

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 27 - Teacher Guide



Parting Principles:
Perspectives from
Washington's Farewell
Address

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Fifth Grade Teacher Guide



source: Canva

George Washington sculpture in Boston, Massachusetts

Key Themes

- Unity and National Identity
- Political Parties and Factionalism
- Foreign Relations and Neutrality
- Public Morality and Civic Virtue
- Legacy of Leadership
- Change and Continuity
- Responsibility of Citizenship
- The Role of Education

Core Values

- Community
- Liberty
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Explain what a Farewell Address is and why it is important for leaders, particularly presidents.
- Identify and describe the key themes in George Washington's Farewell Address, such as unity, political parties, and foreign alliances.
- Demonstrate the concept of unity through collaborative activities that emphasize teamwork and working together.
- Analyze the historical context of Washington's Farewell Address and discuss its significance in the early years of the United States.
- Connect Washington's advice in his Farewell Address to contemporary issues, discussing how these lessons apply today.
- Evaluate the relevance of Washington's warnings about partisanship and foreign influence.
- Reflect on the qualities of effective leadership as demonstrated by Washington, including humility and the importance of serving the public.
- Discuss the concept of sacrifice and how it relates to the freedoms they enjoy today, connecting it to Washington's legacy.
- Define unity and describe how George Washington emphasized its importance for a strong nation.
- Explain why cooperation and caring for their country are crucial for building a better future.

source: Canva



Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Key Terms



- 01 **caution:** being careful and thinking before you act.
- 02 **Constitution:** a special document that tells how our government works.
- 03 **crisis:** a time when something very serious or dangerous happens, and it needs to be fixed quickly.
- 04 **Farewell Address:** a special speech or letter given by a leader, like a president, when they are leaving their job.
- 05 **partisanship:** when people strongly support a particular group or political party and often have a hard time seeing other viewpoints.
- 06 **political party:** a group of people who share similar ideas about how the government should work and what laws should be made.
- 07 **resources:** things that people use to help them live, work, and grow.
- 08 **retirement:** when someone stops working, usually after many years in their job. It often happens when people reach a certain age or feel they have done enough in their careers.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Key Terms



- 09 **sacrifice:** giving up something important or special for the sake of someone else or for a bigger purpose
- 10 **Senate:** part of the United States government that helps make laws.
- 11 **Union:** refers to the United States as a whole, especially when talking about how the states work together as one country.
- 12 **unity:** coming together as one and working together.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

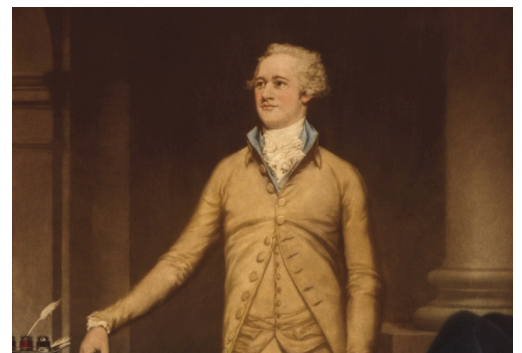
Let's start by pretending we are leaving a fun place, like a playground or a birthday party! What are some things we might do when we say goodbye? [Encourage students to demonstrate waving, saying goodbye, giving hugs, or high-fives.] Great job, everyone! Just like how we say goodbye, presidents have their own special way of leaving office.

ASK Students

What are some ways you think presidents might say goodbye when they finish their time in office?

TELL Students

Presidents often say goodbye by giving speeches or writing letters to share their thoughts and hopes for the future. They want to leave their country in a good place, just like when we say goodbye to our friends by wishing them well. This is exactly what George Washington did in his Farewell Address. A **Farewell Address** is a special speech or letter given by a leader, like a president, when they are leaving their job. In this address, they share important thoughts, advice, and hopes for the future. It is a way for them to say goodbye and encourage the people to work together and continue to care for their country. George Washington's Farewell Address is one of the most famous examples, where he shared his wisdom about unity and staying strong as a nation. **Unity** means coming together as one and working together. It is like a team where everyone helps each other and shares the same goals.



