

# GEORGE WASHINGTON



## Presidential Profile

- **George Washington, Our Nation's First President:** President Washington was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on December 14, 1799, at his farm in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He was married to Martha Washington and adopted her two children.
- **Father of Our Country:** President Washington is known as "The Father of Our Country" because he was the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army that fought in the American Revolutionary War from 1775-1783 and because he served for eight years as the first President of our young country.
- **Two Term President:** President Washington was unanimously elected President of the United States in 1789 and served from 1789-1797. He holds the record for the shortest inaugural address at 135 words and is the only President who was inaugurated in two cities: New York and Philadelphia. When he declined to run for a third term, he established the precedent of Presidents serving a maximum of two terms. After President Washington's service, no President served more than two terms until Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1933-1945. In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution was ratified to limit Presidents to two terms in office.
- **Military Leadership:** President Washington was a successful military leader who commanded 14,000 troops during the Revolutionary War. He was a tactical thinker who devised a plan to row across the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776 to surprise the opposing British and German troops.

## Monumental Moments

- In 1885, the Washington Monument on the National Mall was dedicated in honor to his service to our country. The monument is an obelisk, a popular design in Greek and Egyptian architecture.
- Our Nation's capital, Washington, D.C., is named in his honor.
- He is one of only four Presidents whose face is carved into the side of a mountain at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

## Did You Know?

- President Washington's false teeth were made of many different materials including ivory and metal.
- Instead of wearing a wig, he powdered his real hair to be white which was the custom of the time.
- He studied agriculture and introduced the mule, a mix between a horse and a donkey, to American farmers.
- He was the first man to sign the United States Constitution in 1787.
- As of 2007, there are 95 cities and towns and 31 counties in the United States that are named Washington.

## Coin Connection

- The George Washington \$1 Coin was released in February, 2007.
- In 1792, President Washington established the United States Mint in Philadelphia, the Nation's capital at the time.
- President Washington is also featured on other United States currency including the dollar bill and the quarter.



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