

**Content: Social Studies, Biography**  
**Strategy: Determine Importance (Sequencing, Problem/Solution, Cause/Effect)**  
**Book: George Washington A Picture Book Biography**  
**Author: James Cross Giblin**  
**Setting: Whole Group, Small Group**

<p><b>Strategy Definition:</b> (post in classroom)</p>	<p>Determine Importance is a strategy used to discriminate what is important from what is not. Proficient readers determine the most important ideas or main idea in a text. They focus on the elements of the text that foster understanding such as problem/solution, cause/effect, main idea/details and sequencing important events. Students use text structure and text features that signal items and ideas of central importance such as bold print, illustrations, charts and tables. Students should focus on first identifying important words, then important sentences and finally important concepts.</p>
<p><b>Standard:</b></p>	<p>The International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English published Standards for the English Language Arts.  3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g. sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p>Students will determine what is important in the text from what is not important to determine main ideas and themes of the text. Students will sequence important events in the life of George Washington.</p>
<p><b>Materials:</b></p>	<p>Book: George Washington A Picture Book Biography, Reader's Toolkit, timeline, Teacher's Guide, Activity Book, Reader's Toolkit, custom sticky notes</p>
<p><b>Connect:</b>  <b>Before Reading</b>  <b>Establish a Purpose</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this lesson is to sequence the important dates and events in the life of George Washington and determine the most important events and details. Biographies contain a great deal of information about the person's life, accomplishments and character traits. Begin with a timeline to organize the important dates and events. The challenge for the students is how to determine what is the most important. This is usually why the person is famous or well known. Model a real life connection to an important person. It could be yourself or someone you know. Discuss the sequence of events that lead up to the accomplishments. As a teacher, the sequence of events may include having a favorite teacher in school as a role model, going to college and then becoming a teacher. Read the title and author and do a "book walk". Students will need a copy of a timeline and their</p>

	<p>Reader's toolkit. The dates on the timeline can be referenced on page 43 of the book. Model the 1<sup>st</sup> event on the timeline, George's birth.</p> <p>*Note: Do not use a purple sticky note for every event on the timeline. Ask the students to write directly on the timeline.</p> <p>*Note: This lesson may take a few days due to the amount of information.</p>
<p><b>Model:</b></p> <p><b>During Reading</b></p>	<p>Continue to read the story. The following pages are the stopping points for the events on the timeline.</p> <p>Page 9: April 12, 1773, Page 10: July 26, 1752, Page 12: Nov. 6, 1752, Page 15: Jan. 6, 1759, Page 16: April 19, 1775, Page 16: June 16, 1775, Page 18: July 4, 1776, Page 18: Dec. 25-56, 1776, Page 20: winter of 1777-78, Page 22: October 19, 1781, Page 24: April 18, 1783, Page 29: February 4, 1789, Page 32: Dec. 5, 1792, Page 37: March 1797, Page 38: Dec. 14, 1799.</p> <p>Throughout the story it is important to discuss character traits. Page 13 refers to George Washington's bravery. Page 16... his leadership. Page 20...his kindness.</p> <p>Page 24 is a good cause/effect lesson. Because of his positive character traits he was loved by the American people.</p>
<p><b>Check for Understanding:</b></p> <p><b>After Reading</b></p>	<p>At the end of the story review the timeline with the students. Ask the students to answer the first question under Determine Importance on the Reader's Toolkit. What are the Main Ideas and Important Details? The main idea of a biography is why the person is well know or famous. Ask the students what they think are the most important events on the timeline that make George Washington a famous person. Invite students to write and share their responses on their purple sticky notes. If needed, model that George Washington is famous for two things: First General and Commander in Chief of the Continental army and First President of the United States. This is the main idea. Ask the students to list a couple details under the main idea that lead up to the important event. Post students responses on a T chart or workbook activity page.</p>
<p><b>Reminder:</b></p>	<p><b><i>Strategy instruction takes time, be consistent and supportive.</i></b></p>

# Important Dates in George Washington's Life Timeline

Feb. 11, 1732	<u>George is born on a farm in Virginia.</u>
_____	April 12, 1743
_____	_____
July 26, 1752	_____
_____	November 6, 1752
_____	_____
January 6, 1759	_____
_____	April 19, 1775
_____	_____
June 16, 1775	_____
_____	July 4, 1776
_____	_____
Dec. 25-26, 1776	_____
_____	Winter of 1777-1778
_____	_____
October 19, 1781	_____
_____	April 18, 1783
_____	_____
February 4, 1789	_____
_____	December 5, 1792
_____	_____
March 1797	_____
_____	December 14, 1799