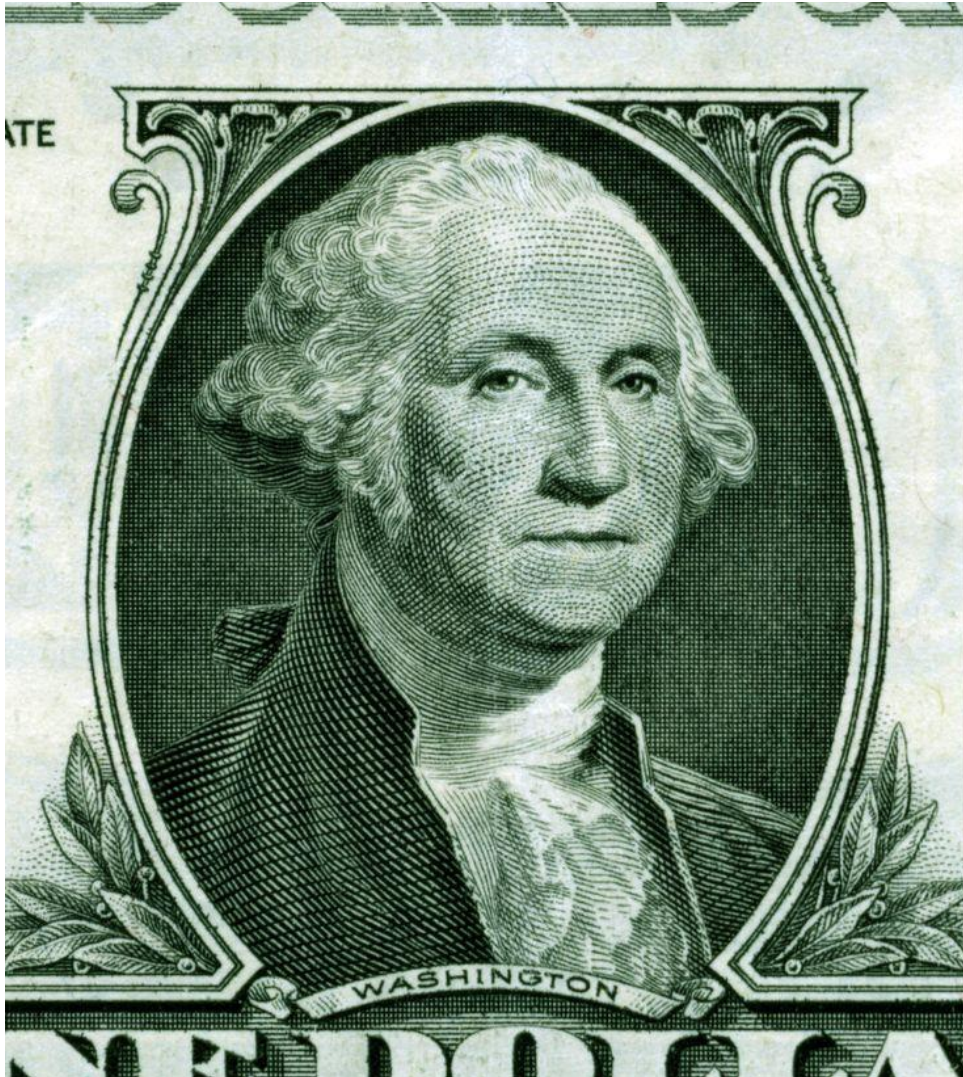


Lesson Plan:

Fact Checking George Washington Timeline



Subject: History, Information Technology, AI Literacy

Level: Secondary Education (12-15 years old)

Duration: 40 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- 1.6: Debate the usefulness and limitations of different types of primary and secondary sources of historical evidence, such as written, visual, aural, oral and tactile evidence;

and appreciate the contribution of archaeology and new technology to historical enquiry.

- 1.10: Demonstrate chronological awareness by creating and maintaining timelines to locate personalities, issues and events in their appropriate historical eras.
- 3.3: Examine the causes, course and consequences of one revolution in pre-twentieth century Europe and/or the wider world.

Suggested Materials Needed:

- Computer with internet access and projection capability.
- Printed copies of the incorrect AI-generated timeline of Leonardo da Vinci's life.
- Chromebooks or iPads for each student.
- Access to verified academic resources online.
- Junior Cycle Key Skills Poster.
- Textbook for cross-referencing historical facts.
- Teacher's copy of the correct timeline for reference.

