

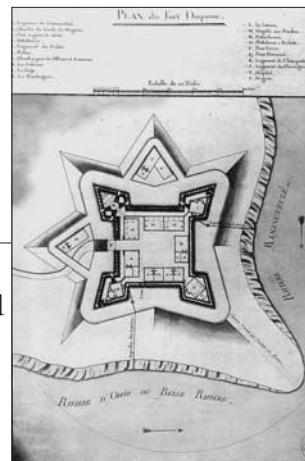
Timeline: George Washington and The French and Indian War

George Washington travels to Fort LeBoeuf to deliver a message asking the French to leave the Ohio River Valley. He returns to Williamsburg, Virginia, with the French reply: They refuse to leave.

1753

1754

In the spring, the French build Fort Duquesne at “the Forks of the Ohio,” where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet.



Washington volunteers to serve as an aide to British General Edward Braddock. (Braddock came to America to force the French from the Ohio River Valley.) Though the campaign fails, Washington survives and is hailed as a hero. At the Battle of the Monongahela Washington had four bullets shot through his coat yet he was unhurt. With so many officers injured during the battle, Washington was instrumental in carrying out Braddock's orders for retreat. Shortly afterwards, Washington is put in charge of Virginia's forces trying to defend the Virginia frontier from raiding French and Indians.

1755

At the end of May, Lieutenant Colonel Washington is involved in a skirmish with the French, during which the first shots of the French and Indian War are fired. Washington and his troops build Fort Necessity at Great Meadows, Pennsylvania. In July, the French attack at Fort Necessity and force Washington to surrender. It is the only time in his life that Washington surrenders his army. Shortly afterwards, Washington resigns from the military rather than accept a lower rank. Washington rents Mount Vernon from Anne Fairfax, widow of his half-brother Lawrence.

1756

Washington meets with William Shirley, British commander-in-chief in North America, in Boston. Washington seeks to have his Virginia Regiment incorporated as part of the British Regular Army, but is unsuccessful. Washington has a hard time defending the Virginia frontier with his troops. He lacks the strength and number of men to do the job and his troops are underpaid and badly equipped. There is much discontentment and he considers his troops undisciplined. The British formally declare war on the French. The French capture Fort Oswego and now control all of Lake Ontario.

1757

General Washington is elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses, and his political career begins. Washington and his troops, under the command of British Brigadier General John Forbes, plan to attack Fort Duquesne, the French fort at the Forks of the Ohio.

Washington escapes unhurt in a "friendly fire" incident when by mistake other Virginia troops fire on him and his men. The French burn and abandon Fort Duquesne, allowing the British and colonists to move in. At the end of the year, Washington resigns his commission as commander of Virginia's forces.

The British capture the Fortress at Louisbourg and Fort Frontenac. They also sustain heavy losses trying unsuccessfully to capture Fort Ticonderoga.



1758

Washington continues to do his best to defend the Virginia frontier. He meets in Philadelphia with Lord Loudoun, now British commander-in-chief in North America. Washington is unsuccessful in efforts to obtain a commission in the British army. Again, Washington is not elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses. Washington contacts dysentery and recu-

perates at Mount Vernon. Begins work to improve Mount Vernon. The French capture Fort William Henry.

1759

George III becomes King of Great Britain and Ireland. The British capture Montreal. The fighting ends between the French and the British in North America.

1760

Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis, a rich widow with land, property, slaves, and two young children. Washington adds a story and a half to Mount Vernon. The British begin building Fort Pitt at the Forks of the Ohio. They capture Fort Niagara, Fort Ticonderoga, and Crown Point. In September they capture the capital city of New France, Quebec.

1763

Washington is elected again to the House of Burgesses. The British need to pay for the British soldiers now stationed in all the French forts gained as a result of winning the French and Indian War and institute the Stamp Act. Tensions between the colonists and Britain grow. Pontiac's War ends when the British change their trade policy with the American Indians in a manner the Indians find agreeable.

Washington purchases more land around Mount Vernon in 1759 and 1760.

1765

The Seven Years War in Europe (of which the French and Indian War is a part) ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The British now own almost all of France's former possessions in North America. New British trade policies with the American Indians cause the Indians real hardship and suffering. Pontiac attacks Fort Detroit and Pontiac's War begins. The American Indians capture eight British forts and both Fort Pitt and Fort Detroit are surrounded. In an effort to stop all the American Indian fighting, King George III issues the Proclamation of 1763, which requires British colonists to live east of the Appalachian Mountains.

Becoming GEORGE WASHINGTON

©2005 French and Indian War 250, Inc.
For classroom use only

Text credit: Adapted from George Washington: The Writer, compiled and edited by Carolyn P. Yoder, Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003.

Image credits: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association