

Table of Contents

George Washington’s Farewell Address & Paraphrase	5
Biography of George Washington	20
The Constitution & Geographical Divisions in the U.S.	23
Political Parties.	24
Federalist Party vs. Democratic-Republican Party	25
Foreign Alliances	26
Hamilton’s Financial Plan.	28
Hamilton’s Financial Plan Questions	29
United States Map Exercise	30
Map of United States	31
Articles of Confederation & Constitution	32
Articles of Confederation & Constitution Questions	33
Time Line: George Washington’s Presidency	34
Time Line Questions	35
Precedents in Washington’s Presidency.	36
Constitution: Article II, Executive Department	37
Article II–Outlining	39
Article II–Outlining Exercise	40
The Constitution & Washington’s Presidency	41
Internet Research Ideas	42
Multiple Intelligence Activities.	45
Glossary	47
Answer Key	48



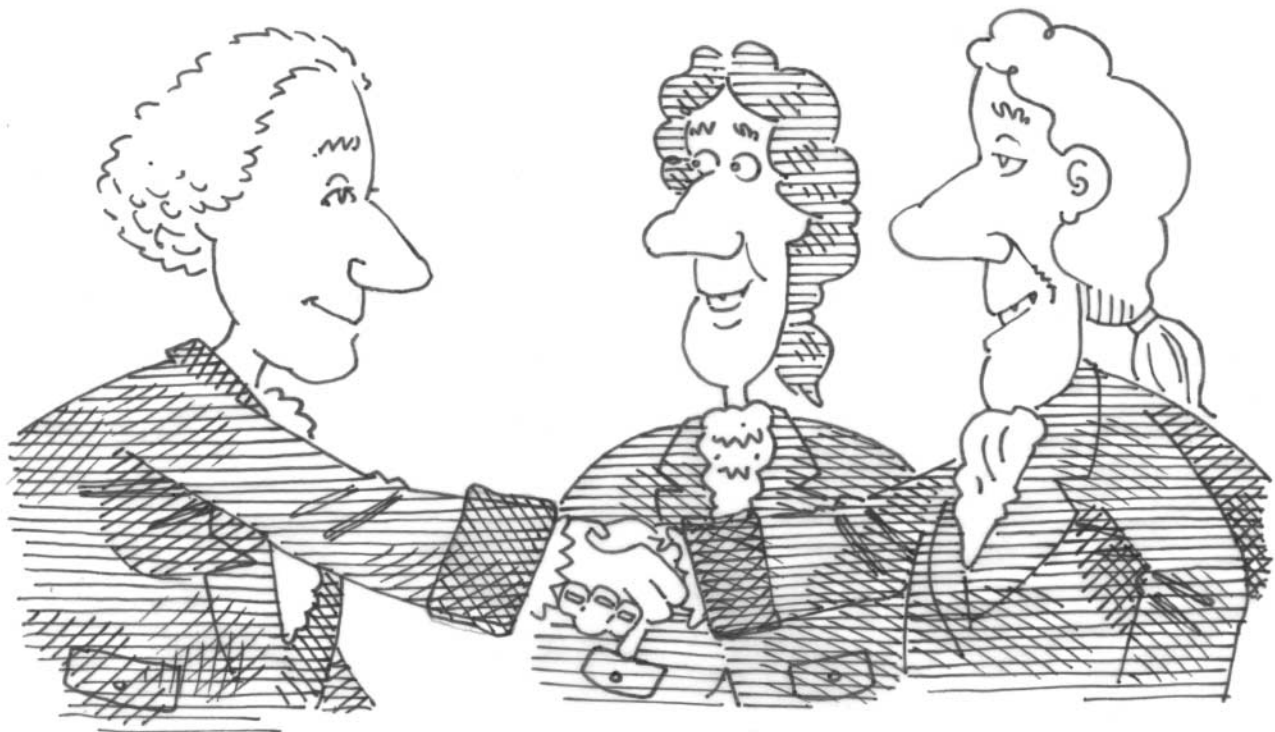
George Washington's Farewell Address & Paraphrase

1) Friends and Fellow-Citizens: The period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made . . .