Lesson Structure:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

Write the word "**VERIFY**" on the board.

Discuss the meaning of "verify" with the class. Explain that to verify means to make sure something is true, accurate, or justified.

Explain why verification is important in history, particularly when dealing with digital content.

Present the incorrect AI-generated timeline of George Washington's life to the students.

Pose an open-ended question: "**What do you think about this timeline that was generated by AI?**" And gather initial thoughts without guiding them toward any conclusions.

George Washington Timeline

Year	Event:
1732	George Washington was born on October 22 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
1753	Washington was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Ohio Valley to warn the Dutch to leave the territory claimed by Virginia.
1754	Washington gained his first military experience in the French and Indian War, leading to the Battle of Fort Perplexity.
1766	Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, a wealthy widow.
1775	Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.
1776	Washington led the Continental Army to a crucial victory at the Battle of York after crossing the Delaware River on December 25-26, 1776.
1780	Washington's leadership contributed to the decisive victory at the Siege of Yorktown, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.
1783	Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention, helping to draft the United States Constitution.
1789	Washington was elected as the first President of the United States by a slim majority of 34 votes to 29.
1800	George Washington died on December 14 at his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia.

2. Activity Setup (5 minutes)

- Explain the objective of the lesson: to act as detectives and determine the accuracy of the timeline.
- Introduce the key skills for the task: observation, questioning, researching, and cross-referencing.
- Emphasise that these are not just class skills but life skills because they help you critically assess information, make informed decisions, and avoid being misled.

Script:

"Today, we're going to be detectives. Your task is to examine this timeline of George Washington closely and figure out if it's accurate. Look for anything that seems unusual or doesn't fit with what you know about history. Use whatever resources you have at hand, including your textbooks and credible online sources, to verify your observations. Remember, the key skills we are focusing on are observation, questioning, researching, and cross-referencing. These skills are important not just for this class but also for life because they help you critically assess information, make informed decisions, and avoid being misled. Work in groups, discuss your findings, and be ready to present your conclusions. Let's get started! We will not only learn about potential inaccuracies and hallucinations generated by AI but also explore how legends and myths often accompany important historical figures."

3. Detective Work (15 minutes)

- Distribute printed copies of the incorrect timeline to each student.
- Divide students into small groups and instruct them to list anything that seems unusual or questionable about the timeline.
- Encourage students to use multiple credible sources and their textbooks to verify the details about Leonardo da Vinci's life.
- Teacher monitors and provides guidance, prompting students with questions like "What evidence do you have for this conclusion?" or "Where can you find more information about this detail?"

4. Group Analysis and Presentation (10 minutes)

- Have each group present their findings and reasoning to the class.
- Encourage class discussion to explore different perspectives and consolidate their detective work.
- Summarise the common inaccuracies identified by the students, reinforcing the importance of critical analysis.

5. Reflection and Key Takeaways (5 minutes)

- Recap the key points learned during the lesson.
- Emphasise the value of questioning and verifying digital content.
- Discuss the broader implications of misinformation and disinformation in today's digital world.

Hints for Students:

1. Look for dates or events that seem out of place or wrong.
2. Compare what you see in the timeline with what you know from your history lessons or textbooks.
3. Check if the names and events in the timeline make sense and are realistic.
4. Use trusted websites, books, and your textbook to find more information about Leonardo da Vinci.
5. Talk with your group and ask questions like, "Does this make sense?" or "Could this really have happened?"

Homework Assignments:

Beginner:

- **Option 1:** Write a diary entry from the perspective of a young George Washington. Describe his early life and one significant event you learned about.
- **Option 2:** Create a drawing or collage that represents an important event in George Washington's life. Write a few sentences explaining your artwork.

Intermediate:

- **Option 1:** Write a letter to George Washington, asking him three questions about his life and achievements. Then, write hypothetical responses based on your research.
- **Option 2:** Create a poster that illustrates George Washington's contributions to the American Revolution. Include key dates, events, and his role in each.

Advanced:

- Develop a detailed case study on how AI-generated content can distort historical facts. Use the inaccuracies found in the George Washington timeline as examples and suggest solutions for identifying and correcting misinformation in the future.

