

Presidents' Day

While Presidents' Day falls between Washington's and Lincoln's birthday it honors all U.S. presidents. Nevertheless, these two men were arguably our greatest presidents. Both led our country through the most difficult times, and made many mistakes along the way. Neither was a genius, but they preserved our country for future generations.



Of the nine battles George Washington fought as a general, he won only three. However, he learned from his mistakes, and was ready for the **Battle of Yorktown** — the decisive battle of the Revolutionary War. Washington was also known for his impeccable character, trustworthiness, and charisma. In addition, he surrounded himself with people whom he could rely on when he didn't possess the necessary skills himself.

President Lincoln led our country through the devastating Civil War. He was willing to accept credit for his successes, but he also owned up to his failures. He used humor

effectively when there was need to diminish tension, or to allow people to relax. Abraham Lincoln also had a remarkable knack for sharing his vision with others. **He did not surround himself with people who agreed with him.** Rather, he cultivated people with different beliefs and ideas.

While both President Washington and President Lincoln had strong egos, they did not let them get in the way of accomplishing their goals. They recognized the value of working as a team, rather than trying to figure out ways to silence their opposition. Lincoln once wrote about an advisor, "I don't like that man. Must get to know him better."



In this era of government gridlock, there is a lot we can learn from these two presidents.