



Day 15-16 American Revolution
130 Minutes

George Washington

George Washington: Life, Leadership, and Legacy

Two-Day Lesson Plan with PowerPoint Anchor

Grade Level: 5–8

Time: Two class periods (50–60 minutes each)

Unit: The American Revolution / Founding Leaders

Important Teacher Note on Chronology

This two-day lesson intentionally spans George Washington's entire life, including events, decisions, and battles that occur beyond the point reached so far in the unit timeline. The goal is to help students understand Washington as a lifelong leader and historical figure before examining individual events in greater depth later in the unit.

Lesson Overview

This two-day lesson examines the full life and legacy of George Washington, from his youth in Virginia to his leadership in war and peace and his role as the first president of the United States. Using a teacher-led PowerPoint presentation as the anchor, students explore Washington's early experiences, military leadership, political contributions, and lasting influence.

Students then deepen understanding through a differentiated article with an interactive map and scavenger hunt, an immersive comprehension story that follows Washington through key moments of his life, and a structured writing task explaining why Washington is considered the "Father of Our Country." Numerous optional enrichment resources support differentiation and extended learning.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe major stages of George Washington's life
- Explain how Washington's early experiences shaped his leadership
- Identify key places and events in Washington's life
- Analyze why Washington is considered the Father of the United States
- Use evidence from multiple sources to support historical thinking

Essential Question

Why is George Washington remembered as the Father of Our Country?

Materials

- PowerPoint presentation: *George Washington*
- Differentiated article on George Washington
- Interactive map of important places in Washington's life
- Integrated printable or online scavenger hunt
- *Adventures Through the Life and Times of George Washington* interactive comprehension story
- Auto-graded essay prompt: *Why is George Washington considered the Father of Our Country?*
- Additional optional resources available on the main article page

Day One: Building Historical Understanding

1. Hook and Introduction (5 minutes)

Begin with the prompt:

Why do some leaders remain important long after their lifetime ends?

Explain that this lesson looks at George Washington's **entire life**, not just one moment or battle.

2. PowerPoint Anchor Instruction (25 minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/revwar/washington.pptx>

Use the PowerPoint presentation as the instructional anchor.

Key ideas to emphasize:

- Washington's upbringing, education, and early career
- Experiences in the French and Indian War
- Appointment as Commander of the Continental Army
- Leadership challenges during the Revolution
- Victory at Yorktown
- Role in shaping the new nation and presidency

Teacher emphasis:

Washington's importance comes not from one action, but from **decades of leadership, restraint, and service**.

3. Differentiated Article and Interactive Map (20 minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/revolutionary-war/people-of-the-revolutionary-war/george-washington>

Students read the **differentiated George Washington article**, then explore the **interactive map** highlighting important places in his life.

Students complete the **integrated online scavenger hunt**, focusing on:

- Where Washington lived and worked
- How geography shaped his experiences
- Connections between places and leadership decisions

Day One Closure (5 minutes)

Discussion prompt:

Which stage of Washington's life do you think best prepared him to lead the nation?

Day Two: Applying and Demonstrating Understanding

4. Interactive Comprehension Experience (25–30 minutes)

Students complete **Adventures Through the Life and Times of George Washington**.

This activity is differentiated and contains two versions: Lexile 750 and Lexile 900

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-people/adventures-through-the-lives-and-times/adventures-through-the-life-and-times-of-george-washington>

In this interactive story:

- Students travel through key moments and locations
- Read narrated passages guided by Washington's experiences
- Explore illustrated scenes
- Answer comprehension questions at each site

When all locations are completed, students receive a **printable score report** documenting progress through Washington's life.

5. Writing and Assessment Task (20 minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/revolutionary-war/short-answers-with-auto-grading/why-is-george-washington-considered-the-father-of-our-nation>

Students complete the **auto-graded essay** responding to the prompt:

Why is George Washington considered the Father of Our Country?

Students are encouraged to reference:

- Military leadership
- Commitment to unity
- Refusal of power
- Role in government formation

Want a printable writing prompt activity? We have many available. Scroll to the bottom of:

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/revolutionary-war/people-of-the-revolutionary-war/george-washington>

Day Two Closure (5 minutes)

Discussion prompt:

What decision made by George Washington do you think mattered most to the future of the United States?

Recommended Optional Extensions

We offer SO MANY more George Washington activities. Visit the following page and scroll to the bottom:

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/revolutionary-war/people-of-the-revolutionary-war/george-washington>

Below are just a FEW samples.

- **George Washington and Mount Vernon comprehension/literacy exercises** - Examples: George Washington [Online](#) or [Printable](#) Reading Comprehension (Lexile 800) ; [George Washington Super Sentence Surgeons](#)
- [Founding Fathers on U.S. Currency game](#) (So fun and quick)
- **Additional articles and reading comprehension activities** - Examples: [Mt. Vernon](#) | [Martha Washington](#)
Writing prompts and activities - Examples: [Moral Victories](#) | [Justice or Mercy?](#)
- **Coloring pages**
- **Interactive games:** [Glamour Legends](#), [Who is YOUR Founding Father?](#)
- **Interactive Projects:** [Mt. Rushmore 2.0](#) | [Revbook](#)

Teacher Note

A full-day **George Washington lesson plan** is also available for classes seeking extended instruction or deeper project-based learning.

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/revolutionary-war/presentations-and-bundles/george-washington-all-day-lesson-or-sub-plan>