

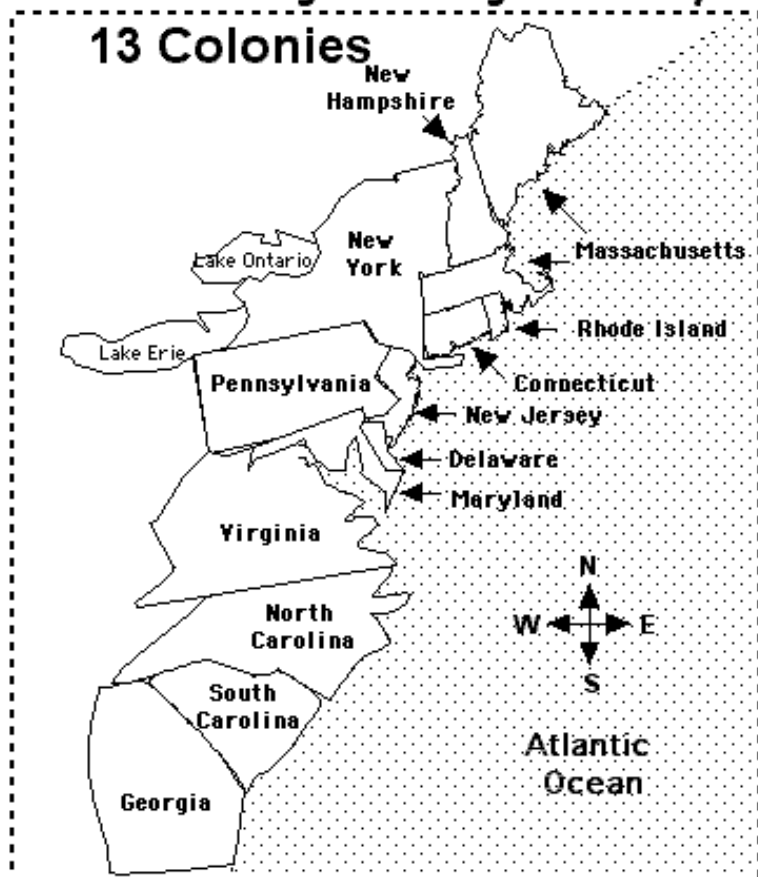


**George
Washington**

By _____

George Washington's Early Life

13 Colonies



Early Life

Color

Green: Virginia

Red: Pennsylvania

Blue: Lake Erie
Lake Ontario
Atlantic Ocean

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Virginia, one of the 13 British Colonies in America. George's father was a farmer; he died when George was 11 years old.

Washington had little formal schooling, but he read a lot and taught himself about the world. He became an expert woodsman and surveyor (a person who determines the boundaries and area of tracts of land).

George grew to be over 6 feet tall (this was rare in Colonial times).

How many years ago was Washington born? _____

In which colony was Washington born? _____

George Washington: French & Indian War

French &
Indian War

At age 20, Washington became a soldier in the Virginia militia. In 1753, on his first important mission, he and his six men carried a message to the French near Lake Erie (500 miles away) that they must stop settling land claimed by the British.

On May 28, 1754, Washington and 160 men unsuccessfully battled the French over British land claims in the Ohio/Pennsylvania region. This day-long fight was the first battle of the French & Indian War, in which the British (and the Colonists) fought the French and some Indians.

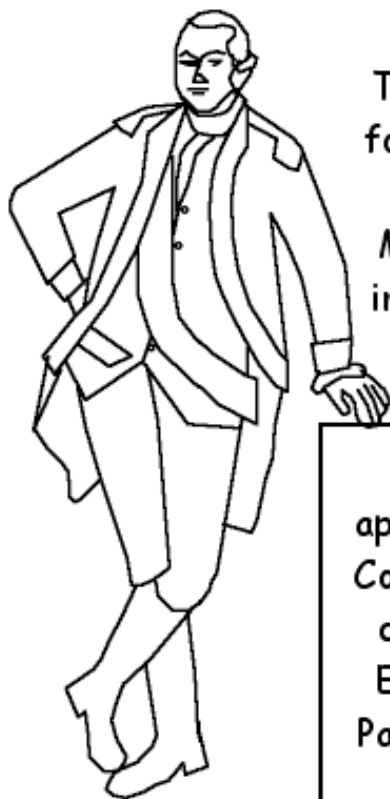
After heroic battles, Washington became a Colonel and the leader of Virginia's militia. The British (and colonists) eventually won the French & Indian War.

