

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Founding Minds

**Directions:** Read the short biographies of three Founding Fathers. Then, answer the comprehension questions that follow.

### George Washington

George Washington led the American army to victory during the Revolutionary War and became the nation's first President. He believed in fairness, honesty, and setting an example for future leaders. Washington helped guide the new government and refused to become a king, showing his deep respect for democracy.

### Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was a writer, inventor, and one of the most creative minds of his time. He helped write the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Franklin also started America's first public library and fire department. His curiosity and clever inventions-like the lightning rod-made life safer and smarter for everyone.

### James Madison

James Madison was known as the "Father of the Constitution." He took detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention and helped shape how the U.S. government works today. Later, he became the fourth President of the United States. Madison believed that laws should protect both freedom and fairness for all citizens.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What was George Washington's role during the Revolutionary War?
2. Why did Washington refuse to become a king?
3. Name two inventions or ideas Benjamin Franklin is known for.
4. What nickname was given to James Madison, and why?
5. What do all three Founding Fathers have in common?