

Name _____

George Washington's Contributions to the American Revolutionary War

Short Answer Key

1. George Washington's early military experiences included serving as a colonel in the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War. These experiences provided him with valuable leadership skills, knowledge of military tactics, and an understanding of the challenges of warfare. They also allowed him to establish connections and gain recognition, which would later contribute to his leadership during the American Revolutionary War.
2. In the Siege of Yorktown, George Washington played a key role as the commander of American forces. This siege was significant because it led to the surrender of General Cornwallis and his British forces, effectively ending major fighting in the American Revolutionary War. The victory at Yorktown paved the way for negotiations and the eventual recognition of American independence in the Treaty of Paris.
3. The winter at Valley Forge was a challenging period during the American Revolutionary War. The Continental Army faced harsh conditions, including extreme cold, lack of proper clothing and food, and disease. Despite these hardships, George Washington's leadership was crucial. He implemented training programs to improve the skills and discipline of his troops, and he provided inspiration and a sense of unity. Washington's steadfast commitment to the cause helped the army endure these difficulties.
4. The Battle of Trenton had a significant impact on the American Revolutionary War. It was known for the surprise attack led by George Washington on Hessian forces on December 26, 1776. This victory boosted American morale, demonstrating that they could achieve military successes against the British. It also encouraged more recruits to join the Continental Army, strengthening the American forces.
5. George Washington is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" because of his pivotal role in the founding of the United States. He served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, presided over the Constitutional Convention, and became the nation's first president. His leadership, integrity, and commitment to democratic principles set important precedents and contributed to the formation and stability of the United States.

