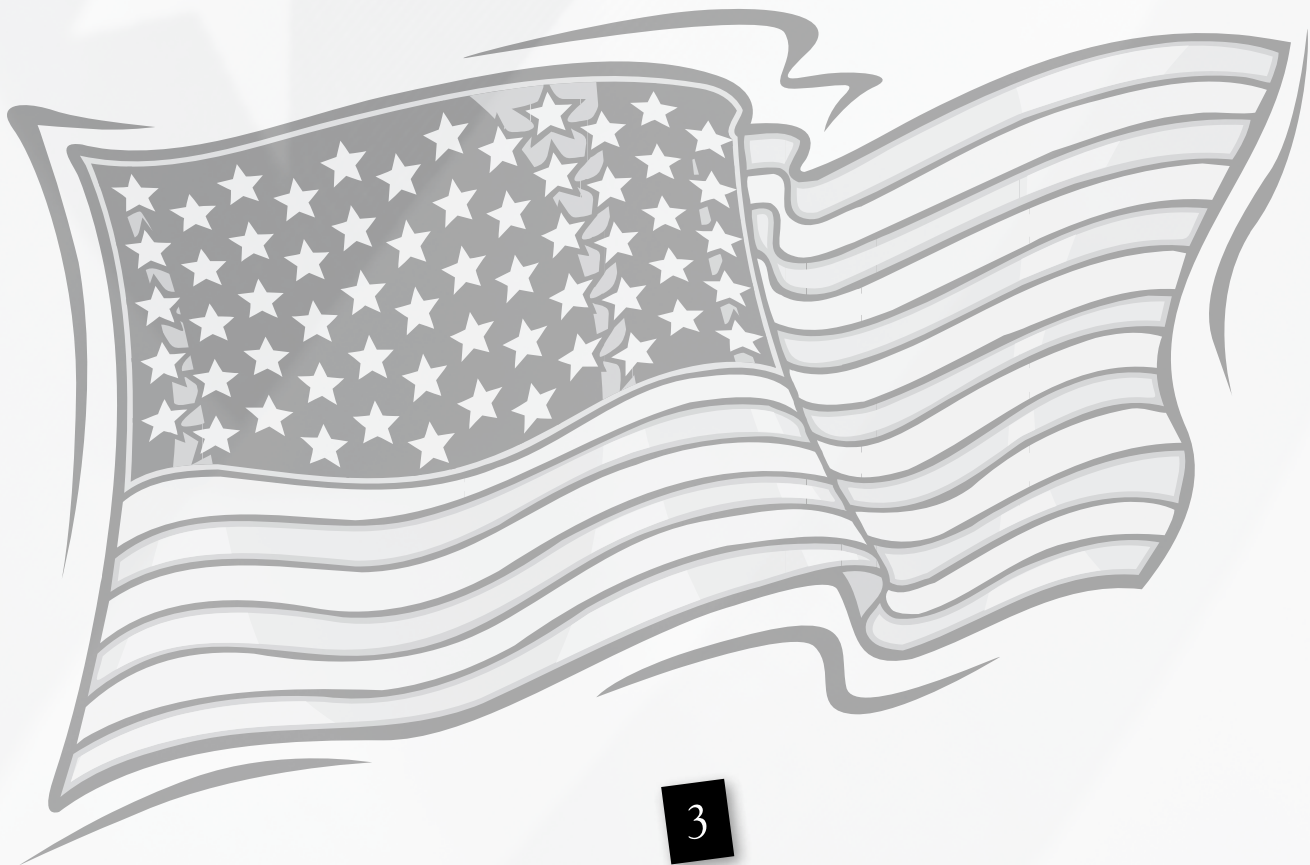


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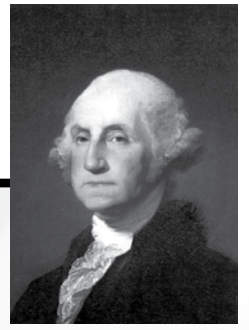


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# George Washington



**TOP SECRET**

It looks like a few extra items have wandered into this article! Take out these unwanted guests to find the answers you seek.

Nicknamed the “Father of His Country,” George Washington was born February 22, 1732, in Virginia. He grew up on his father’s farm before the family moved to Mount Vernon, which would become George’s home for the rest of his life. He received only an elementary education, but he was good at math and was able to get a job as a land surveyor.

In 1752, George began his military career and took over a militia group that was involved in the early battles of the French and Indian War. But he was frustrated with British command, and George quit the Army, only to return a few years later as an aide to a British general. He rose in the ranks and eventually received command of all the troops in Virginia. However, he decided to leave the Army again in 1758 and returned to Mount Vernon.

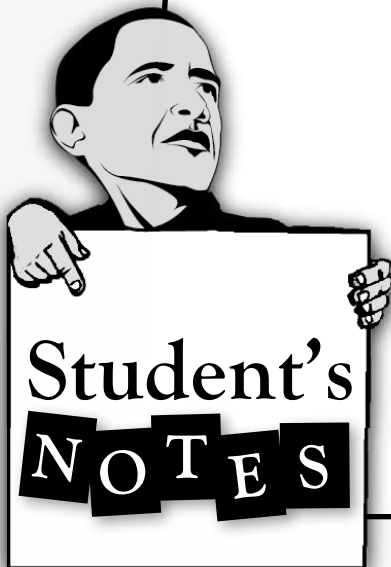
His excellent standing as a soldier earned Washington a place in the First and Second Continental Congresses. He was elected Commander of the Continental Army, which would later fight the British in the Revolutionary War. Washington used tactics he learned in the army, and, with the help of the French, led the U. S. troops to victory over the British.

With America free from British rule, the Constitutional Convention was called to create a new government. Washington was present at the meetings. When it came time to choose the first President of the United States, everyone wanted Washington. But George did not want to be President, believing that other men could do the job better. Every member of the Electoral College voted for Washington, however, and he agreed to become President.

President Washington laid the groundwork for the executive and judicial branches of the government. He established several cabinet positions, including the Secretary of State, Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Treasury. He also helped create the First National Bank.

President Washington intended to keep the new United States out of the problems of other countries. During his presidency, there was a war between France and England. Many Americans wanted the U.S. to join the war, but the president refused to interfere. The young nation had seen enough war. The time for peace had begun, and Washington wanted to keep it that way.

Even though Washington never wanted to be president, he served two full terms. After his second term, he made it clear that he would not run for a third. Instead, The United States' first president retired to Mount Vernon until his death in 1799.





# Questions:



1. One of the jobs Washington held before he was president was as a land \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Legend says that as a young boy George Washington chopped down his father's \_\_\_\_\_ . While this legend is probably untrue, it teaches the value of telling the truth. (2 words)
3. Washington designed the \_\_\_\_\_ of his militia group in Virginia.
4. One of President Washington's favorite foods was \_\_\_\_\_ . (2 words)
5. Several army officers wanted to make Washington their \_\_\_\_\_, but he refused.
6. President Washington is one of four presidents carved on \_\_\_\_\_ . (2 words)
7. There were \_\_\_\_\_ stars on the American flag when Washington was elected president.