George Washington

source: Canva

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction



TELL Students *(continued)*

When people are united, they support each other and make things better as a group. Just like how friends stick together to have fun and solve problems! George Washington used this special moment to share important advice with everyone about how to keep our country strong and united.

ASK Students

What do you think George Washington wanted to tell the people in his Farewell Address, and why do you think it was important for him to share that advice as he was leaving office?

TELL Students

George Washington wanted to encourage the people to work together and remain united, reminding them of the importance of caring for their country. He understood that his experiences as president could help guide future leaders and citizens. This advice was essential because he wanted to set a strong foundation for America, so it could thrive long after his presidency ended.

ASK Students

Why do you think it was important for George Washington to remind the people about working together and caring for their country? How do you think that can help us today?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

It was important for George Washington to remind the people about working together because a strong nation depends on unity and cooperation. When everyone cares for their country and supports each other, it helps build a better future. Washington understood that his experiences as president could provide valuable lessons for everyone, helping them to work together even after he stepped down.

ASK Students

How do you think George Washington announced that he would not be returning to office?

TELL Students

George Washington announced he would not be returning to office by writing a thoughtful letter to the people. He wanted to make sure they understood his decision clearly and share his feelings about his time as president. Washington was known for being respectful and sincere, so he would have wanted to express his gratitude and offer advice for the future in a way that would inspire and guide the country. In this public letter, published on September 19, 1796, in Philadelphia's *American Daily Advertiser*, Washington announced his retirement and shared advice to help Americans build a strong, free, and secure nation for future generations. **Retirement** is when someone stops working, usually after many years in their job. It often happens when people reach a certain age or feel they have done enough in their careers.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction



TELL Students *(continued)*

When someone retires, they can enjoy more free time to do things they love, like spending time with family, traveling, or picking up new hobbies. In the case of George Washington, he retired from being president to spend more time at home and share his wisdom with others. He wanted to ensure that the values and lessons he learned during his time as president would guide the country even after he was gone.

ASK Students

What did George Washington want people to remember and follow after he retired from being president? Why do you think it is important for leaders to share their advice with others?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

George Washington wanted people to remember the importance of unity and working together for the good of the country. It is important for leaders to share their advice because it helps others learn from their experiences and make better decisions in the future. Just like your mom, teacher, or coach gives you advice based on their experiences, George Washington provided valuable guidance to his fellow Americans. His farewell wasn't just a goodbye; it was a message that continues to resonate today! To remember Washington's advice, let's sing a fun song about him! The song title is, "George Washington's Farewell," and we will sing it to the melody of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Lyrics:

*George Washington, farewell,
Gave us wisdom, hear him tell.
Stay united, work as one,
Peace and freedom for everyone.
Don't let factions pull apart,
Lead with kindness, that's the start.
George Washington, farewell,
Gave us wisdom, hear him tell.*

Now that we have learned about how presidents say goodbye and the wisdom they share, let's remember the important lessons George Washington left for us.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

Can anyone tell me one thing you think is important from his farewell?

TELL Students

One important thing from George Washington's Farewell Address is his message about unity. He encouraged Americans to work together and support each other, reminding everyone that a strong, united country is essential for success and happiness. This idea helps guide leaders and citizens even today.



source: [Wikipedia](#)

George Washington

Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 27:
George Washington's Farewell Address



Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

In 1796, George Washington had been the president for more than seven years, and his second term was almost over. Today, presidents can only serve two terms, which is a total of eight years, but back then, there were no rules about how long someone could be president.

ASK Students

What do you think is significant about George Washington choosing to step down after two terms as president, especially considering there were no formal rules regarding term limits at the time?

TELL Students

It is important that George Washington chose to stop being president after two terms because it showed that he valued the idea of sharing power and letting others take on leadership roles. He believed that a good leader should put the needs of the country first, even if it meant stepping aside. George Washington could have decided to run for a third term and keep being president, but he didn't want to. He was ready to retire and spend time at home. In his Farewell Address, he talked to the American people about why he didn't want to be president anymore. Many of these people had fought with him in the Revolutionary War and had supported him as their first president. Washington wanted to make sure they understood his reasons for stepping down and the importance of unity and good leadership.



Revolutionary War

source: [Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

ASK Students

Why do you think it was a brave decision for George Washington to choose not to run for a third term as president, and how do you think this decision helped shape the future of our country?

