

George Washington

(image:www.graphicsfactory.com)



Everybody knows that George Washington was the first president, but how much do you really know about him? George Washington was actually a pretty interesting guy!

First of all, he was quite tall. He was six feet two inches tall with greyish blue eyes.

Washington was born in 1789 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. When he was eleven, his father died, and he went to live with his half brother at the **Mount Vernon estate** (near Alexandria, Virginia).

Mount Vernon is a large fancy estate. In fact, it still exists today.

One of Washington's first jobs was as a surveyor. (A surveyor is a person who determines or checks the property lines on a piece of land.) Washington was only 16 years old when he began surveying land.

After his half brother died, Washington took over Mount Vernon. At just 20 years old, he was responsible for overseeing the large estate. He farmed the land, took care of the livestock, and managed the slaves.

As time passed, Washington began to get involved in politics and in the military. Washington served in the **House of Burgesses** for many years, and he was also a leader in the **French and Indian War**.

In 1759, when Washington was 37 years old, he married Martha Dandridge. Martha Dandridge was a widow, who had two

young children. Washington, who never had children of his own, loved the children as if they were his own.

In 1765, the **British Parliament** passed the **Stamp Act**. The Stamp Act stated that the **colonists** had to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper that they used. George Washington and the other colonist thought that this act was unfair, and they became upset with the British.

Over the next few years, Washington and the colonists became more and more upset with the British government because of their laws and taxes.

Eventually, a war ensued. This war was called the **Revolutionary War**. During the Revolutionary War, the colonists (the Continental Army) fought for freedom from British rule. George Washington was the outstanding commander of the Continental Army. The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775-1783.

Six years after the end of the Revolutionary War, on April 30, 1789, George Washington became the very first president of the United States of America. He remained president until 1797.

Two years after the end of his presidency, George Washington died of a throat infection. He was 67 years old.

History Terms

Write 1-3 sentences in which you explain the terms below. Use prior knowledge (things you already know) and context clues first. If you still don't know, look up the terms or ask someone who knows.

- **Mount Vernon**

- **House of Burgesses**

- **French and Indian War**

- **British Parliament**

- **Revolutionary War**

- **Stamp Act**

- **Colonists**

Vocabulary Words

Define each of the words. Use your context clues first. If you still don't know, look the words up or ask someone who knows.

- **estate**

- **surveyor**

- **livestock**

- **ensured**

Reading Comprehension

1. How tall was *George Washington*?

2. In what year was *Washington* born? Where was he born?

3. Why did *Washington* go live with his half brother at *Mount Vernon*?

4. What was one of *Washington's* first jobs?

Research

Choose one of the history terms. Research the term and write 2-4 paragraphs about it.

Technology Activity

Create a web page a wiki about George Washington. Be sure to include pictures.

Critical Thinking Activities

- Create a Timeline of the important events of George Washington's life.

- Create a multiple choice quiz bases on this article. Be sure to include an answer key.

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