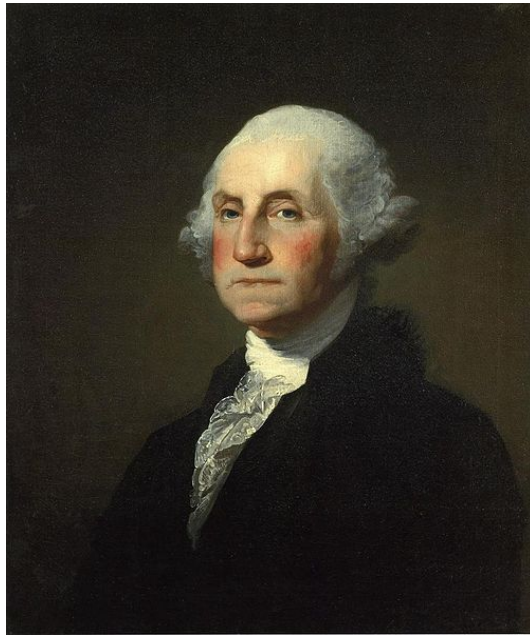


U.S. Presidents George Washington



George Washington is **regarded**¹ as the Father of Our Country. He guided America so it could **evolve**² into the nation that it is today. First, Washington led the Continental Army to victory, winning our independence from Britain during the Revolutionary War. After the war ended, he was a key player at the **convention**³ that drafted the United States Constitution. Finally, as President, Washington's leadership solved many problems. It ensured the Constitution could work to govern a new nation.

America was a very different place back in Washington's time. The nation was small and weak. There were only 11 states in the union when Washington took office. When he left after two terms there were 16. The country only stretched as far as the Mississippi River. Most people farmed and struggled to make a living. Many children never went to school. Most adults couldn't read or write. Communication and transportation were slow and difficult. It took days for Washington to travel what it takes someone a couple of hours by car today.

¹ **regarded** – thought of, considered

² **evolve** – to develop gradually

³ **convention** – a meeting arranged for a special purpose

Most Americans loved Washington for the way he handled hardship. As a general, he lost many battles and suffered greatly. Washington never gave up, even during the bitter winters when he and his troops had barely enough food or supplies to survive. Washington's officers admired his loyalty and strength so much they wanted to make him king. Washington refused.

Today, George Washington is honored in many ways. His face adorns America's one-dollar bill and its quarter. Both Washington state and our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., are named after the first President. The bridge that stretches across the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York is named the George Washington Bridge. It is located exactly where Washington crossed the Hudson with his troops to defeat British forces. Perhaps one of Washington's officers expressed America's feelings about Washington best. "He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The numbers 11 and 16 refer to
 - a. the years Washington spent in office.
 - b. the number of states that existed before and after Washington was President.
 - c. the ages of Washington's children.
 - d. the numbers of armies Washington defeated.

2. According to the passage, what does **drafted** mean?
 - a. wrote
 - b. called to service
 - c. destroyed
 - d. threw away

3. You could replace the word **adorns** with
 - a. shocks.
 - b. loves.
 - c. decorates.
 - d. is in absence.

4. Which of the following is not named after George Washington?
 - a. George Washington Bridge
 - b. George Washington Carver Library
 - c. Washington, D.C.
 - d. Washington State

5. What is one reason Americans love George Washington?
 - a. For the way he handled hardship
 - b. For his physical strength
 - c. For his nice smile
 - d. For his contributions to the US national bank

6. There are many facts about Washington in this passage. What are some opinions about George Washington found in this passage?

7. Discuss some of the early troubles America faced in Washington’s time:

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Washington is well respected _____ his ability to always persevere

- a. when
- b. for
- c. even
- d. despite

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the 1770’s, George Washington fought in the Revolutionary War in order to win America’s freedom from the British.

Who? George Washington

(did) What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** loyalty: showing devotion or faithfulness to somebody or a cause.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive - the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage tells the life story of George Washington, who was a well-respected general in the Revolutionary War before he became the first president of the United States of America.

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 - a. the years Washington spent in office.
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6. There are many facts about Washington in this passage. What are some opinions about George Washington found in this passage?

Suggested answer: An officer's opinion about Washington was: "He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Or most Americans loved Washington for the way he handled hardship.

7. Discuss some of the early troubles America faced in Washington's time:

Suggested answer: Most people struggled to make a living farming, and many children never even went to school.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Washington is well respected _____ his ability to always persevere

- a. when
- b. for**
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- d. despite

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the 1770's, George Washington fought in the Revolutionary War in order to win America's freedom from the British.

Who? George Washington

(did) What? **fought in the Revolutionary war**

When? **in the 1770's**

Why? **in order to win America's freedom from the British**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** loyalty: showing devotion or faithfulness to somebody or a cause.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.