TELL Students

It was a brave decision for George Washington to choose not to run for a third term because it showed he was more focused on what was best for the country rather than his own power. By stepping aside, he set an example for future leaders about the importance of sharing power and ensuring that no one person has too much control. However, at first, Washington wanted to stop being president after his first term. But there was a problem brewing between Britain and France, and the United States was in danger of getting involved. His friends urged him to stay and help the country during this tough time. They believed he could lead the nation wisely and help keep it safe. This shows that even great leaders sometimes face tough choices, and Washington felt a sense of duty to protect his country.

ASK Students

Why do you think George Washington's decision to step aside after two terms was so important, and how do you think his choice to stay during a difficult time helped the country?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

George Washington's decision to step aside after two terms was important because it helped establish a tradition of limited presidential power, which shows that leadership is about serving the people rather than seeking personal gain. By choosing to stay during a challenging time, he provided stability and guidance, helping the nation navigate through uncertainty. When he finally decided to retire, Washington wrote his Farewell Address. In it, he shared important advice with the country. He told everyone to stick together and be united, to be careful about political groups that might cause disagreements, and to avoid getting too involved in other countries' problems. His words were meant to encourage cooperation and caution, reminding Americans to prioritize unity for the good of the nation. **Caution** means being careful and thinking before you act. It is about paying attention to what might happen and making smart choices to stay safe. For example, if you see a wet floor, you might walk slowly so you don't slip. Being cautious helps keep us safe and avoids problems!

ASK Students

Why do you think it was important for George Washington to encourage unity and caution in his Farewell Address, and how can we practice being cautious and working together in our own lives?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

Please read the following passage with a neighbor to learn more. [Please print and disseminate fifth grade student text.] Print-out included at the end of Lesson Guide)

It was important for George Washington to encourage unity and caution because he wanted to remind everyone that working together makes the country stronger. When we cooperate and think carefully about our choices, we help keep ourselves and others safe. By doing this in our own lives, like helping a friend or being careful when playing, we contribute to a positive environment. By choosing to step down after two terms, George Washington set a great example for future presidents. He showed that it was important to put the country first and that sometimes, it's good to let someone else take the lead. Washington also knew that as the first president, he would set an example for future presidents. If he were to die while in office, people might think that presidents were elected for life, just like kings.



King George III

source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:George_III_1762.jpg)

ASK Students

Why do you think setting an example of unity and caution was so important for George Washington as the first president, and how can we apply those lessons in our own lives today?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

Setting an example of unity and caution was important for George Washington as the first president because he wanted to show that strong leadership involves working together and making wise choices for the good of the country. By encouraging these values, he helped create a foundation for future leaders to follow. In our own lives, we can apply these lessons by collaborating with others, being considerate of our decisions, and understanding that sometimes, it is best to let others take charge for the benefit of everyone. By 1796, America was safe from getting involved in the war between Britain and France, and it was clear that it was time for Washington to step down. This would show that the president's job was to serve the people, not just to hold onto power.

ASK Students

Why do you think George Washington's example of unity and caution is still important for leaders today, and how can we practice these values in our daily lives?

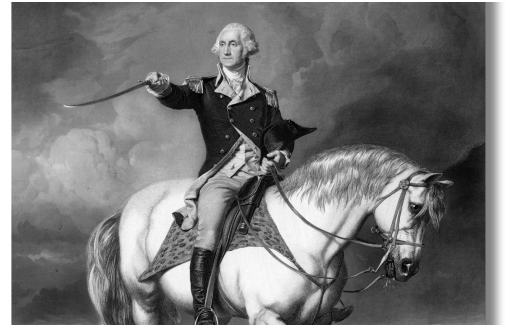
TELL Students

George Washington's example of unity and caution is still important for leaders today because it reminds us that effective leadership is about serving others and making choices that benefit everyone. By practicing these values in our daily lives—like working together with friends, being thoughtful about our actions, and knowing when to let others lead—we can create a positive environment and strengthen our communities.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

In his Farewell Address, Washington explained why he was retiring and thanked the American people for their support and for the honors they had given him. He also shared some important advice and warned about dangers that could harm America.



source: Canva

George Washington

ASK Students

What do you think are some of the important pieces of advice that George Washington shared in his Farewell Address, and why do you think they are still relevant for us today?

