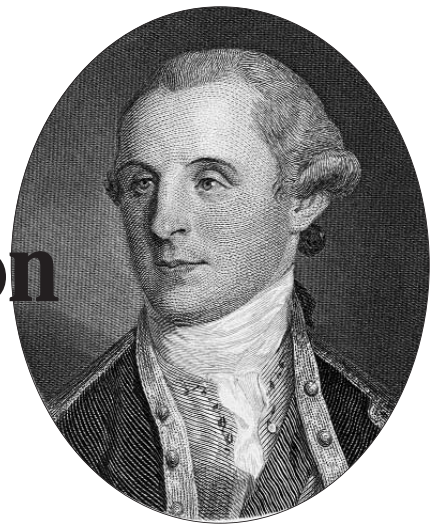


# Timeline: Young George Washington



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George Washington is born on February 22 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He is the first child of Augustine and his second wife, Mary Ball Washington. Washington has two half brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, and one half sister, Jane.

**1732**

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Brother Samuel is born.

**1733**

Sister Betty is born.

**1734**

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Brother John Augustine is born.

**1735**

Half sister Jane dies. Washington and his family move to a family property on the Potomac River in Virginia. Lawrence will inherit this house and call it Mount Vernon. After Lawrence's death, George will inherit Mount Vernon and the surrounding lands.

**1736**

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Sister Mildred is born.

**1738**

Brother Charles is born. Washington and his family move to Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**1739**

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Washington's father dies. Washington will inherit Ferry Farm, some land, ten slaves, and three town lots when he is 18 years old.

**1740**

Mildred dies.

**1743**

At the age of 15, Washington's formal education ends. (Little is known about his education, including whether he attended school or was tutored at home.)

Washington spends a great deal of time with Lawrence and his family at Mount Vernon and at Belvoir, the nearby Fairfax estate. He attends balls, hunting parties, and fancy dinners. Washington becomes a skilled horseman and dancer.

**1747**

Washington becomes the official surveyor of Culpeper County, Virginia.

**1748**

Washington takes a surveying trip to the Virginia wilderness for Lord Fairfax, a wealthy landowner.

**1749**

Washington takes his only trip out of the country, accompanying Lawrence to Barbados where they seek a cure for Lawrence's tuberculosis. He contracts smallpox but recovers. He attends the theater for the first time.

**1750**

Washington buys land in Frederick County, Virginia. In two years, he will own more than 1,000 acres of land there.

**1751**

Washington volunteers to deliver a message to the French in the Ohio River Valley, for the Virginia governor.

