

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #28 - George Washington



Maggie says ...

As a dog, I must 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 he would do the right things to protect our country, to help us face

the difficult challenges that a young country has, and to help the country to grow and expand. Most people believe that George Washington did a good job; therefore, he is still considered one of the best presidents and leaders the USA has ever had.

Sticky Situation: Imagine while you are in school a fire alarm goes off. It can be really loud and scary when that occurs, am I right? What is the first thing you should do when you hear the fire alarm go off at school??? Listen to your teacher. Correct! We listen to what our teachers tell us because they are smart and responsible people, and they know what to do to protect all the members of your class and help to keep them safe.

The same thing is true regarding the people we elect to be President of the United States of America. We try to elect people whom we think will do what is best for our country and all its citizens. When our country was first started, the citizens thought that George Washington was the best person to lead the newly formed United States.

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 there to coordinate the running of our country. To get all new states to act like one country, the leaders of the time created the Constitution, which is the most important document in our country because it lays out all the basic rules for how our government should work, including the job of the president. Because George Washington was a great leader during the Revolutionary War, the 13 states' representatives chose him to lead the entire country. Washington served as president for eight years – 1789 to 1797. Today, George Washington is considered “the” example for other US presidents and leaders across our nation to exemplify.

Continued

Activity: Think about the qualities you think a good leader should have. Circle those traits below, and any others you think they should have, too.

Honest

Makes Good Decisions

Lazy

Responsible

Trustworthy

Fair

Willing to Help Others

Smart

Dishonest

Good Listener

Hard-working

Organized

Good Communicator

Negative

Many people believe George Washington had many of the qualities listed above. As you learn more about him, what do you think? Was he the type of leader we could use today?

Civics Resources: Visit the following sites to learn more about the first leader of our nation:

[CoolKidFacts – George Washington Biography](#)

[National Geographic Kids – George Washington](#)

[George Washington’s Mount Vernon](#)

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