TELL Students

Some important pieces of advice that George Washington shared in his Farewell Address included the need for unity among the states, caution about political disagreements, and the importance of staying out of foreign conflicts. These messages are still relevant today because they remind us that working together and being careful about our decisions can help keep our country strong and safe. At that time, America was a young country trying to establish itself. The Constitution was less than 10 years old, and the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the Constitution) was less than 5 years old. The



source: Canva

U.S. Constitution

Constitution is a special document that tells how our government works. It explains the rules and rights that help keep our country fair and safe.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

The Constitution was written a long time ago, and it helps make sure everyone is treated equally and has a say in how things are done. It is like a big guide for our country! The capital, Washington D.C., was still being built, and the federal government was in Philadelphia. America had just faced a big crisis with France and Britain, Spain still controlled the land west of the Mississippi River, and the British still had a presence in Canada. A **crisis** is a time when something very serious or dangerous happens, and it needs to be fixed quickly. It can be a problem that makes people worried or scared, like a big storm, a health emergency, or a conflict. During a crisis, people work together to solve the problem and help each other stay safe.

ASK Students

Why did George Washington emphasize unity and caution in his Farewell Address, especially considering that America was still a young country facing many challenges?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

Please read the following passage to learn more.

*George Washington talked about unity and being careful in his Farewell Address because he knew that America was a young country that needed to work together to be strong. There were many challenges ahead, like the possibility of conflicts with stronger countries. He wanted everyone to support each other to keep the new government safe and fair. This meant that working together and making smart choices were very important. The idea of a government for the people was new, and there was no promise it would work. America had beautiful land with a lot of resources, which might attract other powerful countries that wanted it for themselves. **Resources** are things that people use to help them live, work, and grow. This can include natural things like water, trees, and minerals, as well as things like food, money, and tools. Resources are important because they help us meet our needs and make life better!*



source: Canva

resources

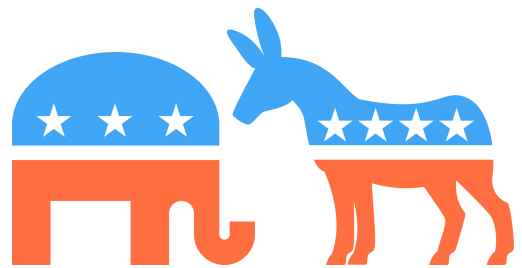
ASK Students

Why do you think it was important for George Washington to encourage people to work together and support each other during the early years of America?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

It was important for George Washington to encourage people to work together and support each other because the early years of America were filled with challenges. He knew that if the country was divided by political parties, it could weaken the government and make it harder to solve problems. Washington wanted everyone to feel included and united so that the nation could be strong and fair for all. In addition, two new political parties had started to form: the Southern Democratic-Republicans and the New England Federalists. A **political party** is a group of people who share similar ideas about how the government should work and what laws should be made. Members of a political party work together to help get their ideas and candidates elected. In the United States, there are two main political parties: the Democrats and the Republicans. Each party has its own beliefs and goals for the country, and they compete in elections to see who will make important decisions for everyone. George Washington wanted to be president for all of America, not just for one political party. He believed that if the country was divided, it wouldn't survive. Washington thought that dividing Americans by political parties and where they lived could harm our national unity and put our freedom at risk.



main political party symbols

source: Canva

ASK Students

Why did George Washington believe it was important for everyone in America to work together instead of being divided by political parties? How can working together help our country?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

In his Farewell Address, Washington stressed how important the Union is. The **Union** refers to the United States as a whole, especially when talking about how the states work together as one country. It represents the idea that all the states are joined together to form a single nation. The Union is important because it helps ensure that everyone has rights and can live freely, working together for the good of all. When people talk about "preserving the Union," they mean keeping the country strong and united. The Union brings Americans together and protects their right to live freely. He also warned that being divided by regions, political parties, and getting too involved with other countries could threaten our unity and the future safety of our nation.

ASK Students

Why did George Washington emphasize the importance of the Union in his Farewell Address, and what dangers did he associate with division among the states?

