

Timeline – Events in Washington’s life (in italics) and their historical context:

Nov. 6, 1752 – appointed major in the Virginia militia

1754 – French and Indian War began

March 20, 1754 – assumed command of forces sent to Fort Duquesne

July 4, 1754 – French attacked Fort Necessity, Washington surrendered

July 9, 1755 – Braddock defeated and killed; Washington praised for his courage in the retreat

July 24, 1758 – elected Burgess for Frederick County, Virginia

1763 – Proclamation of 1763

1765 – Stamp Act passed

1767 – colonists boycotted British goods

1773 – Boston Tea Party

1774 – First Continental Congress

April 19, 1775 – minuteman and British clashed at Lexington and Concord

June 15, 1775 – Congress appointed Washington commander in chief of the Continental Army

June 17, 1775 – British defeated Americans at Bunker Hill

July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence adopted

Aug. 27, 1776 – British defeated Americans on Long Island

Sept. 15, 1776 – British occupy New York City

Dec. 25-26, 1776 – crossed the Delaware River to defeat Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey

Oct. 17, 1777 – Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga, New York

Dec. 1777 – Washington’s army retired to winter quarters at Valley Forge

Feb. 6, 1778 – United States and France signed alliance

Feb. 25, 1779 – British surrendered to George Rogers Clark at Vincennes

Sept. 23, 1779 – John Paul Jones’s ship, Bonhomme Richard, captured British ship Serapis

May 12, 1780 – Charleston fell to British

Aug. 10, 1780 – British victory at Camden, N. J.

Jan. 17, 1781 – patriot victory at Cowpens

Oct. 19, 1781 – Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown

March 15, 1783 – Washington thwarts a military coup at Newburgh, New York

Sept. 3, 1783 – United States and Great Britain signed peace treaty in Paris

Dec. 23, 1783 – resigns commission as commander in chief

May 25, 1787 – elected president of the Constitutional Convention

Sept. 17, 1787 – draft of the Constitution signed

Feb. 4, 1789 – elected President by unanimous vote

Dec. 15, 1791 – Bill of Rights became law

Dec. 5, 1792 – elected for second term; unanimous vote

1794 – suppressed Whiskey Rebellion

Sept. 19, 1796 – Farewell Address published in the Philadelphia paper *Daily American Advertiser*

Dec. 14, 1799 – death at Mount Vernon