

4th Grade

Discover America

Course 7 - Teacher Guide



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

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4th 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.
- Explain why faith mattered to George Washington.
- Describe the events leading up to George Washington's resignation as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.



America's First President - 4th 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 **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 **Continental Army** - the army that fought for America during the Revolutionary War to gain independence from Britain.
- 05 **commander-in-chief** - the leader of all military forces.

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Introduction

ASK Students

What makes a good leader?

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 - 4th Grade

Introduction

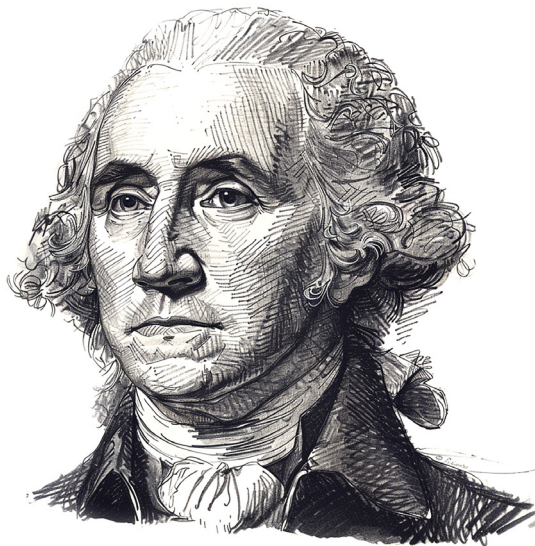
ASK Students

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.



George Washington

America's First President - 4th Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

How did our first President live?

(allow students to respond)

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.

America's First President - 4th Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

During the toughest times of the American Revolution, Washington never gave up hope. Even when things looked bad, he kept believing they could win.

One of his big victories was when he freed the city of Boston from the British. On December 26, 1776, the day after Christmas, he surprised the enemy by crossing the Delaware River and winning an important 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.



America's First President - 4th Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

Can you describe some of George Washington's **military** experiences as **commander-in-chief** of the Continental Army?

(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.

ASK Students

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

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:
George Washington and the Continental Army



Scan Me!

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Lesson

ASK Students

What does faith mean?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

The word 'faith' means to believe or trust in something, even without proof. It is also an idea as well as a feeling. When you think of the word 'faith' you may want to think about these questions:

- 01 What does faith mean to me personally?
- 02 In what ways does faith provide meaning and purpose in my life?
- 03 What role does faith play in my relationships with others and the world around me?
- 04 How can I strengthen my faith over time?

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 and have faith that victory was in sight. He dedicated everything to ensure Americans have the right to life and freedom.

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Lesson

ASK Students

What are characteristics of a good leader?

(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. His legacy of bravery, integrity, and leadership continues to inspire people to this day.

WATCH

Optional Course Videos:

Learn More With Liberty: George Washington's Faith

Learn More With Liberty: Why Faith Mattered to George Washington

Learn More With Liberty: George Washington Resigns as Commander in Chief

Scan Me!



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

George Washington Biography

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

My name is:	I was born on:

Adjectives to describe me:	My favorite hobbies include:
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Four facts about me:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

I stand for: 	I'm remembered for: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
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Knowledge Check



INSTRUCTIONS:

Imagine you are George Washington. **You are going to write a letter to a friend** describing your experiences as a leader during the American Revolution and as the first President of the United States. Use descriptive language and examples from the lesson to **bring your letter to life**.

In your letter, include:

Details about your military experiences as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, including important battles and challenges you faced.

Reasons why you agreed to become the first President of the United States and your thoughts on leadership.

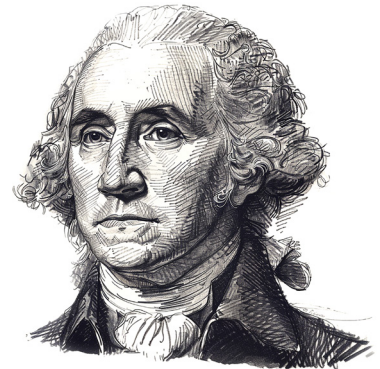
How you demonstrated characteristics of a good leader, such as putting others before yourself, doing your best, and doing what was right.

The importance of faith and determination in your leadership journey, including moments when you had to have faith even when things looked tough.

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Student Text

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George Washington

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America's First President - 4th Grade

Student Text

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Hessian Soldiers

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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.



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>

