

## **George Washington**

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### **Career Summary**

As a dedicated patriot, American forefather and first president of the United States, led the American forces through the Revolution and oversaw the formation of the nation. Successfully gained independence for the American colonies and unified them under the new federal government. Led with fairness and integrity, demonstrating that a president could exercise executive authority without corruption. Maintained exemplary relationships with state governments and Congress.

### **Work Experience**

President

1789-1797 United States of America, Philadelphia, PA

Served two 4-year terms as president of the United States, winning the elections with unanimous votes. Sought to create a great united nation and lead the post-war recovery efforts. Highlights include:

- Assisted Congress with the adoption of the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution) in 1791, guaranteeing the rights of the American people.
- Organized the first United States Cabinet and the Executive Branch, building an infrastructure capable of supporting future presidents.
- Issued the Proclamation of Neutrality, establishing the United States as a neutral nation in the conflict between Britain and France, and freeing the nation from unnecessary involvement in foreign conflicts.
- Adopted measures to resolve the escalating debt crisis, such as support of a program that helped repay the states' Revolutionary War debts.
- Suppressed the Whiskey Rebellion, an uprising by farmers who were displeased by the government's imposed excise on whiskey. Raised more than 12,000 troops to quell the uprising and convince people of the merit of the tax.
- Signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo, opening the Mississippi River to American navigation.
- Signed Jay's Treaty with Great Britain, forcing the British to evacuate western forts and stabilizing relations with Great Britain.
- Negotiated peace treaties with southeastern Indian tribes.
- Proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving.
- Turned down the opportunity to serve a third term, setting a precedent for future presidents to limit their terms to avoid potential abuse of power.

## President

1787 Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, PA

- Helped organize and presided over the Constitutional Convention in 1787, during which time the US Constitution was written.
- Recognized as one of two presidents who signed the US Constitution.

## Commander-in-Chief

1775 - 1783 Continental Army, Philadelphia, PA

Created the Continental Army and served as its commander-in-chief. The Continental Army fought and won the American Revolution (1775-1783), forcing the British to grant independence to America. Highlights:

- Motivated troops during the cold winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, PA, building a mature army ready for battle.
- Launched a brilliantly planned and executed Yorktown Campaign in 1781, securing an American victory.
- Attacked the British near Monmouth Courthouse, NJ, on their withdrawal from Philadelphia to New York.
- Orchestrated a brilliant attack by the capture of Trenton, NJ, as troops crossed the Delaware River and surprised and defeated the enemy troops.
- Took command of troops surrounding British-occupied Boston, training a 14,000-man army and securing needed supplies.
- Occupied Dorchester Heights, effectively commanding the city and forcing the British to evacuate.

## Education

Self-Taught, Mount Vernon, NY

- Professional
- Mostly studied mathematics, surveying, mapmaking, the classics and "rules of civility."

## Additional Info

Legislation signed as president:

- Naval Act of 1794
- Fugitive Slave Act of 1793
- Coinage Act of 1792
- Bank Act of 1791
- Residence Act of 1790
- Naturalization Act of 1790
- Indian Intercourse Acts, starting in 1790
- Judiciary Act of 1789

## **Early Career Chronology**

1774-1775 First and Second Continental Congress

- Served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congress; was Congress's unanimous choice as commander-in-chief of the Continental forces in June 1775.

1759-1774 Virginia's House of Burgesses

- Became a radical patriot leader, serving in Virginia's legislature for 15 years.

1753-1759 Commander, Virginia Militia

- Commanded the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War.

1749-1753 Lord Fairfax's Lands (Shenandoah Valley)

- Helped design the layout of the Virginia town of Belhaven (now Alexandria) in 1749 and was appointed surveyor for Culpeper County.