TELL Students

In George Washington's Farewell Address, he emphasized the importance of unity among Americans over local identities. He believed that being American should be a source of pride, stating that our shared identity is more significant than identifying with specific states or regions. Washington noted, "You have fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the results of your combined efforts and sacrifices," highlighting that our unity is crucial to maintaining our freedom. At the time, political parties were relatively new, and many people viewed them as disruptive.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

Washington was concerned that these parties could further divide the country and shift power away from the people to a select few. He believed that an excessive focus on party loyalty would lead to conflict and overshadow the government's duty to serve everyone

ASK Students

Why did George Washington believe that focusing on our shared identity as Americans was more important than our local identities or political parties?

TELL Students

George Washington believed that focusing on our shared identity as Americans was crucial because he saw it as a way to strengthen the country and protect our freedoms. He worried that political parties could create divisions that would distract from the government's responsibility to serve all citizens. Washington emphasized that when Americans come together, they can achieve great things, as their unity is vital for maintaining liberty and ensuring that everyone's rights are protected. Additionally, Washington articulated what unites Americans: our national pride and the sacrifices made for our liberty. He stressed that the unity of our country is essential for preserving our freedom, urging that since we cherish our liberty, we must work to keep our nation united.

ASK Students

What did George Washington believe were the main benefits of focusing on our shared identity as Americans instead of our differences, and why did he think unity was essential for protecting our freedoms?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students

Finally, Washington advised that we should treat all nations with respect and strive for peace. He stated, "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all," underscoring the importance of goodwill and friendly relations in building a strong nation. By understanding these key messages, we can appreciate how Washington's farewell addresses the need for unity, warns against division, and emphasizes the importance of working together for the common good.

ASK Students

Why did George Washington believe it was important to treat all nations with respect and strive for peace, and how does this relate to his overall message about unity and working together for the common good?

TELL Students

It was important for George Washington to stress the need for unity and careful decision-making in his Farewell Address because he wanted to help guide the young nation through its challenges. By emphasizing unity, he aimed to remind everyone that coming together as one is essential for overcoming difficulties. Careful decision-making helps ensure that choices benefit the whole country rather than just a few people. George Washington believed that the combination of partisanship and foreign influence posed a serious threat to the nation. **Partisanship** is when people strongly support a particular group or political party and often have a hard time seeing other viewpoints. It can lead to disagreements because people may focus more on their loyalty to their party than on working together with others to solve problems.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

In simple terms, it's like being on a sports team and only wanting to cheer for your team, even if the other team has good ideas too. Washington warned that partisanship could “open the door to foreign influence and corruption,” meaning it could let other countries decide what happens in America instead of allowing the American people to choose their own future.

ASK Students

Why do you think unity is so important for a country facing challenges, and how can feeling proud of our nation help us work together to make it stronger?

TELL Students

Please read the following passage independently to learn more.



source: Canva

soldier

*Washington talked about what brings Americans together. It is our national pride and the freedom we enjoy because many people have made sacrifices for us. **Sacrifice** means giving up something important or special for the sake of someone else or for a bigger purpose. It could be giving up your time, comfort, or something you really like to help a friend or to support a cause. For example, a soldier might sacrifice their safety to protect their country, or a friend might share their favorite toy even if they want to keep it for themselves. Sacrifice shows how much we care about others and what's important. We also come together to keep working hard to make our country the best it can be. The unity of our country is what allows us to have our freedom, and because we care about our freedom, we should work to protect that unity.*

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Lesson

ASK Students

How did this sense of unity prepare the way for future leaders?

TELL Students

Shortly after Washington's Farewell Address was published, John Adams was elected as the second president of the United States. Washington went back to his home at Mount Vernon, where he lived for less than three years before he sadly passed away from a throat infection on December 14, 1799. Washington's wisdom in his Farewell Address is still important today. Every year, the United States Senate reads this address to remind everyone about the importance of unity in our country's history and future. The **Senate** is a part of the United States government that helps make laws. It is made up of people called senators, who represent each state. Each state has two senators, no matter how big or small it is. Senators talk about ideas for new laws, decide if they should be passed, and work together to help keep the country running smoothly. Washington's advice is a special gift for all Americans who want to learn from his example and help keep America free, strong, and safe. Let's watch an exciting Learn More with Liberty video and a Patriot of the Week to learn more!



