

*Racing President*  
**GEORGE  
WASHINGTON**  
*— Activity Book —*







## STATS

**NAME:** George Washington

**PRESIDENT #:** 1

**YEARS IN OFFICE:**  
1789-1797

**HEIGHT:** 6'2"

**HOMETOWN:**  
Westmoreland County, VA

**NICKNAME:**  
Father of His Country

**FAVORITE SPORTS:**  
Fishing, Fox Hunting

**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:**  
Commander-in-Chief of the  
Continental Army &  
First President of the United States

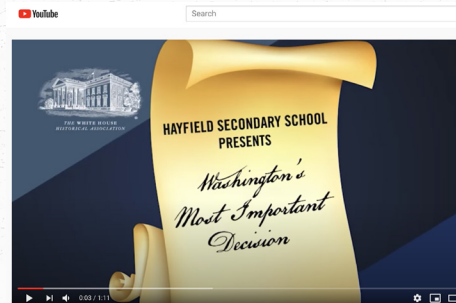


In 2016 and 2017, the White House Historical Association and the Washington Nationals partnered for an educational contest—*White House at Bat: A Presidential History Challenge*. This program asked local high school students to create a storyboard examining the Constitutional powers and decision-making of one of the Racing Presidents.

The winning students saw their storyboards come to life as short videos which were shared with fans during a game at Nationals Park and then showcased online.

### 2016 Winning Project for George Washington Washington's Most Important Decision

[LINK](#)



2016 White House At Bat: A Presidential History Challenge - George Washington Video

This video describes his precedent-setting decision to leave office after two terms, thus establishing the peaceful transition of power that defines our American democracy.

By Jeeyoon Lee of Hayfield High School in Fairfax County.

### 2017 Winning Project for George Washington Washington Declares Neutrality

[LINK](#)



2017 White House at Bat: A Presidential History Challenge - George Washington Video

This video talks about his decision to remain neutral in the war between Britain and France, which helped to stabilize the new nation.

By Hannah Bailey of Oakton High School in Fairfax County, VA.





George Washington is the only president to never live in the White House. The building was not finished until after he left office. John Adams was the first president to live there.

Congress allowed President Washington to pick the site for the new capital city along the banks of the Potomac River. He chose a spot close to his home between the states of Maryland and Virginia—today known as Washington, D.C.

### Highlighted Item from the White House Collection Presentation Saber:

This saber, or curved sword, was made for George Washington as a gift from French soldiers. Washington passed away before it could be given to him. The French government donated the sword in 1933.

A close-up of the handle reveals American symbols like eagles, stars, a shield, and

While he did not live there, Washington approved the design for the new President's House (later known as the White House) drawn by Irish architect, James Hoban.

Painted by Gilbert Stuart, the portrait of George Washington was the first piece of artwork purchased for the White House in 1800, and it's still there today!



a "W" for Washington. You can often find this item in the White House Library on the Ground Floor.



### George Washington was born on February 22, 1732.

He was raised in Virginia when it was a colony owned by Great Britain. As a young man, George worked as a surveyor, mapping out and taking measurements of land. He eventually joined the Virginia Militia and served as a British military commander in the French and Indian War.

In 1759, George married Martha Custis. The Washingtons lived at their Virginia home and plantation, Mount Vernon, along the Potomac River.

As the years passed, George, like many American colonists, became frustrated with British rule. In 1775, George became

Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and fought against the British during the American Revolutionary War. After years of battles, George led the American forces to victory over Britain in 1783.

Following the war, George wanted to live quietly at Mount Vernon, but the newly-formed United States needed his leadership. After the ratification of the Constitution, George was elected as the first President of the United States. He served as president from 1789 to 1797.

As president, George worked to strengthen the young nation. During this time, he also selected the location for a new federal city and chose the design for a new president's house—today known as the White House. At the end of his second presidential term, George retired to Mount Vernon, living there for less than three years before his death in 1799.