2) I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that, in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

1) Friends and Fellow-Citizens: Soon it will be time to elect a President, and it is already time to nominate presidential candidates. Therefore, it is a good time to tell you that I am not running for President again.

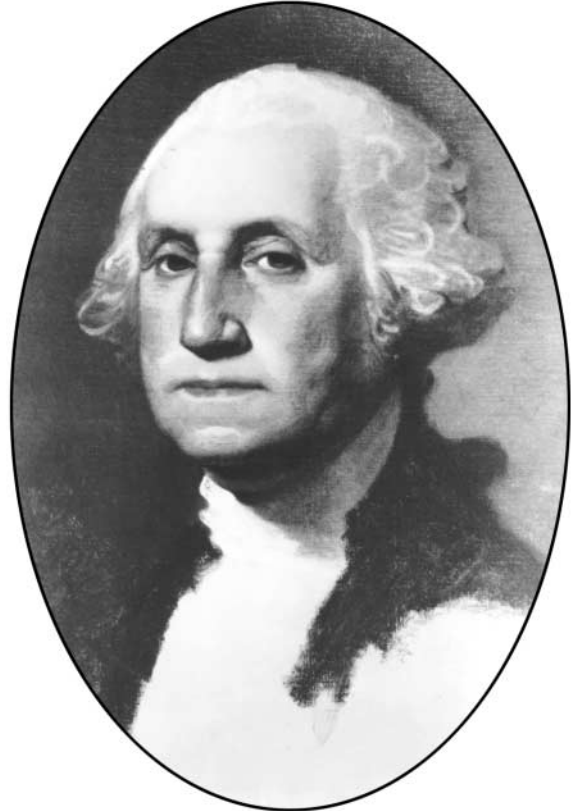
2) Things are going well in foreign affairs and inside the United States, so you don't need my services any more. Some of you may still want me to be President, but since things are going well, I think you won't mind my retiring.



Biography of George Washington

Washington was a leader of the protest movement against British policies when he was a representative in the House of Burgesses. From 1754-55, he was a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses as the colonies moved closer to war against Britain. John Adams nominated Washington as commander in chief of the Continental Army, and he was unanimously elected to the post.

The Revolutionary War lasted from 1776-1783. Through defeats, despair, lack of food and clothing, desertion by his soldiers, the terribly cold winter at Valley Forge and an effort to kick Washington out as leader, he survived and won the war. Although Washington had the power as leader of the army to rule the new nation by force, he resigned as commander in chief and returned to his land at Mount Vernon.



When the Articles of Confederation proved to be a poor framework for the United States, the states called a convention to revise them. This quickly turned into a meeting to write a whole new constitution. The delegates unanimously elected Washington President of the convention. After the new document was written, he worked hard to get Virginia to ratify the Constitution.

Washington was also the obvious choice for the first President of the new government, and the members of the Electoral College unanimously elected him to that office in 1788. As the first President, Washington made many decisions that set a pattern for future Presidents, including serving for only two terms. He was also responsible for appointing all of the new federal officers such as members of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court judges. He put down a rebellion by Pennsylvania farmers, steered a neutral course between Britain and France in their war against each other and tried to keep peace among the leaders of the two new political parties. All of these situations were very trying to Washington, so he was eager to retire after his second term as President.

Name _____

Biography of George Washington

At age 65, Washington retired from public life and returned to Mount Vernon. There he enjoyed country life for almost three years. However, in December 1799, Washington became very ill after spending five hours inspecting his plantation on horseback in snow, sleet and rain. He developed what was probably pneumonia. His doctors' treatments—although considered the best medical practices of the day—hastened his death instead of curing him. He died on December 14, 1799.

Although Washington had requested a small funeral, many people attended the ceremony to honor their first President. He was buried on December 18 at Mount Vernon in the family vault.

Questions

1. What was Washington's first opportunity to prove his leadership skills? How well did he do in that situation?
2. Washington was a representative in what three governmental bodies?
3. What was the first job that Washington was elected to unanimously?
4. If Washington had been an ambitious man, how could he have used his position as commander in chief of the army to rule in the U.S.?
5. Why was Washington's role as president of the Constitutional Convention important?
6. Some historians rank Washington as our second greatest President. Where would you rank him? Explain your answer using information from this biography.

