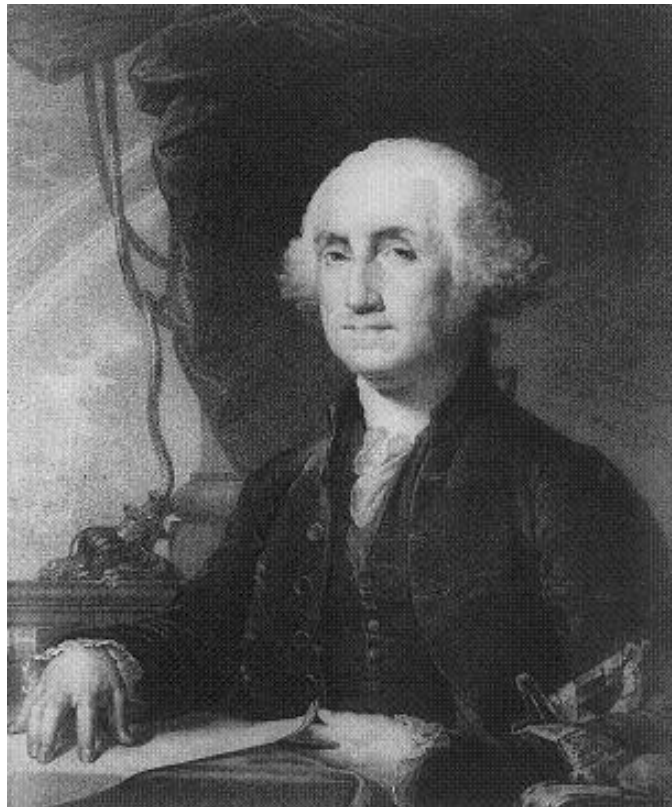


# George Washington

England's Arnold

First, 1789-1797



**Nicknames:** "The Father of the Country", "The Sword of the Revolution", "The Old Fox", "Town Destroyer"

**Birth:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1732, Westmoreland County, Virginia

**Death:** December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1799, Mount Vernon, Virginia

**Significant Events During Washington's Terms:** U.S. Constitution adopted ... First U.S. Census ... Bill of Rights ... Whiskey Rebellion ... Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin ... Fugitive Slave Law ... North Carolina (#12), Rhode Island (#13), Vermont (#14), Kentucky (#15), and Tennessee (#16) become States (see the "Notes" section for a listing of the first eleven States)

**Quotes:** *"I would rather be in my grave than in the Presidency."* -- George Washington

*"[You are] treacherous in private friendship and a hypocrite in public...The world will be puzzled to decide whether you are an apostate or an impostor; whether you have abandoned good principles, or whether you ever had any."* -- Thomas Paine, speaking of Washington

**How his term ended:** Washington elected not to run again, which made two terms a de facto limit until Franklin Delano Roosevelt's time, after which a two-term limit was made the law of the land.

**Other Professions:** Land Surveyor and Speculator, Planter, Soldier

**Worst Mistake:** Washington stole the liberty from all of those whom he enslaved.

**Saving Graces:** Washington refused to be treated like a European style "King." He showed this by refusing to be referred to by grandiose titles, such as those suggested by his successor John Adams (for which reason Adams was given the nickname "His Superfluous Excellency").

Washington set a pattern in preventing a President-as-King situation to develop by retiring from office after two terms.

**Notes:** Washington became a "semi-orphan" at the age of eleven when his father died; his older half-brother thereafter became a father figure to him.

Washington played a big role in the French & Indian War from the mid-1750s to mid-1760s. He was sent to Pennsylvania in 1754 by the British military (Washington was a British soldier at the time) to drive the French from the region. That did not turn out all too well for the British, though, as Washington eventually surrendered Fort Necessity to the French on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July of that year.

A decade after the end of that war, Washington, still loyal to England, initially disapproved of the "Boston Tea Party" of 1773.

Washington apparently loved another woman even after becoming engaged to wealthy widower Martha Custis, whose estate was known as the "White House." Washington went so far as to send a letter professing his love to his married neighbor Sally Fairfax. Some even claim that Washington and Fairfax became sexually involved with one another in 1758. Whether or not this is so, George and Martha ultimately married and honeymooned at the bride's White House before finally moving into the groom's estate, Mount Vernon.

After he married, George Washington was the richest man in America. He was already well off at the time he wed Martha Custis, but the widow possessed even more wealth than he did.

Washington was a member of the Continental Congress as well as the Constitutional

Convention. For his role in these pivotal events, as well as his key accomplishments during the Revolutionary War, Washington was given the nickname "Father of His Country" (James Madison (#4) is known as "The Father of the Constitution" and Thomas Jefferson (#3) is sometimes called "The Father of the Declaration of Independence").

Washington's mother tended to be overly protective but also demanding of her most famous son. As one example of this trait, when George was away fighting the British during the American Revolution, she sent him a letter asking for butter and another house servant.

After his presidency, and thus well after the Revolutionary War, Washington was commissioned Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of the U.S. Army. This took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1798, at which time it seemed that war with France was imminent. It didn't come to that, though, even though what has been termed a "Quasi-War" with France did take place. At any rate, Washington died a year-and-a-half later.

There were eleven states when Washington became President. In chronological order of admittance (corresponding to the order in which they became colonies), these were: Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey in 1787; Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, and New York in 1788.

During Washington's time as President, 80% of the Federal budget went towards fighting Indians.

Washington opposed the formation of political parties, viewing them as divisive. He also advised against "foreign entanglements."

Washington's descendants were still slave holders in the era leading up to the Civil War. In fact, John Brown's men raided the house of one of Washington's grandson's and released his slaves from bondage. They also captured the first President's sword from that house for Brown's use in his campaign to secure the armory at Harpers Ferry (which attempt was made in the hopes of fomenting a general slave insurrection).

Cousins at various genealogical "distances" include his contemporary James Madison (#4), Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and twentieth-century British Statesman Winston Churchill.