

Name _____

Date _____

George Washington

George Washington was born in Virginia on February 22, 1732. He was educated at home by his parents, Augustine and Mary, and various tutors. As a young child, George was very active, partaking in hunting, fishing, horseback riding, gunning and canoeing. Unfortunately, when George was only 10 years old, his father became sick and died.

After his father's death, George spent a lot of time with his older stepbrother, Lawrence. Lawrence had served in the British navy during the war between the British and the Spanish and it was his influence that encouraged George to pursue the military service. In 1746, at the age of 14, George was set to join the British Navy and head off to sea, but his mother advised otherwise and thus George never went.

Instead, at the age of 16, he helped survey the Shenandoah for Lord Fairfax. Though George didn't know it at the time, the knowledge he gained from surveying the land would become extremely valuable later in his life. In 1754, George fought in the early battles of what would eventually become the French and Indian War. Near the end of the French and Indian war, George married a widow named Martha Custis.

Up until the Revolutionary War, George served in the Virginia House of Burgesses and took care of his land near Mount Vernon. Feeling the mounting pressure from the British, George represented Virginia when the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May of 1775. He was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army and by July was leading his troops in Massachusetts.

After six long, hard years of fighting the British, George forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown which eventually led to America's independence from the British. Though George would have liked to go home to Mount Vernon and live a quiet life, he didn't. Instead, seeing that the country was in need of some help, George played an important role in assembling the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. Once the new constitution was put into place, George Washington was elected President.

On April 30, 1789, in New York, George Washington took the oath of office as President of the United States. He served as President for two terms, from 1789-1797. Washington's Farewell Address was a highly influential piece which stressed the importance of the Constitution and rule of law.

After years fighting the British and serving as the country's president, George Washington went back home to Mount Vernon and spent his last years farming and spending time with his family. After becoming sick, at the age of 67, George died on December 14, 1799.

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George Washington Questions

1. In what state was George Washington born in?

2. Who educated George Washington?

3. Give 2 activities that George partook in as a young boy.

4. After his father's death, who did George spend a lot of time with?

5. What was George going to do until his mother advised him otherwise?

6. At age 16, what did George do for Lord Fairfax?

7. Who did George marry?

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George Washington Questions (Cont'd)

8. What state did George represent when the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia?

9. Who did George fight against to help America win independence?

10. Which army did George become Commander in Chief?

11. In what year did George Washington become President?

12. How many terms did George serve as President?

13. After his term as President was over, what did George do?

14. How old was George when he died?

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George Washington Answers

1. In what state was George Washington born in? **Virginia**
2. Who educated George Washington? **His parents and tutors**
3. Give 2 activities that George partook in as a young boy. **hunting, fishing, horseback riding, gunning and canoeing**
4. After his father's death, who did George spend a lot of time with? **His stepbrother, Lawrence**
5. What was George going to do until his mother advised him otherwise? **Join the British navy**
6. At age 16, what did George do for Lord Fairfax? **surveyed the Shenandoah**
7. Who did George marry? **Martha Custis**
8. What state did George represent when the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia? **Virginia**
9. Who did George fight against to help America win independence? **British**
10. Which army did George become Commander in Chief? **Continental Army**
11. In what year did George Washington become President? **1789**
12. How many terms did George serve as President? **2**
13. After his term as President was over, what did George do? **Went back to Mt. Vernon**
14. How old was George when he died? **67**