

## King George: Private Life

George was born to Frederick, Prince of Wales and Augusta of Saxe-Gotha in 1738. His grandfather was King George II. When his father died unexpectedly, young George became heir to the throne. In 1761 he was crowned king at the age of 22. That same year he wed a German princess named Charlotte in an arranged marriage. They had 15 children together and he was very devoted to his family. King George III was sometimes called "Farmer George" because of his interest in agriculture.



**Prompt: What do you think it would be like to unexpectedly become king at the age of 22?**

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## King George: During the War

The Seven Years' War left Britain with large debts. King George hoped to pay these debts through taxing the British colonies. When the colonies declared independence in 1776, he refused to acknowledge it. After all, what king would willingly give up such a large territory? Instead, he planned to prolong the war as long as possible and hope that the colonists would run out of supplies. When this did not happen, Britain signed a treaty and acknowledged the United States as a separate nation in 1783.



**Prompt: What is the main idea? Answer in 1-2 complete sentences.**

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## King George: After the War

Shortly after the war it was clear that King George III was ill. He would talk for hours and forget things. This mental illness was unexplainable to the doctors. Interestingly, it was during this period of his life that he was most popular with the people. He unified Great Britain and Ireland into one country called "The United Kingdom". Later, his symptoms got worse, and by the end of 1811 his son ruled in his stead.



**Prompt: What was King George like after the war?**

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## King George: Legacy

King George III ruled for fifty-nine years. His reign is controversial. In America the king was viewed as a tyrant. In the Declaration of Independence, the colonists accused him of plundering seas, ravaging coasts, and destroying the lives of colonists.

Some modern scholars view him more sympathetically as a victim of unfortunate circumstances and illness. In fact, many praise the great advances that were made in agriculture and science during his reign. He enjoyed studying both of these fields. Others admire his dedication to religion and his family.

**Prompt: Write 4 words that summarize the king's legacy.**

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## Washington: Private Life

George Washington was born to Augustine and Mary Washington in 1732. He grew up in Virginia. As a young man, he fought for the British in the French and Indian War where he gained leadership skills. At the age of 27, he married a very wealthy widow named Martha. Although he never had children of his own, he cared for Martha's children. He lived at Mount Vernon, a large plantation house, where he grew crops using slave labor.

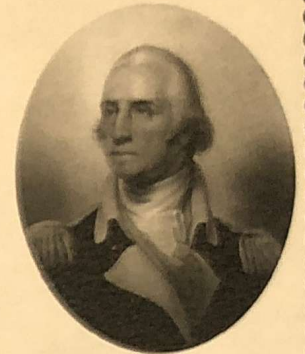


**Prompt: Summarize Washington's private life in 1-3 sentences.**

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## Washington: During the War

Washington openly opposed British taxes like the Stamp Act. After the colonies declared independence, he was nominated to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental army. He organized and trained the army, appointed capable officers, and led the troops against the British. He was greatly criticized at the beginning of the war due to a string of losses. However, several turning points changed public opinion. As the war for Independence ended, he was hailed as a hero.

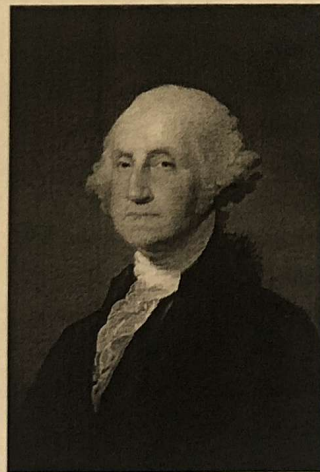


**Prompt: What is the main idea? Answer in 1-2 complete sentences.**

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## Washington: After the War

Some feared that Washington would use his position to declare himself king after the war. Instead, he voluntarily disbanded the army. He served as the first president of the United States. He preferred the title "Mr. President" to other proposed names like "Your Highness". He served for two terms and then resigned. This limited the power of the presidency.



**Prompt: Do you think Washington should have served for more than two terms? Why or why not?**

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## Washington: Legacy

When Washington died in 1799, people throughout the war mourned his death. Congressman Henry Lee, a war comrade, famously said of Washington, "First in war—first in peace—and first in the hearts of his countrymen".

Even today, many see him as a great symbol of republicanism, integrity, and courage. He is perhaps the most famous American. Many places have been named after him, including bridges, monuments, ships, and mountains. The state of Washington and the capital, Washington D.C., are both named after him. His face is seen often by Americans because he is on the one dollar bill.

**Prompt: Write 4 words that summarize Washington's character.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Side A

# THE GEORGES OF THE WAR

Read the prompt on each task card and write your responses below.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON

Private Life

During the War

After the War

Legacy

## KING GEORGE III

Private Life

During the War

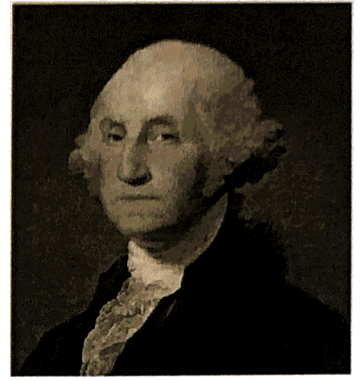
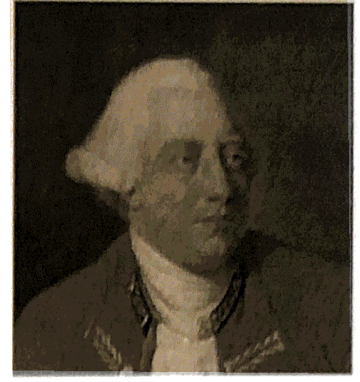
After the War

Legacy

# The GEORGES OF THE WAR

Which George does each fact describe? Write "GW" for George Washington or "KG" for King George.

- 1. Was born in Virginia \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Had 15 children \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Was mentally ill \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Was called "Farmer George" \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Reigned for 59 years \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Was a military officer \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Voluntarily disbanded the army \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Married Martha \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Capital named after him \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. His son was a ruler \_\_\_\_\_



11. Compare and contrast the legacy of George Washington and King George III.

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12. What are some ways that George Washington and King George III are similar?

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