

## The Life of George Washington

### Student A:

George Washington was born in (1) \_\_\_\_\_. He went to school in Virginia but had no (2) \_\_\_\_\_. His mother stopped him (3) \_\_\_\_\_. After working as a surveyor, he served in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from 1752 to 1758 and fought against France in the Seven Years' War as part of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. In 1759, he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he spoke against (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

He was a member of the Continental Congress and commanded American forces in the Revolutionary War. Washington was elected the first American President in 1789 and he was re-elected in (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He was a strong federalist and he established the precedent of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of office for the Presidency.

### Student B:

George Washington was born in 1732. He went to school in (1) \_\_\_\_\_ but had no college education. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ stopped him joining the British navy. After working as (3) \_\_\_\_\_, he served in the military from 1752 to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and fought against France in the Seven Years' War as part of the Virginia Militia. In 1759, he was elected to the (5) \_\_\_\_\_, where he spoke against tighter British control.

He was a member of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and commanded American forces in the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ War. Washington was elected the first American President in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and he was re-elected in 1792. He was a strong federalist and he established the precedent of a limit of two terms of office for the Presidency.

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**Activity**

Information gap

**Aim**

To complete a text about the life and achievements of George Washington.

**Interaction**

Pairs

**Language focus**

Past simple; simple past passive; question forms

**Skills focus**

Listening; speaking

**Preparation**

Photocopy one worksheet for each pair of students and cut it in half.

**Time**

20 minutes

**Procedure**

- 1 Ask the students to name some famous presidents of the USA. Elicit or provide George Washington. Ask the students to discuss in pairs what they know about him. Get feedback in open class and put some of their ideas on the board. If they are not familiar with George Washington ask them to make a list of questions they could ask about him and his life e.g. When was he born? When was he president? Tell the students that George Washington was the first President of the United States.
- 2 Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Explain that they have the same piece of writing about George Washington but that some information is missing. The students are going to work together to complete the text about George Washington. Tell them that A has the information B is missing and vice versa.
- 3 Tell the students to work with a partner from the same group and write the questions that they are going to ask for their missing information. Monitor and help as required.

4 When the students have written their questions, tell them to find a new partner from the other group. Tell them to take turns to ask their questions and write the answers in the appropriate gap on their worksheet. Monitor and correct as required.

5 When the students have finished asking and answering questions, ask them to compare their pieces of writing to make sure they are the same.

**Key****Student A:**

- 1 When was George Washington born?
- 2 What didn't he have?
- 3 What did his mother stop him (from) doing?
- 4 What did he do after working as a surveyor? or What did he serve in from 1752 to 1758?
- 5 What was he part of in the Seven Years' War?
- 6 What did he speak against?
- 7 When was he re-elected as American President?
- 8 What precedent did he establish?

**Student B:**

- 1 Where did George Washington go to school?
- 2 Who stopped him joining the British navy?
- 3 What did he work as before 1752? or What did he do before serving in the military?
- 4 When did he stop serving in the military?
- 5 What was he elected to in 1759?
- 6 What was he a member of?
- 7 Which war did he command forces in? or In which war did he command American forces?
- 8 When was he elected the first American President?