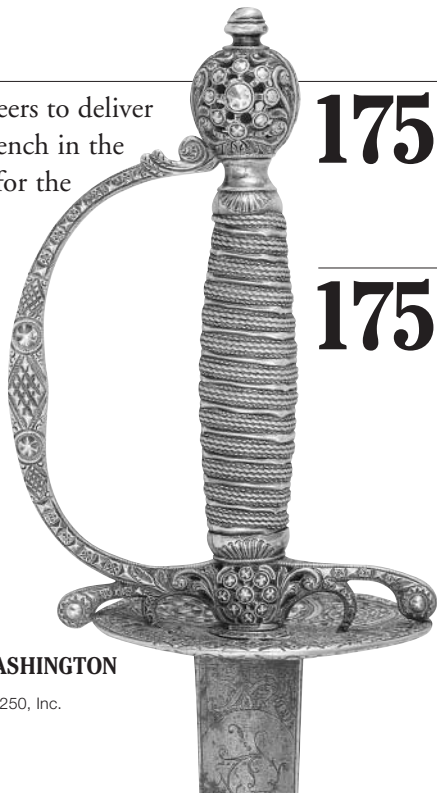
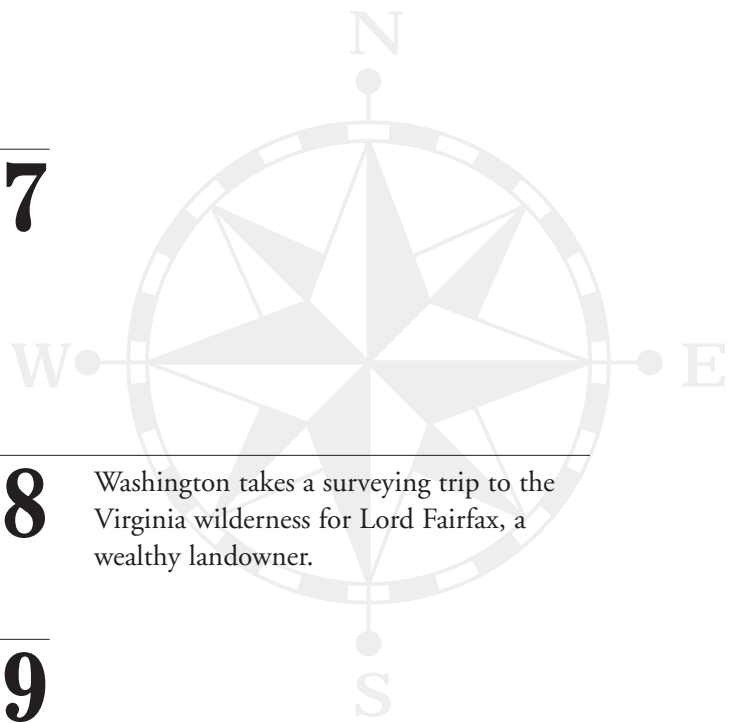
**1752**

Lawrence dies. Washington becomes an officer in one of Virginia's military districts.

**1753**

**1754**

Washington returns from his trip to the Ohio River Valley in January. His journal about his trip is published, and he becomes widely known. In May, Lieutenant Colonel Washington is involved in a skirmish that sparks the beginning of the French and Indian War.



**Becoming GEORGE WASHINGTON**

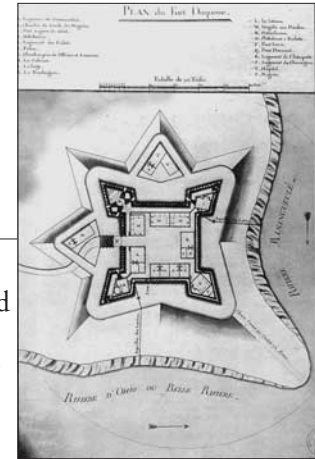
# Timeline: George Washington and The French and Indian War

George Washington travels to Fort LeBoeuf to deliver a message asking the French to leave the Ohio River Valley. He returns to Williamsburg, Virginia, with the French reply: They refuse to leave.

**1753**

**1754**

In the spring, the French build Fort Duquesne at “the Forks of the Ohio,” where the



Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet. At the end of May, Lieutenant Colonel Washington is involved in a skirmish with the French, during which the first shots of the French and Indian War are fired. Washington and his troops build Fort Necessity at Great Meadows, Pennsylvania. In July, the French attack at Fort Necessity and force Washington to surrender. It is the only time in his life that Washington surrenders his army. Shortly afterwards, Washington resigns from the military rather than accept a lower rank. Washington rents Mount Vernon from Anne Fairfax, widow of his half-brother Lawrence.

Washington volunteers to serve as an aide to British General Edward Braddock. (Braddock came to America to force the French from the Ohio River Valley.)

Though the campaign fails, Washington survives and is hailed as a hero. At the Battle of the Monongahela Washington had four bullets shot through his coat yet he was unhurt. With so many officers injured during the battle, Washington was instrumental in carrying out Braddock's orders for retreat. Shortly afterwards, Washington is put in charge of Virginia's forces trying to defend the Virginia frontier from raiding French and Indians.

