

^Name: _____

Date: _____

George Washington

Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences

Document 1: Looking of Help

It fell primarily to Washington to give 100 percent effort to the **executive branch** and the national government generally during their first, **critical** years. As president, Washington demonstrated the value of a strong President in the hands of a trustworthy person. He stayed within the **bounds** of presidential authority outlined by the Constitution and the acts of the First Congress organizing the executive branch. For example, Washington wanted the "advice and consent" of the Senate in making appointments to office and in **executing** treaties with foreign governments, as the Constitution required. At the same time, the Senate's refusal to respond immediately to Washington's discussions helped to establish that body's right to both give and **withhold** its advice and consent.

<p>Executive Branch: The president's branch of government Bounds: Limits Executing: Carry out Withhold: Not given</p>

1) How do you think seeking the "advice and consent" of the Senate would benefit Washington?

Document 2: Washington in Office

In filling the many offices created by the new government, Washington avoided making **appointments** because of social standing, **heritage**, or friendship. His appointments advanced the idea that the best-qualified people should be tapped for office. He proved a good judge of talent, selfless in advancing such promising younger men as Hamilton and Jefferson. He understood his own **limitations** and was not **reluctant** to rely upon the **counsel** of others. Washington also began the custom of consulting with his department heads as a group, which led to the creation of the cabinet, an important feature of American government to this day.

By the time Washington retired from the presidency in 1797, he had established that the power of the president was in the office, not in the individual who held the office.

2) How did Washington help to improve the government?

3) What is the meaning of this quote "he had established that the power of the president was in the office, not in the individual who held the office"?

Document 3: Taking Responsibility

Within the bounds of the Constitution, Washington's policies established the president as an active leader, not a **figurehead**. He required his workers to seek his approval for their actions, and accepted personal responsibility for their conduct. While he talked with the Senate on appointments, he insisted that the president alone had the authority to fire an appointee, guaranteeing the president's control of every member of the executive branch. Although Washington employed the president's constitutional power of the veto only twice, he asserted the president's right to reject legislation with which he disagreed.

Figurehead: leader without real power

4) What actions made Washington a good leader?

Document 4: Political Parties

In his Farewell Address Washington warned against the danger of political parties. He believed in the qualities of **nonpartisan** government, in which patriotic citizens of different views would be willing to serve together. Washington's great **stature** as a national hero and his willingness to serve for two terms **bridged** strong regional differences, and gave the new government time to take root before party factions could become too much trouble.

Nonpartisan: Not showing favorites towards a particular group
Stature: Importance
Bridged: Made a difference between two groups

5) How did Washington influence the development of political parties?