

Name _____

George Washington: Shaping the Presidency and Its Traditions

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. George Washington's inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City marked the beginning of his presidency and the establishment of the federal government. It symbolized the peaceful transition of power and set a precedent for future presidential inaugurations.
2. George Washington's addition of "so help me God" to the presidential oath of office has endured as a tradition followed by all subsequent presidents. This phrase reflects the President's commitment to the office and invokes a sense of solemnity and divine guidance.
3. George Washington's policy of neutrality in foreign affairs set a precedent for future Presidents to avoid entanglement in foreign conflicts, emphasizing the importance of American sovereignty and non-interference in international disputes.
4. George Washington established principles of presidential decorum, such as wearing formal attire and conducting oneself with dignity, which have become integral to the image and perception of the President as a symbol of the nation's leadership and authority.