I B H W O E R H G E A I Y A J  
M I Z A O H C I G H N R H C Y  
R O C S K N G R T G K M V I L  
J N I H K K O R N F K Q M R M  
K O I I M E A B S R K T R E A  
T R I N G M E G M E V W C M E  
M E P G P P X O I W W N F A C  
V W U T X B Q I W T B X A Y U  
Y J P O V I R G I N I A X X Y  
U T F N U N I L I I T W F M T  
T N E D I S E R P A A A H S A  
C O N S T I T U T I O N R V M  
S V P U B F R J E I Y I S V W  
B J D G I Q M D J Y F O C T V  
R E V O L U T I O N U Y B D U

AMERICA  
CONSTITUTION  
FIRST  
GEORGE  
MARTHA

PRESIDENT  
REVOLUTION  
VIRGINIA  
WASHINGTON

1. Which of the following were jobs of George Washington?

- a. Military commander
- b. President of the United States
- c. Surveyor
- d. All of the above

2. What is George's home and plantation called?

- a. Monticello
- b. Montpelier
- c. Mount Vernon
- d. Highland

3. George Washington was the first president to live in the White House.

- a. True
- b. False

Fill in the Blank

George Washington was raised in \_\_\_\_\_, a colony owned by Great Britain.

It wasn't until the ratification of the \_\_\_\_\_ that George was elected as the first President of the United States.

**Matching:** Draw a line from the words on the left to the matching words on the right.

MOUNT  
CONTINENTAL  
MARTHA  
POTOMAC  
REVOLUTIONARY  
WHITE

CUSTIS  
HOUSE  
ARMY  
VERNON  
RIVER  
WAR





Trace over the signature and then try to recreate it on the blank grid below.

*George Washington*


“  
*George Washington Quotes*  
”

**“Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness.”**

*–First Annual Address as President of the United States (1790)*

**“I retain an unalterable affection for you, which neither time or distance can change.”**

*–In letter to his wife, Martha Washington (1775)*

**“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.”**

*–In letter to James Madison (1788)*

**“Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.”**

*–Farewell Address (1796)*

**“In all important matters, to deliberate maturely, but to execute promptly and vigorously, and not to put things off until the morrow which can be done, and require to be done, to day.”**

*–Letter to Secretary of War, James McHenry (1796)*



A portrait is a piece of art depicting a person. Below is the famous portrait of George Washington. It was painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1797 and purchased by the U.S. government for the White House in 1800.



Look closely and find the following items in the painting:

- Sword
- White and red stripes
- Feather
- Eagle
- Book

Why would each of these items be in George's portrait?

Before he was president, Washington served as Commander-in-Chief for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. In 1778, General Washington ordered the creation of a secret spy group known as the Culper Spy Ring. This group used a cipher to send information about the British army's movements back to the American forces.

A CIPHER is a special code used to conceal a message.

Use the cipher below to decode the message President Washington sent to you!

A = Ÿ	N = A
B = ?	O = ω
C = 5	P = 3
D = i	Q = \$
E = Ɔ	R = Ɔ
F = ƛ	S = ≠
G = Ø	T = Ж
H = R	U = Ю
I = ϕ	V = Л
J = Ƴ	W = Ё
K = δ	X = θ
L = λ	Y = ˉ
M = 9	Z = ‡

**SAVED JUST IN TIME**  
Enslaved workers and staff famously saved important objects and documents (*including this Washington portrait*) from the White House under the direction of First Lady Dolley

Madison before it was burned by British troops in 1814.

