

George Washington Timeline for Kids

1732 to 1789

George Washington led the American army in the war for independence. Then he became the first president of the United States. This timeline tells the story of his life.



1732

Born in Virginia

George Washington is born on a farm in Virginia. He likes math and being outdoors. He learns to ride horses very well.

Why it matters: The skills he learned as a boy helped him all his life.



1749

A Young Map Maker

At 17, Washington gets a job measuring land and making maps. He travels through forests and mountains.

Why it matters: He learned the land well and learned how to lead men in the wild.



1759

Home at Mount Vernon

Washington marries Martha Custis. They live at Mount Vernon, a big farm beside a river in Virginia.

Why it matters: Mount Vernon was the home he loved most. You can still visit it today.



1775

Leader of the Army

The colonies go to war with Great Britain. Their leaders pick Washington to lead the army.

Why it matters: He kept the army together for eight hard years.

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1776

Crossing the Delaware

On Christmas night, Washington and his soldiers cross the icy Delaware River in boats. The next morning they surprise the enemy and win a battle.

Why it matters: The win gave Americans hope when the war was going badly.

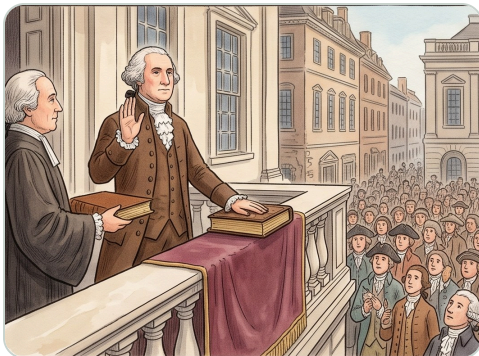


1787

Writing the Constitution

After the war, leaders from the states meet in Philadelphia. They write the Constitution, the plan for the government. Washington is in charge of the meeting.

Why it matters: The Constitution is still the highest law of the United States.



1789

The First President

Washington becomes the first president of the United States. He serves for eight years. Then he goes home to Mount Vernon.

Why it matters: He showed that a president should give up power when his time is done.

Words to know

colony: a place ruled by a country far away

army: a large group of soldiers

Constitution: the plan for how the United States government works

president: the leader of the United States