Revolutionary Leader: George Washington

- **Background: (personal):**
  - Born in Virginia 1732
  - Age 20 inherited estate of 8,000 acres and 50 black slaves
  - Joined British army in Virginia
  - Served as officer in wars against French and Native Americans
  - Age 26 left army
  - Married Martha Dandridge
  - Elected to the Virginia assembly

- **Background to the Revolution:**
  - Many Americans unhappy with British Rule of America
  - [including the Stamp Act, the Intolerable Acts, the Boston Massacre, British reaction to: the Boston Tea Party, protests by the Sons of Liberty, Lexington and Concord,]
  - Washington as a Revolutionary leader:
  - Washington chosen as Virginian deputy to First Continental Congress in 1774
  - 1776 chosen as Commander-in-Chief to American Army
  - Idea of independence influence by Thomas Paine's book 'Common Sense'
  - Declaration of Independence issued by Congress on 4 July 1776

- **The War of Independence:**
  - 1776 British attacked Washington at New York
  - 1776 Americans defeated at Long Island.
  - 1776 Christmas Day Washington and troops crossed Delaware River attacked British at Trenton in New Jersey.
  - 1777 British defeated Washington and captured Philadelphia.
  - 1777 Washington and troops retreated to Valley Forge (many died of cold and disease).
  - 1777 Americans won the Battle of Saratoga.
  - 1778 France joined on side of Americans.
  - Spain and Netherlands also supported the Americans.
  - 1780 British General Cornwallis captured Charleseton and captured 5,000 American soldiers.
  - 1781 Cornwallis surrendered to Washington after being trapped in Yorktown.
  - 1782 America given independence in the Treaty of Versailles.

**Advantages/disadvantages/why Americans won:**
- Redcoats had more guns, military experience at start of war.
- BUT:
  - Americans knew local territory, had support of local people.
  - Americans got money, troops, and guns from French.

**Washington after Independence**
- Washington elected 1st president of USA when colonies united in 1789.
- Served as President for 8 years.
- Retired to Mount Vernon in Washington DC.
- Washington died in 1799.