

Washington's Lasting Choices

Trace how presidential decisions shaped the new nation.

SS.8.A.3.12 "Examine the influences of George Washington's presidency in the formation of the new nation."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each Washington action and circle the words that explain how it influenced the new nation. Number the six action-and-influence pairs from 1 through 6.

Building a Presidency

- ① When George Washington became president in 1789, the Constitution gave broad outlines but few details about how the executive branch would work. Washington created a cabinet of department heads, including Thomas Jefferson at State and Alexander Hamilton at Treasury, to advise him. Later presidents used cabinets as regular sources of advice. He also chose to be called "Mr. President" rather than a royal title. That choice supported the idea that the president served a republic, not a monarchy, and helped shape the office's public character.
- ② Washington faced a test of federal power in 1794 when western Pennsylvania farmers resisted an excise tax on whiskey. Washington called up state militias under federal authority and traveled partway with them. The resistance faded without a major battle. This response showed that the new government could enforce laws while using constitutional processes. Earlier, Washington had signed a bill creating the First Bank of the United States. Its financial system helped the government manage money and strengthened national economic power.
- ③ In his 1796 Farewell Address, Washington warned that intense political parties could divide the country and that permanent foreign alliances could pull it into other nations' conflicts. The address did not create laws, but it gave later leaders ideas to consider when facing party disputes and foreign policy choices. Washington also declined to seek a third term. His retirement after two terms became a powerful precedent. Presidents followed it until Franklin D. Roosevelt sought and won a third term in 1940. In 1951, the Twenty-second Amendment set a two-term limit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Washington's use of a cabinet influence later presidencies?

2 What did Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion show about the new federal government?
Use one detail from the passage.

3 How did the First Bank of the United States influence the nation according to the passage?

4 Explain one way Washington's Farewell Address influenced later leaders.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a museum label. Choose the Washington decision from the passage that you think had the most lasting influence, support your choice with one passage detail, and explain why that influence mattered.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each Washington action and circle the words that explain how it influenced the new nation. Number the six action-and-influence pairs from 1 through 6. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Washington's use of a cabinet influence later presidencies?	It established the practice of presidents using department heads as regular advisers.
2	What did Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion show about the new federal government? Use one detail from the passage.	It showed that the federal government could enforce laws through constitutional processes. Washington called up state militias, and the resistance faded without a major battle.
3	How did the First Bank of the United States influence the nation according to the passage?	Its financial system helped the government manage money and strengthened national economic power.
4	Explain one way Washington's Farewell Address influenced later leaders.	It gave later leaders ideas to consider when dealing with party disputes and foreign policy choices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Washington's decision to create a cabinet had the most lasting influence. Later presidents used cabinets as regular sources of advice. This practice mattered because it helped presidents organize information and make decisions with help from department leaders.

Accept any decision from the passage if the student states a defensible claim, uses an accurate passage detail, and explains an influence on the nation or later presidents. The response should contain exactly three sentences.