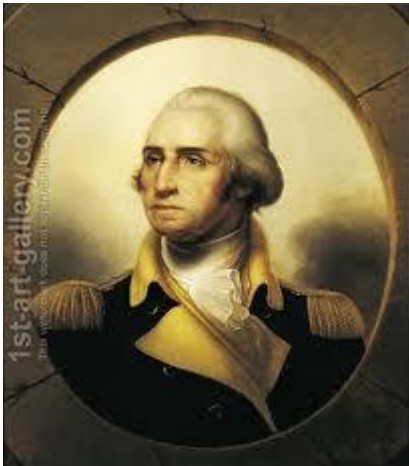


The First President of the United States

Story By: Deborah Lynn

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I was born on February 22, 1732, in Wakefield, VA. I had two brothers and two sisters. When I was eleven, my father died and I went to live with my older brother at Mount Vernon. I went to school, but never went to college. When I was fourteen years old I had planned to become a sailor on a large ship, but my mother was so sad that I just had to change my mind. I loved my mom too much to make her cry.

When I was seventeen, I became a land surveyor and I enjoyed hunting for a sport. When I wasn't hunting, I enjoyed reading. When I was nineteen, I joined the Army as a Major and later went on to become Commander-in-Chief of all the forces of the Virginia Colony. I fought in the French and Indian War, which lasted seven years, and then I resigned my commission. Just a few days later, I married Martha. I was twenty-seven years old. Martha was a widow and had two children whom I adopted. Later I had two grandchildren as well. We lived

at Mt. Vernon, which I had inherited from my brother; I was happy just being a planter. I attended the First and Second Continental Congresses in Philadelphia. They appointed me head of the Army. I would accept no pay, because it was my privilege to serve the first American Army. Soon the Declaration of Independence was written and signed and America became a country. The thirteen colonies became thirteen states and then we were at war with the British. We fought for eight years. I was forty-three years old when it started. This war was called the Revolutionary War.

On November 2, 1783, I said good-bye to my Army and on Dec. 23, I resigned my commission as Commander-in-Chief. Some people were asking me to make myself King of America, but I told them to never speak of such things. Later, I was the leader of a great convention held in Philadelphia. We drew up a Constitution to tell how we would run our government and how we would choose a person to be President of the United States. We held elections for President and I won the election and John Adams became my Vice President; I was fifty-seven years old. I served two four-year terms and then the people wanted me to serve again, but I said "no", it was time for someone else to take over. The capital was not Washington at that time, but New York, so this is where I lived. I was the only President that did not live in the White House. When I became President, we had thirteen states. At the end of my eight years we had added five more states! They were North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

After my Farewell Address to the nation in Sept of 1796, I returned home to Mt. Vernon. I lived there until I died on December 14, 1799 at age 67. Have you guessed who I am yet? I am George Washington!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

- What did I enjoy doing when I was seventeen?
A. I enjoyed surveying, hunting, and reading. B. I enjoyed horseback riding.
C. I enjoyed visiting the candy store. D. I enjoyed playing army.
- What war did I fight before I got married?
A. Civil War B. Revolutionary War C. French and Indian War D. World War I
- Who did I marry when I was 27 years old?
A. Alice B. Martha C. Michelle D. Abigail
- What war did I fight after the Declaration of Independence was signed?
A. Civil War B. Revolutionary War C. French and Indian War D. World War I
- When I was President, who was my Vice President?
A. John Adams B. James Madison C. Benjamin Franklin D. Paul Revere

