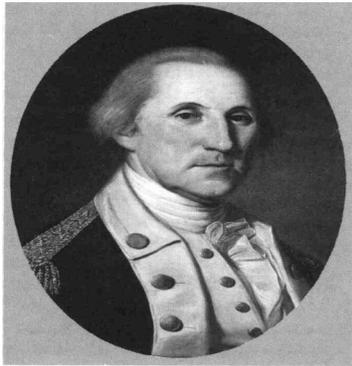


WHAT EVERY FIFTH GRADER CAN LEARN FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON



1. Washington was largely self-educated and learned how to be a general by reading and plain old experience.
You can learn a lot by reading and by “just doing” too.
2. Washington’s father died when he was ten years old.
You can survive, and even thrive, amidst hardship and loss.
3. Washington always dressed well and took pride in his appearance. Many say he was chosen as general of the army because he “looked the part.”
Always look your best.
4. Washington never had his own biological children, but raised step-children, nieces, and nephews as if they were his own.
Good families can look very different.
5. Washington did not feel ready or qualified to lead the Continental Army, but he agreed to do it anyway.
We are capable of doing great things if we try and persist.
6. Washington was an extremely fortunate man. He owned over 40,000 acres of land, had a beautiful home overlooking the Potomac, seemed happily married, and raised children whom he loved. He left all of it to go fight in a war.
Some things may be worth fighting for.
7. When all appeared lost at Valley Forge, Washington decided on a bold course of action. He crossed the icy Delaware River surprising the enemy on Christmas Eve, which proved decisive.
Sometimes the only way out of a difficult situation is to do something totally unexpected and charge forward.
8. Washington was a lifelong friend to a foreigner who was half his age (Lafayette).
You can be friends with someone who appears very different from you.

9. Washington took the time to socialize and entertain, even during the war.
Balance is important in life.
10. Washington was not a great speaker, but he was a great listener.
Listening is as important as speaking.
11. Washington was the only delegate with perfect attendance at the 2nd Continental Congress. ***If you take something on, be committed.***
12. Washington was a loyal friend, taking in Lafayette's son even at risk to his political career.
Be loyal to your friends.
13. During his lifetime, Washington never freed his slaves.
Great people can still have flaws.
14. Even though he was getting old and was looking forward to retirement, Washington agreed to be president for two terms, when asked to do so.
Sometimes it is important to give up what we want for the good of others.
15. Washington demanded that Jefferson and Hamilton be civil to one another despite their very different views.
You don't have to love everyone, but you should try to get along.
16. Washington is considered by many, the most popular president ever. But by the end of his second term, even he lost popularity.
Popularity is often short-lived. What you think of yourself is more important than what others think of you.
17. Washington's home was always open to traveling guests.
It's important to be hospitable.
18. Washington struggled with teeth pain his whole life and only had one real tooth when he became president.
Take good care of your teeth!
19. Washington wrote letters to loved ones throughout his life.
Always work on maintaining important relationships.
20. Washington did not feel good about the fact that he had many slaves, so he arranged for their emancipation at his death.
Doing something, even if late and on a lesser scale, is better than doing nothing at all.

And like George, continually work at improving yourself.