John Adams

source: Canva

WATCH

[Learn More With Liberty: Staying Friendly with Other Countries](#)



WATCH

[Patriot of the Week: George Washington](#)



Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Comparing Washington's Inaugural Address and Farewell Address

Objective

Students will analyze and compare George Washington's Inaugural Address with his Farewell Address to understand the evolution of his thoughts on leadership, unity, and the challenges facing the nation.

Materials Needed

- Excerpts from Washington's Inaugural Address and Farewell Address (provided below)
- Venn diagram handouts
- Markers or colored pencils
- Large poster paper (for group presentations)
- Sticky notes

Excerpts for Distribution

Excerpt from Washington's Inaugural Address (April 30, 1789)

"I do not unfurl the banner of the state to the world, but I stand before you, as the servant of the people, fully convinced that the blessings of liberty and peace have been bestowed upon us by Providence."

Excerpt from Washington's Farewell Address (September 19, 1796)

"The unity of government, which constitutes you one people, is also a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence."

Introduction

- Briefly review George Washington's significance as the first president and his role in shaping the nation.
- Explain the purpose of the activity: to compare his inaugural and farewell addresses.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Comparing Washington's Inaugural Address and Farewell Address

Group Formation

- Divide students into small groups of 4-5.

Read and Discuss

- Distribute the excerpts from both the Inaugural Address and the Farewell Address.
- In their groups, students will read the excerpts and discuss the following questions:
 - What are the main messages in each address?
 - How does Washington's tone differ between the two speeches?
 - What challenges is he addressing in each address?

Venn Diagram Comparison

- Provide students with a Venn diagram handout.
- Instruct them to fill in the diagram by noting similarities and differences between the two addresses:
 - Inaugural Address: Main themes, tone, and messages.
 - Farewell Address: Main themes, tone, and messages.
 - Similarities: Common ideas or themes.

Group Presentation Preparation

- Each group will prepare a brief presentation (3-5 minutes) based on their Venn diagram findings.
- They can create a poster that visually represents their comparison and includes key points from both addresses.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Comparing Washington's Inaugural Address and Farewell Address

Presentations

- Groups will present their comparisons to the class.
- Encourage classmates to ask questions or provide additional insights after each presentation.

Reflection

- Ask students to reflect individually on what they learned from comparing the two addresses.
 - They can write a short paragraph on sticky notes answering:
 - How do Washington's views on leadership and unity evolve from his Inaugural Address to his Farewell Address?
 - Why is it important to consider both addresses when studying Washington's legacy?

Assessment

- Evaluate group participation and engagement during discussions and presentations.
- Assess the completeness and clarity of the Venn diagrams.
- Review individual reflections for understanding of the themes and concepts.

This critical thinking activity encourages students to engage deeply with historical texts, fostering their analytical skills while understanding the significance of George Washington's leadership.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Interviewing George Washington

Objective

Fifth grade students will engage in a creative role-play activity where they interview George Washington after his Farewell Address to gain deeper insights into his thoughts, feelings, and motivations.

Materials Needed

- Copies of George Washington's Farewell Address excerpts
- Notebooks or paper for writing questions and answers
- Props (optional) such as hats or signs to represent the time period
- A large poster board for students to display their interview results

Introduction

- Review the significance of George Washington's Farewell Address and its key themes (unity, political parties, foreign influence).
- Explain that students will take on the roles of reporters interviewing Washington about his address.

Preparation

- Divide students into pairs or small groups.
- Instruct students to brainstorm and write down a list of questions they would like to ask George Washington. Questions can focus on:
 - His feelings about stepping down as president.
 - His thoughts on the importance of unity.
 - His concerns about political parties and foreign influence.
 - Advice he would give to future leaders.
- Encourage students to refer to the excerpts from the Farewell Address for inspiration.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Interviewing George Washington

Role-Play Setup

- Assign one student in each group to be George Washington, while the others will be reporters.
- Provide time for students to prepare their roles. The "George Washington" students can review key themes from the Farewell Address to answer questions.