**1755**

**1756**

Washington meets with William Shirley, British commander-in-chief in North America, in Boston. Washington seeks to have his Virginia Regiment incorporated as part of the British Regular Army, but is unsuccessful. Washington has a hard time defending the Virginia frontier with his troops. He lacks the strength and number of men to do the job and his troops are underpaid and badly equipped. There is much discontentment and he considers his troops undisciplined. The British formally declare war on the French. The French capture Fort Oswego and now control all of Lake Ontario.

General Washington is elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses, and his political career begins. Washington and his troops, under the command of British Brigadier General John Forbes, plan to attack Fort Duquesne, the French fort at the Forks of the Ohio. Washington escapes unhurt in a "friendly fire" incident when by mistake other Virginia troops fire on him and his men. The French burn and abandon Fort Duquesne, allowing the British and colonists to move in. At the end of the year, Washington resigns his commission as commander of Virginia's forces. The British capture the Fortress at Louisbourg and Fort Frontenac. They also sustain heavy losses trying unsuccessfully to capture Fort Ticonderoga.



George III becomes King of Great Britain and Ireland. The British capture Montreal. The fighting ends between the French and the British in North America

Washington is elected again to the House of Burgesses. The British need to pay for the British soldiers now stationed in all the French forts gained as a result of winning the French and Indian War and institute the Stamp Act. Tensions between the colonists and Britain grow. Pontiac's War ends when the British change their trade policy with the American Indians in a manner the Indians find agreeable.

### Becoming GEORGE WASHINGTON

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# 1757

Washington continues to do his best to defend the Virginia frontier. He meets in Philadelphia with Lord Loudoun, now British commander-in-chief in North America. Washington is unsuccessful in efforts to obtain a commission in the British army. Again, Washington is not elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses. Washington contracts dysentery and recu-

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# 1758



perates at Mount Vernon. Begins work to improve Mount Vernon. The French capture Fort William Henry.

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# 1759

Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis, a rich widow with land, property, slaves, and two young children. Washington adds a story and a half to Mount Vernon. The British begin building Fort Pitt at the Forks of the Ohio. They capture Fort Niagara, Fort Ticonderoga, and Crown Point. In September they capture the capital city of New France, Quebec.

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# 1760

Washington purchases more land around Mount Vernon in 1759 and 1760.

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# 1763

The Seven Years War in Europe (of which the French and Indian War is a part) ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The British now own almost all of France's former possessions in North America. New British trade policies with the American Indians cause the Indians real hardship and suffering. Pontiac attacks Fort Detroit and Pontiac's War begins. The American Indians capture eight British forts and both Fort Pitt and Fort Detroit are surrounded. In an effort to stop all the American Indian fighting, King George III issues the Proclamation of 1763, which requires British colonists to live east of the Appalachian Mountains.

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# 1765

*Text credit: Adapted from George Washington: The Writer, compiled and edited by Carolyn P. Yoder, Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003.*

*Image credits: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association*

# Timeline: George Washington's Later Years



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The Stamp Act is repealed. The next year, however, the British impose the Townshend Acts on the colonies, placing duties on certain imported goods.

1766

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1767

At Mount Vernon, Washington decides to plant wheat and corn and not as much tobacco.

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The Boston Massacre takes place. British troops, who had been sent to the city, kill five colonists. The Townshend duties are repealed, except for a tax on tea.

1770

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1773

The Tea Act goes into effect, forcing the colonists to only purchase British tea. In June, Washington's stepdaughter, Patsy, dies. In December, colonists dump British tea into Boston Harbor.

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The Intolerable Acts, passed by the British Parliament, take effect. Boston's port is closed and Thomas Gage, commander of the British forces in North America, becomes royal governor of Massachusetts. Washington is one of the signers of the Fairfax Resolves. Written by patriot George Mason (after discussion with Washington), the Resolves promote the right to self-government and a boycott of British goods. It was Washington who presented the document to the House of Burgesses. From September to October, Washington is one of seven delegates from Virginia to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

1774

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1775

In April battles take place in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, sparking the Revolutionary War. In May colonial soldiers seize Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York and take British artillery. In June, the battle at Breed's Hill in Charlestown, Massachusetts, occurs. From May to June, Washington attends the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In June he is unanimously elected to lead the Continental forces. That same month, he travels to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to take charge of the troops.

