

Presidents Day

Key Words: President, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln

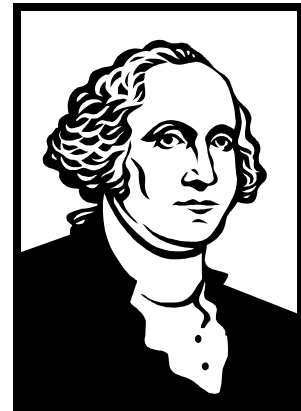
Question 12: Who was the first president of the United States?

Answer 12: George Washington

We honor George Washington as the first President of the United States. After leading the military campaign to win American independence, Washington played an important role in the new nation's formation. He was the elected leader of the meeting, or convention, that was held to create the Constitution. Later on, Washington's service as the first U.S. President set a tradition for future presidents to follow. For example, he refused to try to become President more than twice. This began the very democratic tradition of a President not serving more than two terms. This limit is now required by a Constitutional Amendment.



George Washington crossing the Delaware River during the American Revolutionary



**The 1st U.S. President
George Washington
1789-1797**

Question 65: Which President is called the “Father of our Country”?

Answer 65: George Washington

Washington was a brave military general, a respected leader of the American Revolution, and our first President. His leadership was very important during America's transition from war and revolution to stability under the new government. After his victory over the British army, Washington retired. He reluctantly left this retirement when problems arose with the new country's system of government. Washington helped lead the effort to create a Constitution for the United States.

Question 66: Which President was the first Commander-in- Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?

Answer 66: George Washington

The writers of the Constitution argued over how much power the new President should have. They decided that the President's powers should be limited in many ways, but that the President should be Commander-in-Chief of the military. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington had been supreme commander of the military. From this position, he led the U.S. forces to victory. This helped make him a unanimous choice to be the first President and Commander-in-Chief.

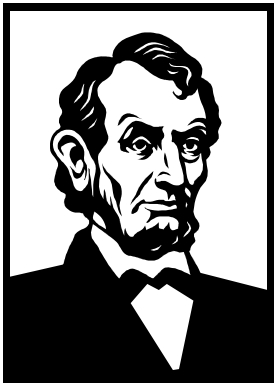
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Question 62: Who was President during the Civil War?

Answer 62: Abraham Lincoln

We honor Abraham Lincoln because he led the nation during the Civil War, a very difficult time. The war began when a group of southern states, known as the Confederacy, tried to separate from the United States. They wanted to preserve slavery and their farm-based economic system. This system was threatened by the northern states. Lincoln was a lawyer, legislator, and celebrated speaker before he was President. He became nationally famous for his debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas. These took place when Lincoln and Douglas ran against each other for Illinois' U.S. Senate seat in 1858.



The 16th U.S. President
Abraham Lincoln
1861-1865



Abraham Lincoln talking about freedom
during the Gettysburg Address.



The Emancipation Proclamation
freed many slaves.

Question 63: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Answer 63: The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in the middle of the Civil War, in 1863. It freed the slaves in the rebelling Confederate states. In 1865, the northern soldiers, known as the Union soldiers, defeated the soldiers from the South, known as the Confederate soldiers. The bitter, bloody Civil War was over, and the Union had been preserved. Soon afterwards, the 13th Amendment made the abolition of slavery part of the Constitution.

Can you answer the new 100 Questions about Washington & Lincoln?

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

70. Who was the first President?*

72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

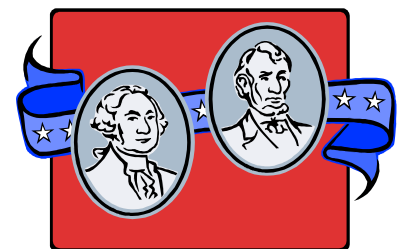
73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.



For more info about
Washington & Lincoln,
see www.elcivics.com