



## Mount Vernon Washington, D.C.

### Introduction and Instructions

The land that Mount Vernon occupies was first owned by the Washington family as early as the 1670s. Expanded upon and passed down through generations of the family, it is most famous as the house and plantation of George Washington. Today, you can see it restored in all its glory on the banks of the Potomac River, across from Washington, D.C. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn more about the remarkable life of George Washington.

READ: <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/biography/>

#### 1. Where did George Washington spend his childhood years?

Answer: On the Potomac River on the Little Hunting Creek Plantation (later renamed Mount Vernon). In 1738, the family moved again to a plantation on the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, Virginia.



Learn how Washington's formative experiences as a child shaped the person he would become.

READ: <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/washingtons-youth/>

#### 2. What was the myth of the cherry tree and why was it possibly created?

Answer: When Washington was six years old he received a hatchet as a gift and damaged his father's cherry tree. When his father discovered what he had done, he became angry and confronted him. Young George bravely said, "I cannot tell a lie...I did cut it with my hatchet."

Perhaps the author of the myth wanted to portray Washington as the perfect role model, especially for young Americans.

#### 3. How did Washington become a surveyor?

Answer: His father died leaving much of the property to his brothers and half-brothers. He wanted to join the British Navy, but his mother said no. He learned how to be a surveyor from George William Fairfax and explored the wilderness of the Virginia frontier. By 17, he was named as the county surveyor of the county of Culpeper.

# Mount Vernon Washington, D.C.

## 4. Explain Washington's role in the French and Indian War.

Answer: George Washington was dispatched to deliver a message to the French demanding that they leave the disputed area. It was a difficult journey. He later was sent with about 150 men to assert Virginia's claims. They ended up fighting with the French, and they had a treacherous return ride. They arrived at Fort Necessity, but ended up surrendering the fort, as they were surrounded by the French. He continued to help the war effort by volunteering under General Braddock. Washington was then given command of Virginia's entire military force. With a few hundred men, he was ordered to protect a frontier some 350 miles long. In 1758, the British finally took the forks of the Ohio River. Peace returned to Virginia, and Washington resigned his commission to return to Mount Vernon, his duty faithfully performed.



Our nation's first Commander in Chief had an illustrious military career, even before the Revolution. Learn about it here.  
WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0XKw3SgSHo>

## 5. Summarize what you learned about Washington's leadership during the Revolutionary War.

Answers will vary. Students should address the risks he took in crossing the Delaware, his bravery, and his leadership with his men.

## 6. Return to the Mount Vernon website. What did George Washington do after the Revolutionary War was over?

Answer: He resigned his commission. Though he could have probably been crowned a king, he went home to Mount Vernon and thought he was done with serving in public life.

## 7. Why did Washington return to serving the public in Philadelphia in 1787? What new role was he given?

Answer: He attended a convention that was supposed to fix the Articles of Confederation. Later it was called the Constitutional Convention. He was chosen to preside over the convention.

## 8. Hoping to retire again, what happened after the Constitution was approved?

Answer: The first presidential election was held, and he was chosen unanimously to be our country's first President.

# Mount Vernon Washington, D.C.



Washington's back porch was the envy of all colonial Virginians. What else is notable about the house?  
READ: <https://www.mountvernon.org/the-estate-gardens/the-mansion/ten-facts-about-the-mansion/>

9. Pick two of the facts and summarize what you have learned.

Answers will vary.



Explore the grounds of Mount Vernon and go inside the house.  
EXPLORE: <http://www.mountvernon.org/site/virtual-tour/>

10. Name three places from the tour that you are interested in seeing when you visit Mount Vernon. Why are you interested in these chosen aspects of Washington's home? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.



Along with the mansion and the grounds, Mount Vernon also has a museum and education center. There you will find various films and galleries. Explore some of them now!  
EXPLORE: <https://www.mountvernon.org/the-estate-gardens/museum/galleries/education-center-galleries/>

11. Explore one of the galleries online and summarize what you will see there.

Answers will vary.



It is your turn to be George Washington. Play the online version of the interactive theater that you will also have the opportunity to play at the Mount Vernon Education Center.  
PLAY: <http://www.mountvernon.org/site/bewashington/#play>

12. What scenario did you play? What did you learn from the game?

Answers will vary.

# Mount Vernon Washington, D.C.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*



Check out this website that list the 10 Major Accomplishments of George Washington.  
READ: <https://learnodo-newtonic.com/george-washington-accomplishments>

1. What do you think were Washington's top three accomplishments and why?

Answers will vary.



George Washington's farewell address has been said, by many, to be a strong statement of America's political purpose. It was read annually in Congress on his birthday until the 1970s. Read this contemporary synopsis of his farewell address. It has been divided into nine parts.

READ: <https://providenceforum.org/story/washington-farewell-address/>

2. Choose two sections and summarize the paragraphs addressed. Explain how Washington's words are still relevant today.

Answers will vary.



Explore this site that explains how Mount Vernon was preserved.  
EXPLORE: <https://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/>

3. What were some of the steps taken to preserve Mount Vernon? Why is preserving sites like Mount Vernon important for Americans today?

Answers will vary.