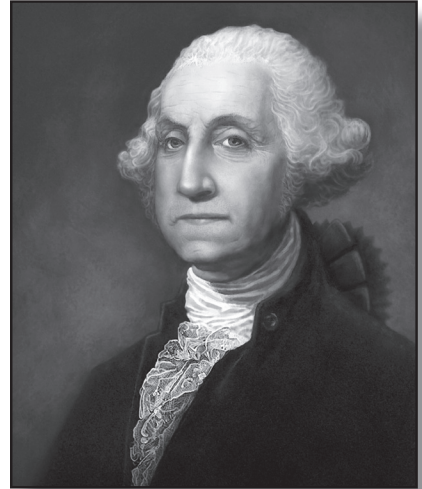




# Major Figures

**T**here were many people that played important roles during the **American Revolution**.

**George Washington** was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He went to school until he was fifteen. Washington then trained and worked as a land surveyor. When his brother died, he received the family property and returned there to be a farmer on the **plantation**. He married Martha Custis and got more land through his marriage to her. Their main house was on a Virginia plantation called **Mount Vernon**.



Washington was made the **commander** of the **Virginia Militia** in 1755. He served as an officer in the French and Indian War. He was said to be witty and charming and was a great leader of men. He was also well respected. Because of his experience, he was made the **commander-in-chief** of the **Continental Army** in 1775 when the war started. He led the army in the northern colonies. Washington retreated out of New York and lost the town. However, he re-crossed the **Delaware River** in the winter and surprised the British at **Trenton** and **Princeton**. He helped the army survive a tough winter at **Valley Forge**. He moved the army south in 1781 to meet the southern army. They trapped **Cornwallis** and the British at **Yorktown**. There, Cornwallis **surrendered** his army to Washington.

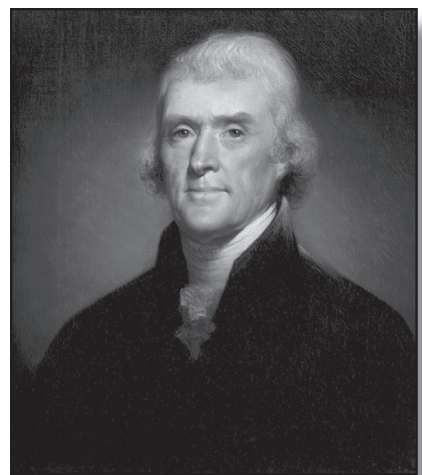


**What battles did George Washington fight in?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After the war ended in 1783, Washington returned to his plantation to farm. He came back into politics in 1787 to help write the **U.S. Constitution**. Washington became the first **president** of the United States in 1789 and served until 1797. He is often called the "**Father of our country**" because of all he did during the **Revolution** and the forming of the United States.

**Thomas Jefferson** was born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia. He was well educated and became a lawyer. He also had many other talents. He was an architect and an inventor. He loved the law and politics as well as music and education. Before the Revolution, Jefferson wrote many **pamphlets** for the **Patriot** side. He was one of the main writers of the **Declaration of Independence**. He was very concerned with the rights of the colonists. He felt that all people had the right to "**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**".



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Three

## Biography

There are many famous figures that were involved in the American Revolutionary War. Pick **ONE** of the figures that you personally find interesting. Use various resources like your class computer, the library, and books to research your chosen figure.

For example:

- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- King George III
- General Thomas Gage
- General William Howe
- Benjamin Franklin
- Sam Adams
- Paul Revere
- John Hancock

Pick anyone that you would like to learn more about! (If your chosen figure isn't listed in the examples above, get permission from your teacher.)

Using the information that you have found about your chosen figure, write a short biography about that person. A biography is a paper that describes a person's life, achievements and significance to the world today.

Think about things like:

- Where was he born?
- When was he born?
- Where was he trained or educated?
- Where was he from?
- Where did he live?
- What were his great accomplishments?
- What was his legacy?

Your biography should be at least a half-page in length and should not be any longer than two pages.

**Have fun!**