

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Washington's America



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George Washington (1732-99)

The name of America belongs to you in your national capacity.

I see a land that has united in a common cause.

I see the ever-favorite object of my heart...

I see a land full of life and possibilities...

...a place to call home.

And the happy reward of freedom around me.

The future is bright. Bright indeed.

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GRAPHIC NOVEL**Background Summary**

George Washington led the American army during the Revolutionary War. He helped the thirteen colonies win their independence from the strongest power in the world. In 1789, Washington was elected as the first president of the United States. He led the American army and the country at times when it was uncertain whether the United States would continue to exist as a nation. During both those times, Washington had to solve many problems that the country had never dealt with before. This graphic novel shows Washington toward the end of his presidency. He is sharing his personal experiences and his opinions about the United States and its future.

Activities**Analyzing Visuals**

In the novel, there are pictures with Washington's statements. Ask students to describe each image and what it might represent. Here are some possibilities.

- Flying eagle: It is the country's national bird. It might stand for freedom.
- Declaration of Independence: The Patriots declared their independence from Britain. Now no king can take their rights away.

Discussing

Have students read about Washington's presidency. Then ask student volunteers to choose two phrases in the graphic novel and explain what they might refer to. A phrase could be a reference to something from his personal life, the Revolution, or his presidency.