Conducting the Interviews

- Groups will take turns conducting their interviews.
- Each group should have a designated time (around 5-7 minutes) to ask their questions and have a discussion with "George Washington."
- Encourage the "George Washington" student to respond thoughtfully, reflecting the sentiments and ideas from the Farewell Address.

Sharing Insights

- After all interviews, gather the class together.
- Ask groups to share one or two interesting insights or quotes they learned from their interviews with Washington.
- Discuss any common themes or surprising responses that emerged.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Interviewing George Washington



Reflection

- Have students individually write a short reflection about what they learned from the activity and how it changed or deepened their understanding of Washington's Farewell Address.

Assessment

- Evaluate students based on their participation in the interviews and the quality of the questions they developed.
- Assess the reflections for understanding of the key themes and insights from the activity.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Exploring Political Parties in George Washington's Farewell Address

Objective

Students will analyze George Washington's views on political parties as expressed in his Farewell Address, evaluate the role of political parties in a democracy, and engage in critical thinking by discussing the advantages and disadvantages of political parties.

Materials Needed

- Excerpts from George Washington's Farewell Address focusing on political parties (provided below)
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- "Pros and Cons" worksheet (one per student)
- Sticky notes
- Timer

Excerpts for Distribution

Excerpt on Political Parties from Washington's Farewell Address (1796)

"However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely... to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government."

"The spirit of party... serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration."

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Exploring Political Parties in George Washington's Farewell Address

Introduction

- Class Discussion: Begin by asking students what they know about political parties. Write their responses on the board.
- Context Setting: Briefly explain that during George Washington's time, political parties were just beginning to form, and Washington had strong opinions about them.
- Objective Sharing: Let students know they will explore Washington's views on political parties and think critically about their role in society.

Reading and Understanding the Excerpts

- Distribute Excerpts: Hand out copies of the excerpts from Washington's Farewell Address.
- Guided Reading: Read the excerpts aloud as a class, pausing to explain difficult vocabulary.
 - Key Vocabulary:
 - Subvert: Undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution).
 - Usurp: Take (a position of power or importance) illegally or by force.
 - Enfeeble: Make weak or feeble.
 - Class Comprehension Questions:
 - What concerns does Washington express about political parties?
 - Why does he believe they could be dangerous?

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Exploring Political Parties in George Washington's Farewell Address

Small Group Discussion

- Form Groups: Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students.
- Pros and Cons Worksheet: Provide each student with a "Pros and Cons" worksheet.
- Instructions:
 - Pros: List potential benefits of having political parties.
 - Cons: List potential problems or dangers of political parties, based on Washington's views and their own ideas.
- Guiding Questions:
 - How might political parties help people express their ideas?
 - In what ways could political parties cause division among people?

Group Sharing

- Group Reports: Have each group share one pro and one con they discussed.
- Class Chart: Create a class list of pros and cons on chart paper or the whiteboard.

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Critical Thinking Debate

- Position Assignment: Assign half the class to argue in favor of political parties and the other half to argue against them.
- Debate Preparation: Give students a few minutes to prepare their main points.
- Debate Rules:
 - Listen respectfully when others are speaking.
 - Use evidence from the excerpts and discussions.
 - Aim to understand both sides of the argument.
- Conduct Debate: Allow each side to present their arguments, alternating between pros and cons.

Reflection

- Individual Writing: Ask students to write a short paragraph responding to the following prompt:
 - After learning about George Washington's views and considering both sides, what is your opinion on the role of political parties in our government? Explain your reasoning.
- Sharing (Optional): Invite volunteers to share their reflections with the class.

Assessment

- Participation: Observe student engagement during discussions and the debate.
- Worksheets: Review the "Pros and Cons" worksheets for thoughtful contributions.
- Reflection Paragraphs: Assess the reflections for understanding of the topic and the ability to articulate a personal viewpoint supported by reasoning.

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Exploring Political Parties in George Washington's Farewell Address

Extension Activities

- Research Assignment: Students can research modern political parties and identify how they align with or differ from Washington's concerns.
- Letter Writing: Have students write a letter to George Washington, explaining how political parties function today and whether his warnings were justified.

