the last cookie, or let your sibling pick the family movie can be difficult. However, making sacrifices for others because you care about them is important. Doing the right thing is often a test of bravery, especially when it means going against popular opinion.

Being a leader involves making tough decisions that may not be easy or popular, just like **George Washington** did in the history of our nation. Good leaders are important! George Washington was a good leader because he put others before himself, did his best and did what was right. His legacy of bravery, integrity, and leadership continues to inspire people to this day.

## WATCH

Scan Me!



### Optional Course Videos:

*Learn More With Liberty: Washington Secures American Liberty*

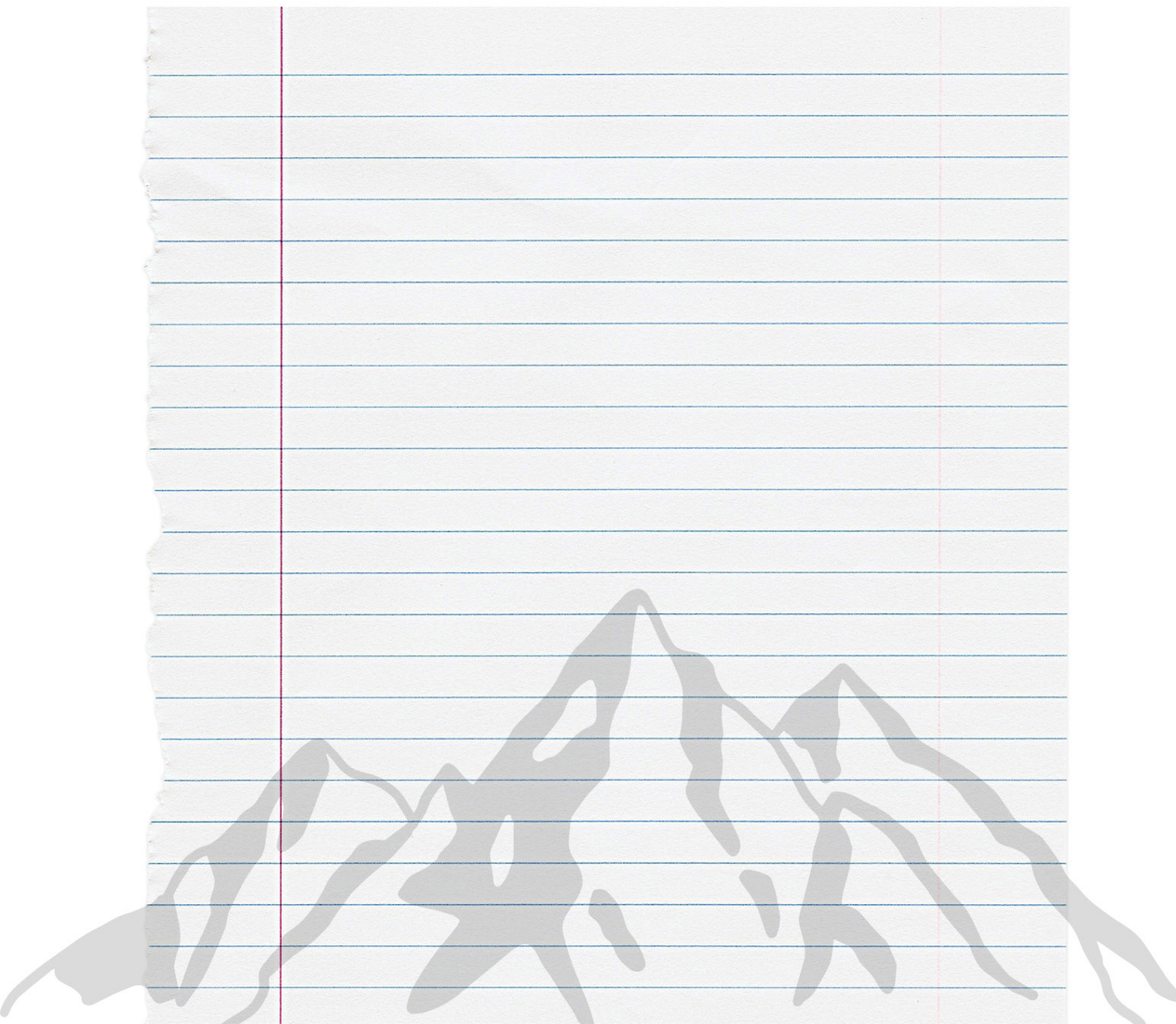
*Learn More With Liberty: Washington on the Defensive in the Revolutionary War*

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

# America's First President

## Write a Story

- ◆ **WRITE** a story where a character's faith is tested.
- ◆ **IDENTIFY** an obstacle this character is facing.
- ◆ **DESCRIBE** how and when they discover that even a small amount of faith can move mountains.
- ◆ **EXPLORE** how this realization transforms their perspective.



# America's First President - 3rd Grade

# Knowledge Check

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Imagine you are meeting George Washington, the first President of the United States. **Write a letter** to him, telling him why you think he was a great leader.

In your letter, include:

**Three** qualities or actions that you admire about George Washington as a leader.

How you think his **leadership** has helped shape the United States.

A question you would like to ask him about his **experiences** as President.

# 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>