Washington was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses (local lawmakers) in 1758. He married Martha Custis (a rich widow) in 1759; they lived with her children, Martha "Patsy" and John "Jacky", in Mt. Vernon, their home in Virginia. George and Martha did not have children.

What was the name of the war in which Washington fought for the British? _____

What was Washington's wife's name? _____

George Washington: The Revolutionary War



The British taxed the colonists to pay for the French & Indian War, angering the colonists. In Boston, Massachusetts, colonists dumped tea into the harbor in 1773 to protest the excessive taxes.

In 1775, George Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Colonial Army. In 1776, the colonists declared their independence from England. The Colonists (also called Patriots) were poorly trained, barely paid, badly equipped, and outnumbered by the British.

Revolutionary
War

Due to the brilliant military planning of Washington, and some help from the French late in the war, the British were defeated in 1781 after many bloody battles. The Colonists had gained their independence.

Who was the Commander in Chief of the Colonial

Militia? _____

Soldiers from what country helped the colonists fight the

British? _____

George Washington: The Constitution

After the war, the 13 states struggled to survive under the Articles of Confederation (the rules for government adopted by the Patriots in 1777).

In 1787, the Americans held a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in order to write a new constitution. George Washington was chosen to lead it.

The Constitution outlined a representative government with checks and balances among the 3 branches of government: the Executive (the President), Legislative (lawmakers) and Judicial (judges).

The Constitution was eventually ratified by all 13 states in 1788, and it went into effect in 1789. The next step was to set up this new, revolutionary form of government.

What was the name of the document that guided the US government before the Constitution was written and ratified?

In which state was the Constitutional Convention held?



George Washington: Presidency

After the Constitution went into effect in 1789, the electors unanimously chose George Washington as the first President of the United States of America. John Adams was his vice-president.

Washington's first major task was to set up a new government, including forming an executive Cabinet (including Departments of State, Treasury, and War), and financing the government (by collecting taxes).

In 1790, the first US census was taken; the population of the USA at the time was almost 4 million people.

In 1791, the Bill of Rights was adopted. The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the US Constitution; it guarantees the rights of the people.

Washington was re-elected President for a second term, but he refused to serve a third term, saying in his farewell speech that a longer rule would give one man too much power.

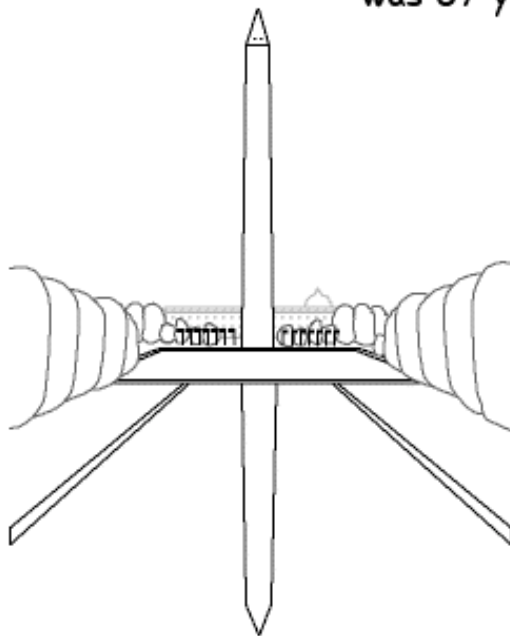
Who was the first vice-president of the USA?

How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights? _____

How many terms did Washington serve as President? _____

George Washington: Legacy

After serving two terms as President, George Washington returned to Mt. Vernon, his home in Virginia, and farmed his land. He died at home on December 14, 1799. He was 67 years old.



George Washington is often called the "Father of his Country." The capital city of the USA, Washington, District of Columbia, was named for George Washington. The Washington monument (in Washington, D.C.) was built to honor him.

The US dollar bill and the US quarter picture George Washington.



What is the name of Washington's Virginia home?

What US money pictures George Washington?

George Washington: Timeline

YEAR	EVENT
_____	Washington is born
1748	Washington's first surveying trip
1753	Washington takes message to French
1754	French & _____ War begins
1758	Washington elected to House of Burgesses
1759	Washington marries _____ Custis
1765	British Stamp Act taxes Colonists
_____	Boston Tea Party
1774	First Continental Congress
1775	Revolutionary War begins
1776	Declaration of _____
1777	Battle of Valley Forge
1781	Victory at Yorktown
1787	_____ Convention
1789	Washington elected _____
1791	Bill of _____ adopted
1792	Washington elected for second term
_____	Washington dies

Timeline

George Washington KWLChart Name_____

What I Know	What I Want to Find Out	How I Can Learn More	What I Have Learned