**WHERE TO FIND IT TODAY**  
You can often find this painting hanging in the East Room of the White House.

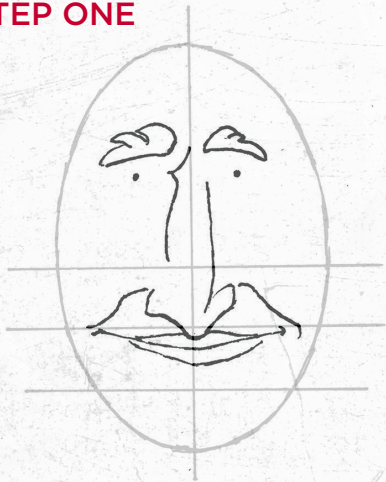
Ж Ÿ δ Ɔ 9 Ɔ ω Ю Ж Ж ω

Ж R Ɔ ? Ÿ λ λ Ø Ÿ 9 Ɔ

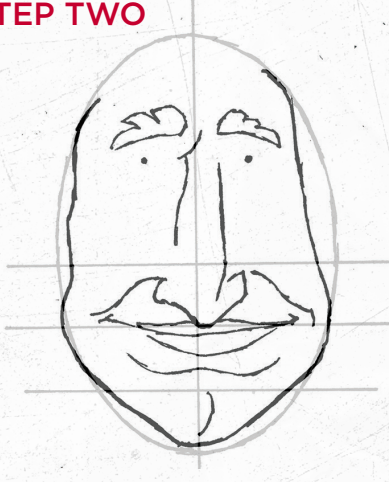


# LEARN TO DRAW GEORGE!

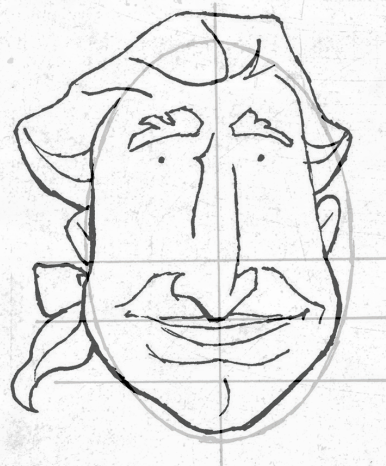
STEP ONE



STEP TWO



STEP THREE

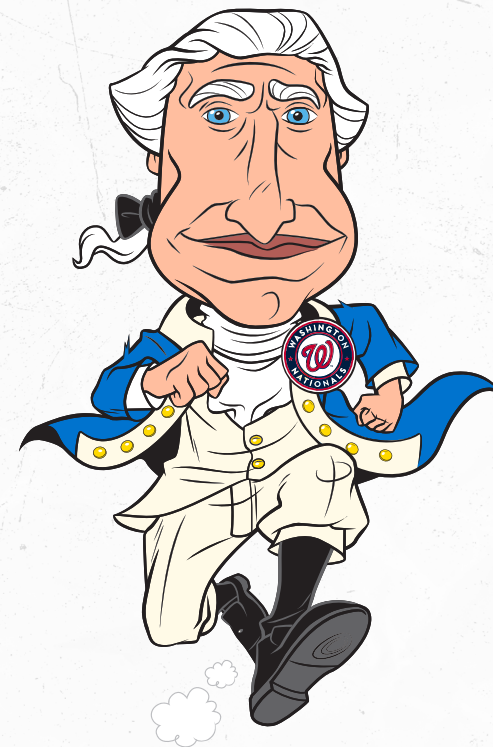
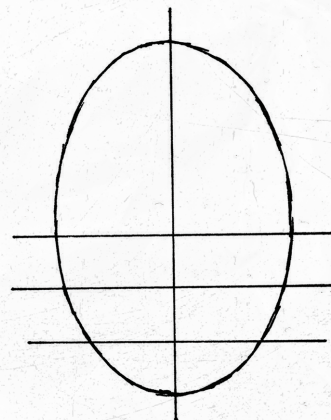


STEP FOUR



NOW YOU TRY!

Add the body underneath the head if you like.



ARTIST: JOHN HUTTON

THE WHITE HOUSE ©  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE WHITE HOUSE ©  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION





**Answers for Multiple Choice:** 1D, 2C, 3B

**Answers for Fill in the Blank:** 1. Virginia 2. Constitution

**Answers for Matching:** Mount Vernon, Continental Army, Martha Custis, Potomac River, Revolutionary War, White House

## Seek and Find in George's Portrait

**Sword:** This item was included to honor Washington's military service.

**White and red stripes:** Also see the white stars on the blue background. These items were included to honor the American flag since Washington is an important American.

