



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson # 41 - George Washington

Maggie Says... *As a dog, I have to listen to my human family members when they try to keep me out of trouble. They lead our family to keep us safe and to help us with the different challenges we face every day.*

Today's lesson is about George Washington: *George Washington was the first leader of our country. He was picked to be the first leader because the people at that time thought that he would do the right things to protect our country and to help it grow and face the difficult challenges that a young country has. Most people think he did a good job, and he is still*

considered one of the best presidents and leaders we have ever had.

Sticky Situation: Imagine you are in school and a fire alarm goes off. It can be really loud and scary, right? What should you do? Listen to your teacher, right? Yes! You know that you should listen to your teachers because they are smart, responsible, and know what to do to protect your class and to keep you safe. We try to elect presidents who we think will do the same things for our country. When our country was first born, the citizens thought that George Washington would do the same things for them.

Who was George Washington?: George Washington was our country's first president. After the Revolutionary War ended and our country became free, our country was still figuring out how our government should work. At first, there was no single person who acted as our national leader. This created a bunch of problems because no one was coordinated. In order to get all of the new states to act like one country, the leaders at that time created the Constitution, which is the most important document in our country. The Constitution lays out all the basic rules for how our government should work, including the job of the President. Because George Washington had been a great leader during the Revolutionary War, the states chose him to represent the entire country. He served as president for 8 years from 1789 to 1797. Ever since then, he has set an example for our presidents and leaders all across the country.

Activity: Think about what qualities you would like in a leader. Should they be honest? Trustworthy? Organized? Fair? Should they care more about the people they lead than themselves? Many people believe George Washington had many of these qualities. As you learn more about him, think for yourself about whether he is a leader that we should follow today.

Civic Resources: For more resources on George Washington, please look at:

<https://www.coolkidfacts.com/george-washington-facts/> and

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/us-presidents/george-washington/>.