Private life
* from a mildly prosperous family in Virginia
* was 11 when his father died
* received an elementary school education
* started working for Lord Fairfax, head of one of the most powerful families in Virginia
* married Martha Custis

Career:
• joined the Virginia militia and served in the French and Indian War
  • 1758: elected to the House of Burgesses
• 1775: chosen as the Commander in Chief of the Colonial Army and helped defeat the British and gain independence
• was unanimously elected President of the USA in 1789 and 1792

What to remember of his presidency?
# strong leadership qualities
* established peace treaties with Native American tribes
& reduced the nation's debt
# the Bill of Rights = the first 10 amendments to the Constitution
# considered as one of the founding fathers of his country