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Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*, a pamphlet advocating independence. Washington and his troops are in New York. In July, the Declaration of Independence is adopted. In August, Washington and his troops are defeated at the Battle of Long Island but are victorious four months later at the Battle of Trenton (December 25-26).

1776

## Becoming GEORGE WASHINGTON



The Battle of Monmouth takes place with no clear winner. In December, the British capture Savannah, Georgia.

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**1777**

In January, Washington and his troops are victorious again at the Battle of Princeton in New Jersey. After the battle, they move to Morristown, New Jersey, until May. In late summer and early fall, Washington and his men are defeated at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown in Pennsylvania. In New York, General Horatio Gates, the commander of the Northern Department, defeat the British at the Battle of Saratoga. In November the Articles of Confederation are adopted, providing a framework for the government. In December Washington and his men move to Valley Forge, where they will remain for six months.

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**1778**

In the winter, Washington and his troops are again in Morristown, New Jersey, where they endure incredible hardships.

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**1779**

In May Charleston, South Carolina, falls to the British and three months later the British defeat Continental forces in Camden, South Carolina.

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**1780**

The British lose to Continental forces in Cowpens, South Carolina. In October British General Charles, Lord Cornwallis surrenders to General George Washington in Yorktown, Virginia. This is the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. The next month Washington's stepson, John Parke Custis, dies.

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**1781**

The Treaty of Paris is signed on September 3. The Revolutionary War is over. In December, Washington says farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York City and then travels to Annapolis, Maryland, to resign his commission. He is at Mount Vernon by Christmas Eve.

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**1783**

The Constitutional Convention is held in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Washington serves as president.

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**1787**

New Hampshire becomes the ninth state to ratify the Constitution.

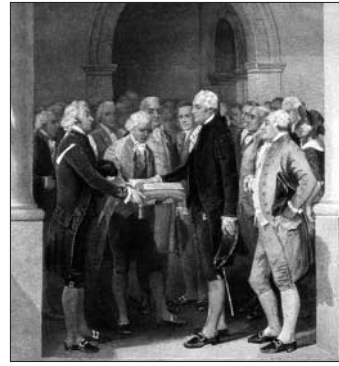
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**1788**

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Washington is unanimously elected as the country's first president. John Adams is vice president. In March, the Constitution goes into effect. On April 30, Washington takes the oath of office in New York City, the nation's capital. In the summer, Washington's mother dies. The Bill of Rights is adopted and sent to the states for ratification.

**1789**



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The Bill of Rights is ratified.

**1791**

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**1793**

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Washington moves to Philadelphia, the new capital of the United States.

France is at war with Britain and other European countries. Washington urges that the United States adopt a proclamation of neutrality.

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Great Britain and the United States sign the Jay Treaty, which settles matters left over from the Revolutionary War. The treaty deals with trade, shipping, commerce, land boundaries, and Britain's occupation of forts on the frontier.

**1794**

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**1796**

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Washington's Farewell Address is printed in a Philadelphia newspaper.

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John Adams becomes president of the United States. Thomas Jefferson is vice president. Washington and Martha return to Mount Vernon as private citizens.

**1797**

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**1798**

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The United States fears war with France. Washington is commissioned as lieutenant general and commander in chief of the army, but a land war never takes place.

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Washington dies at Mount Vernon. He is 67. In his will, Washington frees his slaves, the only Founding Father to do so. Three years later, Martha Washington dies and is buried with her husband in the family vault at Mount Vernon.

**1799**

### **Becoming GEORGE WASHINGTON**

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