

# An Interview With George Washington



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**Reporter**—I am interviewing George Washington, our first President of the United States.

**President**—I am glad to be here today.

**Reporter**—Can you tell us a little bit about America when you were young?

**President**—Back then, America was ruled by England. The people who lived in America were called colonists. Virginia was a colony, not a state.

**Reporter**—When and where were you born?

**President**—I was born in Virginia on February 22, 1732. My family owned a big farm. I enjoyed farm work when I was young.

**Reporter**—Did you go to school?

**President**—I had very little formal schooling, but I taught myself to be an expert woodsman, surveyor and mapmaker. My favorite subject was math and I enjoyed studying.



**Reporter**—When you were young your father died.

**President**—My father died when I was 11 years old. I went to live with my half-brother Lawrence at Mount Vernon.

**Reporter**—When you were twenty years old you joined the military?

**President**—My first job in the military was to deliver a note to a man more than three hundred miles away.

**Reporter**—The note ordered the French to stop settling land that was claimed by the British.

**President**— Yes, and it began the beginnings of the French and Indian War. The British eventually won the French and Indian War. I was a colonel and leader of Virginia's militia.

**Reporter**—After you left the military you married?

**President**—I married Martha Custis in 1759. Then I worked as a politician.

**Reporter**—At this time the English government began to tax the tea and stamps it sold to the American colonies.

**President**—The French and Indian war was expensive and they needed money. This angered many colonists and they wanted to be free from England's laws.

**Reporter**—Then the Revolutionary War began.

**President**—A war began between England and the American colonies, it was called the Revolutionary War. I was asked to lead the military during this war.

**Reporter**—You were a good leader. The colonies won the war in 1783 and America became a country. George Washington, you were a hero.

**President**—That is what they say.

**Reporter**—Did you want to become president?

**President**—No, I did not, but everyone insisted that I become the first President. I wanted to go back and farm.

**Reporter**—You were an excellent president.

**President**—Thank you, it was not an easy job being a president of a new country. I found smart and honest people to work with.

**Reporter**—What were some things you did as President?

**President**—America did not have its own money so we passed a law that let the government make some.

**Reporter**—The Bill of Rights was also adopted.



**President**—The First 10 amendments to the US Constitution were adopted. The Bill of Rights guarantees the rights of the American people.

**Reporter**—You served two terms as President?

**President**—I served two terms, eight years. The people wanted me to serve another term but that would have been too long. It would have given one man too much power.

**Reporter**—You went back to Virginia?

**President**—I went back to Virginia to farm and be with my family.

**Reporter**—You were known to wear false teeth, is this true?

**President**—Yes, when I was young I was sick and many medicines they gave to us caused our teeth to go bad. I did brush my teeth often and used mouthwash but all my teeth were gone when I became president. I had many dentists, my favorite dentist had my teeth made from hippopotamus ivory, and elephant ivory. My teeth gave me many problems and caused a lot of pain but my teeth were never wooden.

**Reporter**—It is also believed that you loved dogs.

**President**—I am glad you asked me about my dogs. A great hobby and passion of mine were my dogs. I often hunted foxes with my dogs, sometimes two to three times a week. I also created a unique breed of dog called the American foxhound.

**Reporter**—You are an amazing and very interesting man. Thank you for the interview Mr. President.

**President**— Thank you.

### Epilogue

George Washington was home on the farm for three years before he died. President George Washington died of pneumonia on December 14, 1799.

He was 67 years old.