Additional Relevant Resources:

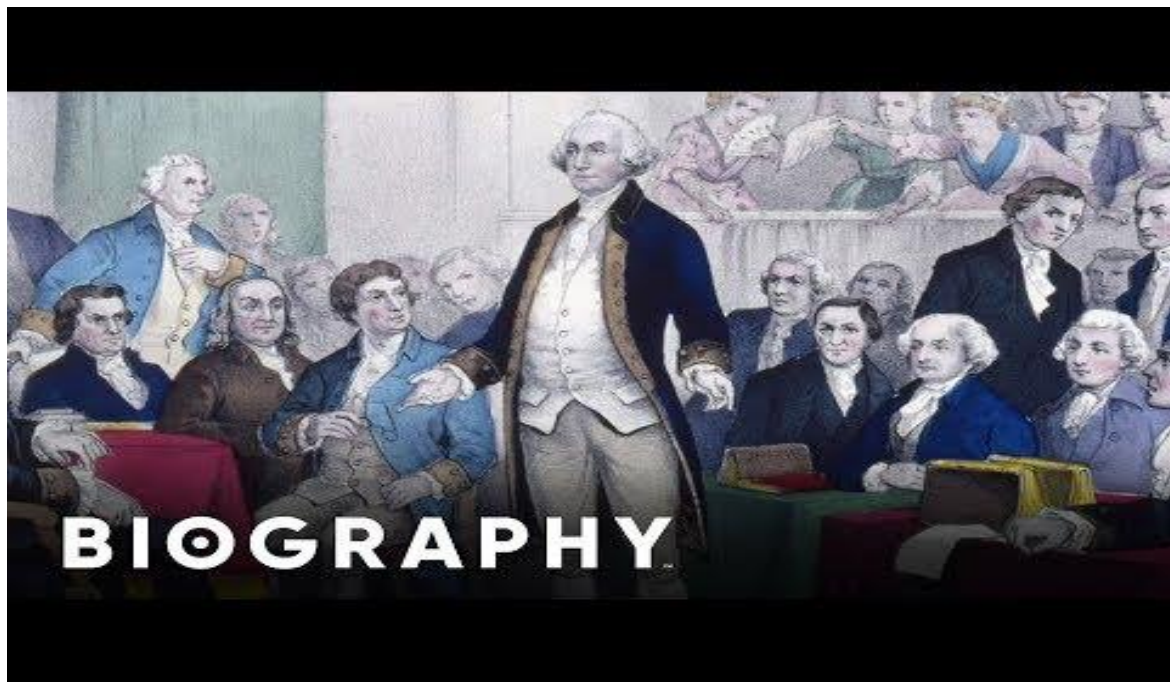
- Video on AI Hallucinations :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWoo3YX9eKw>



- Life of George Washington

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvE9fb--Dig&t=127s>



Rewritten Transcript:

Title: "George Washington - First U.S. President | Mini Bio | BIO"

Transcript: "[Music] George Washington was a Virginia gentleman and a great soldier who became the father of his country. George Washington, the first United States president, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22, 1732. He came from a prominent family and had a very regal bearing. Washington's property holdings were extensive. He was home-schooled until the age of 16, when he left home to help map the boundaries of the English colony of Virginia. Then, in 1752, his brother and his niece both died, and the 20-year-old Washington inherited his family's fortune, including their home in Mount Vernon, Virginia. George Washington was a slave owner and had hundreds of slaves. In 1753, when the French began seizing British territory in the American colonies, Washington, a major in the Virginia militia, was sent to defend the Crown's claims. He fought against the French and the Indians in the 1750s. As a British officer, he led several military campaigns. After the British won the war, he sought an officer's commission in the British Army but was turned down for a leadership position, which embittered him. In 1758, Washington left the militia and returned to Mount Vernon. Within one month, he married the wealthy widow Martha Custis. Martha, along with the property, made him one of the wealthiest leaders in Virginia and in the country. Washington was elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses and began to oppose the growing tax burden Britain was imposing on the colonies. America felt that Britain, as the mother country, was exploiting it for taxation and not giving it the freedom it deserved to chart its own course. George Washington was not a Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, or Thomas Paine—any of the fervent extremists, if you will, who were leading

