

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 27 - Teacher Guide



Parting Principles: Perspectives from Washington's Farewell Address

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First 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 its purpose, specifically focusing on how leaders use it to share their thoughts and hopes when leaving a position.
- Identify and discuss the key themes of unity and cooperation presented in George Washington's Farewell Address, understanding why these themes are important for a strong nation.
- Define sacrifice and give examples of how people, including leaders like Washington, make sacrifices for the greater good.
- Create their own farewell letters to friends, expressing what they value in their friendships and sharing positive advice, mirroring the thoughtful messages in Washington's address.
- Discuss the importance of leadership and responsibility, recognizing how leaders like George Washington set examples for future generations.

source: Canva



Washington's Farewell Address - First 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 **resources:** things that people use to help them live, work, and grow.
- 06 **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.
- 07 **sacrifice:** giving up something important or special for the sake of someone else or for a bigger purpose
- 08 **Senate:** part of the United States government that helps make laws.
- 09 **unity:** coming together as one and working together.

Washington's Farewell Address - First 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.



George Washington

source: Canva

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

Introduction

TELL Students *(continued)*

Unity means coming together as one and working together. It is like a team where everyone helps each other and shares the same goals. 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.



unity

source: Canva

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 important 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 - First 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.



source: Canva

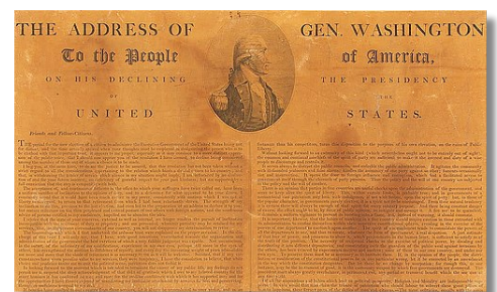
U.S.A. on a map with the flag

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.



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

Farewell Address

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

Introduction



TELL Students *(continued)*

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. 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 - First 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 teach us 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"



giving advice

source: Canva

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 - First 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.

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 - First 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 important about George Washington deciding to stop being president after two terms, especially since there weren't any rules about it back then?

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 - First 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?

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.

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

By choosing to stay during a challenging time, he provided stability and guidance to our country. 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 pick 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!



source: Canva

cooperation

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 - First Grade Lesson

TELL Students

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/File:George_III_1762.jpg)

King George III

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?

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.

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade Lesson

TELL Students *(continued)*

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

George Washington

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade Lesson

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 **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. 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.



U.S. Constitution

source: Canva

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade Lesson

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?

TELL Students

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 so important for George Washington to stress the need for unity and careful decision-making in his Farewell Address, especially given the challenges facing the young nation?

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade Lesson

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.

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

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.



soldier

source: Canva

Washington's Farewell Address - First 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: George Washington's Lasting Legacy](#)



WATCH

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



Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

George Washington's Wisdom Circle

Objective

Help first graders understand the concept of retirement, the importance of George Washington's farewell message, and the idea of sacrifice in a fun and engaging way.

Materials Needed

- A large circle rug or open space
- A soft ball or plush toy (to pass around)
- Sticky notes and markers
- Chart paper or a whiteboard
- Crayons or colored pencils

Introduction

- Gather students in a circle on the rug.
- Briefly review that George Washington decided to retire from being president to spend time at home and share his wisdom with others. Ask if anyone knows what it means to retire.

Discussion on Sacrifice

- Ask students what they think sacrifice means. Explain that it means giving up something important to help others.
- Share examples, such as how a soldier might protect the country or how friends share their toys.

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

George Washington's Wisdom Circle

Wisdom Circle

- Start with the soft ball. Explain that when a student catches the ball, they will share one thing they think is important from George Washington's farewell message about working together and helping each other.
- After sharing, they will pass the ball to someone else in the circle.

Sticky Note Reflection

- Once everyone has had a turn sharing, give each student a sticky note.
- Ask them to draw or write one way they can show unity and help others, inspired by Washington's message. For example, sharing with a friend or helping someone in need.
- Have them place their sticky notes on a chart paper titled "Ways to Help Our Country."

Wrap-Up

- Gather the students again and review the sticky notes on the chart.
- Reinforce the importance of unity and sacrifice in building a strong country, just like Washington encouraged.

Conclusion

This activity encourages students to think about the values of unity and sacrifice in a way that is relatable and engaging. It allows them to actively participate in discussions and reflect on how they can contribute to their community, following George Washington's example.

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

My Farewell Letter to Friends



Objective

Help first graders understand the themes of George Washington's Farewell Address by creating their own farewell letters to friends, expressing what they value about their friendships and what advice they would like to share.

Materials Needed

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers or stamps for decoration
- Envelopes (optional)
- Example letter template on a whiteboard or chart paper

Introduction

- Review with students that George Washington wrote a special Farewell Address when he decided to retire from being president. Talk briefly about why farewells are important and what it means to say goodbye.
- Share a few key points from Washington's address, such as the importance of unity and cooperation.

Discuss Farewell Messages

- Ask the students how they might say goodbye to a friend. Encourage them to think about what they would want to tell their friends if they were leaving.
- Write down some ideas on the whiteboard, such as expressing gratitude, sharing memories, or giving advice.

Washington's Farewell Address - First Grade

My Farewell Letter to Friends

Create Farewell Letters

- Hand out construction paper and art supplies to each student.
- Show them an example letter template on the whiteboard:
- Greeting: "Dear [Friend's Name],"
- Body: "I want to say goodbye because... (what they will miss, what they enjoyed)"
- Advice: "Remember to... (something positive or encouraging)"
- Closing: "Your friend, [Your Name]"
- Encourage students to personalize their letters with drawings and decorations that represent their friendship.

Sharing Farewell Letters

- Once the letters are complete, have students share their letters with the class or in small groups.
- Encourage them to read their letters aloud and explain the special messages or advice they included.

Optional: Create an "Envelope"

- If time allows, provide students with envelopes to decorate for their letters.
- They can write their friends' names on the envelopes or draw pictures that represent their friendship.

Conclusion

This activity allows students to express their feelings about friendship and the importance of saying goodbye in a meaningful way. It connects their personal experiences with the themes of George Washington's Farewell Address, making the lesson both interactive and relatable.

Washington's Farewell Address - First 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]