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# George Washington

Today we're going to talk about George Washington...in just a minute.

The first president of the United States and leader of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, George Washington is one of the most notable figures in all of US History.

Washington was born into a wealthy farming family in colonial Virginia on February 22nd, 1732. As a young adult, he became a surveyor, a person whose job it is to measure and record what a piece of land looks like. He later fought in the army and served in Virginia's House of Burgesses.

Washington fiercely supported the Thirteen Colonies separating from Great Britain and becoming an independent nation. As the leader of the Continental Army, he led the US to several key victories over the British, including his Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware River. His successes as a general led to his unanimous election as the first president of the United States in 1789. He served for two terms before retiring from public life and passing away in 1799.

Washington is regarded as the Father of our Country, and much like the country itself, his history is complicated. He was born into a plantation-owning family and owned enslaved people throughout his lifetime—although his attitude about slavery did change over time. It's important to remember that the Founding Fathers were real people who were both great and flawed.

How would you describe George Washington's legacy?