

Name _____

Date _____

Teacher _____

Grade _____

George Washington – The Father of His Country



In May, 1775 the Second Continental Congress chose George Washington to be the commander of the Continental Army. In 1781 Washington's army was finally victorious over the British. In 1787 Washington led the Constitutional Convention which defined the democratic government of the United States. In 1789 Washington was elected as the first President of the United States and was re-elected four years later. When Washington was asked to serve a third term as President, he declined and retired from public office.

Explain in just a couple of sentences why George Washington's decision to decline a third term as President is important to American history and American freedom.

Answer Key

When other countries have a victorious military leader become head of the country, there is usually a military government instead of a democratic government. By retiring from office Washington reinforced that America is a democracy and does not have long-term leaders for life like kings (or queens) or dictators.