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Brief Presidential Biographies

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GEORGE WASHINGTON

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Prior to the American Revolution, he managed his expansive lands with more than 100 slaves in and around Mount Vernon, Virginia. In his will, he granted some slaves their freedom, in a future year, upon the death of his wife.

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He served in the Virginia House of Burgesses (similar to a council or congress). He was the commander of his Virginia regiment, but retired from service in December 1758. His experience during the French and Indian War was generally frustrating, with decisions slowly made, with poor support from the colonial legislature, and having to lead under-trained recruits.

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He married a wealthy widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, who owned a great deal of land.

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He was one of the Virginia delegates to the Second Continental Congress.

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Following the battle of Lexington & Concord in 1775, the dispute between Great Britain and the colonies grew into an armed conflict. In May, he traveled to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia

181 dressed in a military uniform, letting the Delegates know that he was
184 prepared for war.

196 He was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, when he
208 served as a General in the Revolutionary War, which lasted six years.
221 Now, each U.S. President is the ‘Commander-in-Chief’ of the Armed
234 Forces in the U.S., including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and
236 Coast Guard.

248 He was the First President of the United States, when there were just
253 13 states in the Union.

263 He was unanimously elected President by the Electoral College. He
275 defeated John Adams in the first ever U.S. Presidential Election. Adams
279 became his Vice President.

292 He served two terms, and declined the opportunity to run for a third
293 term.

305 He favored U.S. neutrality (not taking sides) in the war between
308 France and England.

322 The Whiskey Rebellion was the first real test of the new U.S. Federal
333 Government’s authority to tax citizens & businesses, and while there was
342 some violence and uprising against the tax, Washington ultimately
346 resolved the conflict peacefully.

357 He encouraged the country, during his farewell address, to avoid party
366 partisanship (arguing and fighting between political parties), and long-
372 term alliances (partnerships) with foreign countries.

381 He appears on the U.S. one dollar bill.

390 George Washington's likeness appears on Mount Rushmore, in South
391 Dakota.