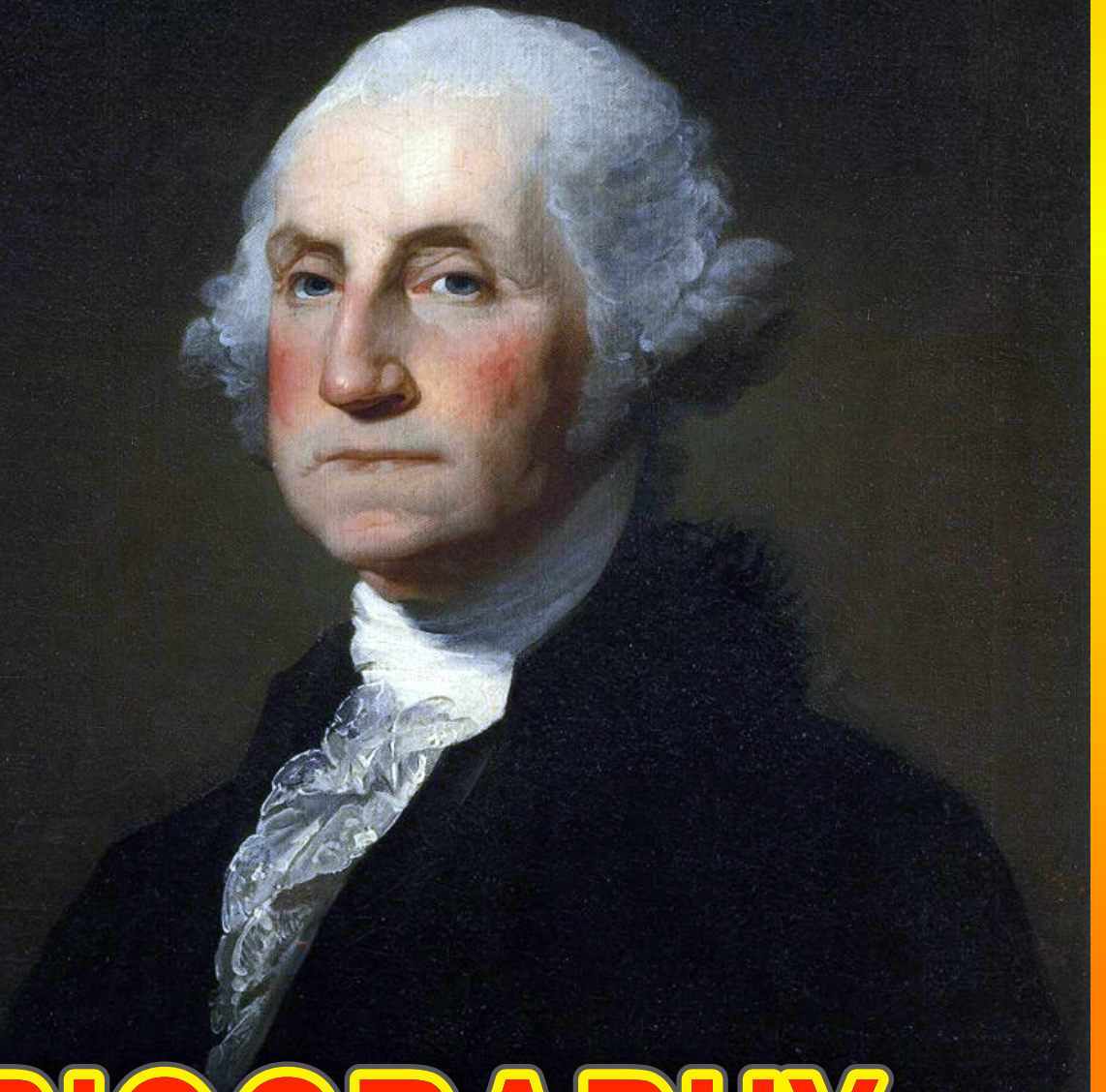


# GEORGE WASHINGTON



## BIOGRAPHY

# GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, and the first President of the United States. The United States Constitution was created under his supervision. Washington was regarded as “father of the United States”, even during his lifetime.

George Washington was born into a wealthy plantation-owning family in Virginia on February 22, 1732. The family owned tobacco plantations and slaves. George Washington grew up as a surveyor and soldier, and was a senior officer in the British colonial forces during the French and Indian War. As a result, he was not only a first-rate commander, but he also knew the British tactics, something that would be invaluable in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1775 he was chosen to be commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. He is famous for crossing the Delaware River in freezing conditions in order to save the Continental Army from defeat. His famous battles included Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781, despite many setbacks when he was outmaneuvered by the British army. Both his low and high points were at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778.

He was elected unanimously as the first President of the United States in 1789, when he tried to bring together those with differing ideas, especially those of Thomas Jefferson, and passed on his presidency to John Adams. He was essentially someone who wanted peace and would do his best not to argue or start wars. He even signed peace treaties with Britain. That is why those supporting Jefferson fell out with him, and they distrusted him so much they delayed building the Washington Monument.

Washington was the leader of the first successful revolution against a colonial empire in world history, and inspired revolution in other countries, something the French and Spanish monarchies would come to regret a few years later.

George Washington died on December 14, 1799 in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He was honored in towns and cities all over the country, as many people got together to mourn and remember him.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'first-rate'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'first-rate' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'first-rate'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'first-rate'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'first-rate' means.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: setbacks	obstacles

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

This meant that Washington knew British tactics when it came to the American Revolutionary War.

Washington was a senior officer in the British colonial forces.

In 1789, Washington was elected as the first President of the United States.

Washington died in 1799 in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In 1775, Washington was chosen to be commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

George Washington was born to a wealthy family in Virginia in 1732.

He oversaw the creation of the United States Constitution.

# Get to the facts

1 When was Washington senior officer in the British colonial forces?

2 Which river is Washington famous for crossing?

3 When was Washington elected president?

4 Who did he pass his presidency on to?

5 Which monument did Jefferson's supporters delay building?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## The death of George Washington

Imagine you were around in 1799. You have just heard the news of George Washington's death. Write a letter to your friend about the news... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'first-rate'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'first-rate' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'first-rate'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'first-rate'.
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## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – setbacks

Synonym – obstacles

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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Washington was a senior officer in the British colonial forces.

In 1789, Washington was elected as the first President of the United States.

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## **Make a story...**

### **The death of George Washington**

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# George Washington

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