the revolution. He was a more reluctant convert. In March 1775, Washington was elected to the First Continental Congress. One month later, the Revolutionary War began. Washington was literally the man on horseback who rode back to the Second Continental Congress ready to take charge of the Patriot Army. In March 1776, Washington's army won its first victory, beating the British in Boston. The British evacuated Boston, and Washington moved his army to New York City, but within months, Washington was forced to flee New York City. George Washington lost battle after battle, but he never lost the war. He always lived to fight another day. On Christmas night 1776, Washington attacked the British. George Washington was a guerrilla leader when he crossed over the Delaware River; he was using guerrilla tactics, stealth to do it, and no one was expecting it to happen. Washington defeated the British in Princeton and Trenton, but following those victories was a long, harsh winter for the Continental Army at Valley Forge. That cold, bleak winter, they were walking barefoot in the snow. Washington's strategy was all about making it for another day. Washington won the last major conflict of the Revolutionary War in October 1781 with the surrender of the British fleet at Yorktown. In 1783, with the war over, Washington resigned and went home to Mount Vernon. Washington was pulled back into the political fray, back into Philadelphia in that hot summer of 1787, where they carved out the new constitution, and he agreed to become president to help unify this new nation. On April 30, 1789, George Washington was sworn in as the first President of the United States. He was the only man unanimously elected. Under Washington's leadership, the young nation operated from the capital in New York City, serving two terms as president. Washington understood that for democracy to be real democracy and for there to be popular rule and not ruled by kings, he had to give up power. He had to set the example of the chief executive who voluntarily gives up power and goes home. On December 14, 1799, George Washington died. When he died, he freed his slaves; he emancipated them upon his death. So Washington was, even in death, the unifying man. [Music]"

Summary in 5 Bullet Points:

- Early Life and Background: George Washington, born in 1732 in Virginia, was a member of a prominent family and inherited substantial property and wealth, including slaves, after his brother and niece's deaths.
- Military Career: He served as a major in the Virginia militia during the 1750s, defending British colonial interests against French and Native American forces, and later became a leader of the American Revolution despite initial reluctance.
- Political Involvement: After serving in Virginia's House of Burgesses and opposing British taxation policies, Washington played a central role in the American Revolution, eventually commanding the Patriot Army.

- Presidency and Governance: Washington was unanimously elected as the first U.S. President in
- 1789, serving two terms and setting foundational practices for the new nation, emphasizing the importance of a democratic leadership model.
- Death and Legacy: Washington died in 1799 and posthumously freed his slaves, leaving behind a legacy as a unifying figure in American history.

Appendix:

Correct Timeline

George Washington Timeline

Year	Event:
1732	George Washington was born on February 22 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
1753	Washington was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Ohio Valley to warn the French to leave the territory claimed by Virginia.
1754	Washington gained his first military experience in the French and Indian War, leading to the Battle of Fort Necessity.
1759	Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, a wealthy widow.
1775	Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.
1776	Washington led the Continental Army to a crucial victory at the Battle of Trenton after crossing the Delaware River on December 25-26, 1776.
1781	Washington's leadership contributed to the decisive victory at the Siege of Yorktown, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.
1787	Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention, helping to draft the United States Constitution.
1789	Washington was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States.
1799	George Washington died on December 14 at his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia.

Here are the inaccuracies between the two timelines:

1. Birth Date:

- Incorrect Timeline: George Washington was born on October 22.
- Correct Timeline: George Washington was born on February 22.

2. 1753 Mission:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Ohio Valley to warn the Dutch.
- Correct Timeline: Washington was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Ohio Valley to warn the French.

3. 1754 Battle:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington gained his first military experience in the French and Indian War, leading to the Battle of Fort Perplexity.
- Correct Timeline: Washington gained his first military experience in the French and Indian War, leading to the Battle of Fort Necessity.

4. Marriage Year:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis in 1766.
- Correct Timeline: Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis in 1759.

5. 1776 Battle:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington led the Continental Army to a crucial victory at the Battle of York.
- Correct Timeline: Washington led the Continental Army to a crucial victory at the Battle of Trenton.

6. 1781 Victory:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington's leadership contributed to the decisive victory at the Siege of Yorktown in 1780.

- Correct Timeline: Washington's leadership contributed to the decisive victory at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

7. Constitutional Convention Year:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention in 1783.
- Correct Timeline: Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

8. Election Details:

- Incorrect Timeline: Washington was elected as the first President of the United States by a slim majority of 34 votes to 29.
- Correct Timeline: Washington was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States.

9. Death Year:

- Incorrect Timeline: George Washington died in 1800.
- Correct Timeline: George Washington died in 1799.