**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.

**Eagle:** This is the national bird and an American symbol. It was included since Washington is an important American.

**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.

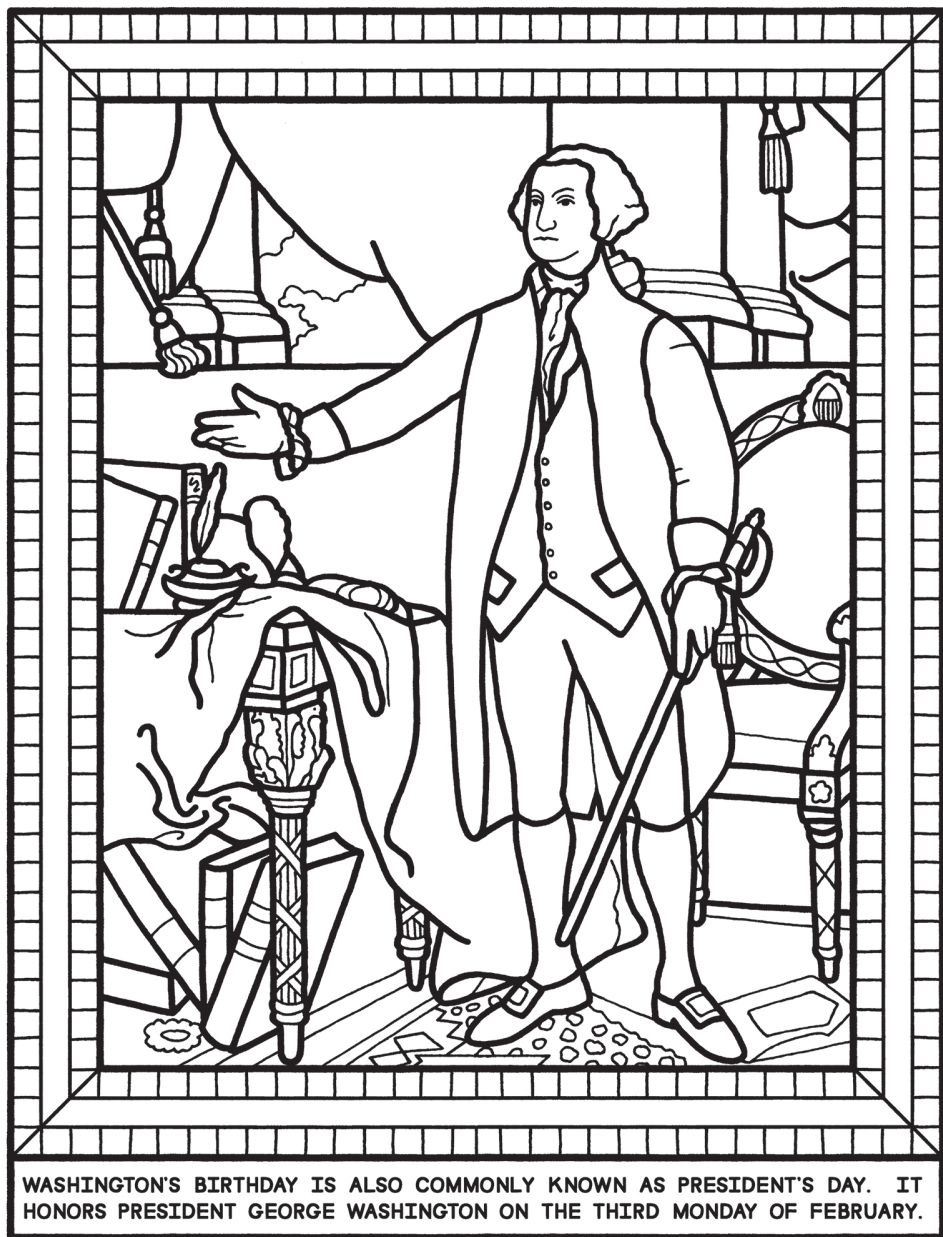
**Cipher Answer:** Take Me Out to the Ballgame







# COLORING PAGE



WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY IS ALSO COMMONLY KNOWN AS PRESIDENT'S DAY. IT HONORS PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF FEBRUARY.

ARTIST: HOWARD KURTZ