Teacher's Notes

- Differentiation: Pair students strategically to support diverse learning needs.
- Sensitivity: Encourage respectful discussion, reminding students to focus on ideas rather than individuals or current political figures.
- Historical Context: Emphasize that political parties in Washington's time were different from today's parties and that understanding history helps us make informed decisions.

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Pros and Cons Worksheet: Political Parties in George Washington's Farewell Address



Teacher's Note

Objective: To encourage students to critically analyze the role of political parties, using historical context and personal reasoning.

Instructions for Teachers:

- Facilitate a discussion using the guiding questions.
- Encourage students to think of real-life examples.
- Remind students to support their points with reasons.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions

1. Carefully read the following excerpts from George Washington's Farewell Address.

- Excerpt on Political Parties:

- i. "However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely... to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government."

- ii. "The spirit of party... serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration."

2. Understand Key Vocabulary:

- **Subvert:** To undermine or weaken the power and authority of a system.
- **Usurp:** To take power or control illegally or by force.
- **Enfeeble:** To make weak or feeble.

3. Complete the worksheet

- Think about the advantages (Pros) and disadvantages (Cons) of political parties.
- Use the excerpts, class discussions, and your own ideas.
- Write your answers below.

Pros and Cons of Political Parties

Pros (Advantages of Political Parties):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Pros and Cons of Political Parties

Cons (Disadvantages of Political Parties):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Guiding Questions

For Pros:

How might political parties help people share their ideas and beliefs?

In what ways can political parties organize people to achieve common goals?

How do political parties help voters understand different viewpoints?

Guiding Questions

For Cons:

How might political parties cause disagreements or divisions among people?

Why did George Washington warn about the dangers of political parties?

How could political parties lead to conflicts or weaken the government?

Reflection

After completing the pros and cons, write a short paragraph answering the following questions:

- What is your opinion on the role of political parties in our government?
- Do you think they help or hurt our country more? Why?

Your reflection

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade Resources

- <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xxii>
- <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/george-washington-s-farewell-address/>
- <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/farewell-address-4/?swcfpc=1>
- https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/washingtons-farewell-address?gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwvdajBhBEEiwAeMh1U2Yr-AbDD049KZfby1dmc9XGBbs1SY737Ui6eMjxp-N-pH6PfFKAErOCRIYQAvD_BwE
- <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/george-washington-s-farewell-address/>
- <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/george-washington-s-farewell-address/>

[illegible]

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Student Text

Passage 1

It was important for George Washington to encourage unity and caution because he wanted to remind everyone that working together makes the country stronger. When we cooperate and think carefully about our choices, we help keep ourselves and others safe. By doing this in our own lives, like helping a friend or being careful when playing, we contribute to a positive environment. By choosing to step down after two terms, George Washington set a great example for future presidents. He showed that it was important to put the country first and that sometimes, it's good to let someone else take the lead. Washington also knew that as the first president, he would set an example for future presidents. If he were to die while in office, people might think that presidents were elected for life, just like kings.



source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_III)

King George III

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Student Text

Passage 2

George Washington talked about unity and being careful in his Farewell Address because he knew that America was a young country that needed to work together to be strong. There were many challenges ahead, like the possibility of conflicts with stronger countries. He wanted everyone to support each other to keep the new government safe and fair. This meant that working together and making smart choices were very important. The idea of a government for the people was new, and there was no promise it would work. America had beautiful land with a lot of resources, which might attract other powerful countries that wanted it for themselves. Resources are things that people use to help them live, work, and grow. This can include natural things like water, trees, and minerals, as well as things like food, money, and tools. Resources are important because they help us meet our needs and make life better!



source: Canva

resources

Washington's Farewell Address - Fifth Grade

Student Text

Passage 3

Washington talked about what brings Americans together. It is our national pride and the freedom we enjoy because many people have made sacrifices for us. Sacrifice means giving up something important or special for the sake of someone else or for a bigger purpose. It could be giving up your time, comfort, or something you really like to help a friend or to support a cause. For example, a soldier might sacrifice their safety to protect their country, or a friend might share their favorite toy even if they want to keep it for themselves. Sacrifice shows how much we care about others and what's important. We also come together to keep working hard to make our country the best it can be. The unity of our country is what allows us to have our freedom, and because we care about our freedom, we should work to protect that unity.



source: Canva

soldier