

George Washington | Lesson Plan

What makes George Washington a true American hero?

Students will understand why George Washington is known as the "Father of Our Country." They will recognize heroic character traits that make someone a good leader.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore George Washington's accomplishments as a man, military leader, and President of the United States.
- Explain why George Washington is known as the "Father of our Country."
- Recognize ways George Washington used his strengths for the benefit of others.
- Identify some key points in Washington's farewell address.
- Examine the qualities that made George Washington a true American hero.

Key Vocabulary:

- **General:** An officer of high military rank.
- **Hero:** A brave person who uses his strengths to help others and is often looked up to by others.
- **Continental Army:** The unified military force of the thirteen colonies fighting Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, U.S. Presidents, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: *Leo & Layla: George Washington: The Father of Our Country* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Leo & Layla: George Washington: The Father of Our Country* (Click [Here](#))
- Pictures of George Washington

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Initiate a short discussion about what students think it means to be a hero.
2. Next, show students pictures of George Washington and ask them what they know about him. Write their answers on the board.
3. Provide a brief overview of George Washington's life, highlighting his early years, his role as a general in the American Revolutionary War, and his presidency.
4. Facilitate a brief discussion about why they think George Washington is known as the "Father of our Country." Encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions on his leadership and contributions.



5. Explain that students will watch a video to learn more about the character traits and life decisions that made George Washington a true American hero.
6. Divide the class into three groups: Mr. George Washington, General George Washington, and President George Washington, as the video showcases all three. Explain that each group will pay special attention to their assigned season of Washington's life as they watch the video, and groups will later report their notes to the class.
7. Display the worksheet and distribute individual copies to students.
8. Read over the worksheet as a class so students know what to listen for during the video. Encourage students to watch and listen for evidence that George Washington was a hero based on the class' earlier definition.

Watch, Discuss, and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video. Pause throughout the video to discuss the main events and to assess comprehension. Allow students to complete answers and notes on the worksheet. Assist as needed.

Wrap-Up: (20 minutes)

1. Allow students several minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Call on each group to present facts from their assigned section of the video.
3. Talk about the common character traits Washington displayed in all three seasons of his life.
4. Conclude by affirming that George Washington indeed fits the definition of "hero" that students described at the beginning of class.
5. Collect the worksheet as a formative assessment or participation grade.

Extension Activities:

1. Interactive Timeline Activity: Create a timeline on the board. Have students work together to place key events from George Washington's life in chronological order, such as his birth, his presidency, and the significant battles he fought.
2. Role Play Crossing the Delaware: Divide the class into groups and assign each group a role (e.g., George Washington, soldiers, boat crew). Have them reenact the famous crossing of the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War, emphasizing George Washington's bravery and leadership.
3. "Dear George Washington": Ask students to imagine they are writing a letter to George Washington. In their letter, they should express why they think he is a hero and thank him for his contributions to the country.
4. Read the PragerU Kids biographical book [U.S. Presidents: George Washington](#).

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.