

A **portrait** is a piece of art depicting a person.

Below is the famous portrait of George Washington mentioned in the *Presidential Portraits* Classroom Resource Packet. It was painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1797 and purchased by the U.S. government for the White House in 1800.



Look closely. Can you find the following items in the painting?

- A sword?
- An American flag?
- A feather?
- An eagle?
- A book?

*Why would each of these items be in George Washington's portrait? See the following page for answers and explanations!*

#### **Where to Find It Today**

You can find this painting hanging in the East Room of the White House. Explore the East Room using our [360-degree White House tour!](#)

### **Now Create Your Own Portrait!**

Using blank white paper, pencils, and other coloring supplies, create your own portrait.

Think about the following things before you start drawing:

- How much of your body is in the portrait? Full body? Upper body? Just your head?
- Are you standing, sitting, or doing something else? Why is this significant to you?
- What are you wearing, and why?
- What objects are in the portrait with you? What is the background of your portrait?

## Portrait Search Answers

**A sword-** This item was included to honor Washington's military service.

**American flag imagery-** This element was included to honor the national symbol since Washington is an important American.

**A feather-** Quills made from feathers were once used like pens. This item was included as Washington was a Founding Father who helped shape important American documents like the Constitution.

**An eagle-** This is the national bird and an American symbol. It was included since Washington is an important American.

**A book-** The book leaning against the table leg is *Constitution and Laws of the United States*. This is included as Washington helped to strengthen the young nation and Constitution as the first President of the United States.



Share your finished portrait with us on Twitter [@WhiteHouseHstry](https://twitter.com/WhiteHouseHstry) or via email at [education@whha.org](mailto:education@whha.org)