



George Mason

Facts About George Mason

Read these facts about George Mason and then see if you can find the bold-face words in the George Mason word find.

Fairfax Resolves

After the British government closed the port of Boston in 1774, George Mason and George Washington wrote the **Fairfax Resolves**. They said the colonies should send a **petition** to King George, asking that Britain change its treatment of them. They suggested a policy of **nonimportation** of British goods, hoping British merchants (who would be hurt if colonists stopped buying their goods) would tell the King and Parliament to do what the colonies wanted. The Fairfax Resolves included an indirect **threat of war** by saying if Britain did not make the changes the colonies wanted “There can be but one Appeal.”

Seal of the Commonwealth

George Mason was in charge of the **committee** that designed the seal. The standing figure is Virtus (weer- toos), the Roman symbol for bravery. The figure lying down is **Tyranny**. He has a broken chain in his left hand and a whip in his right. The words underneath are Latin for *Thus always to Tyrants*.



Virginia Declaration of Rights

Mason emphasized that all **power** came from the people, who had the right to reform, change, or abolish a government that was inadequate and not serving the people. He said we would not have privileged political classes who could inherit a powerful position, such as England had in their House of Lords. In addition he listed **rights** such the right to a speedy and fair **trial** by **jury**, the right not to have to give evidence against yourself, and the rights to **freedom** of the **press** and freedom of **religion**.

Constitutional Convention

George Mason was one of the **framers** of our Constitution, even though he didn't sign it. A member of the Virginia delegation to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, he was one of the most involved and active delegates. He helped forge the **Great Compromise** in which our legislature would have two parts, the **House of Representatives** where representation would be based on population, and the **Senate** in which each state had two votes. He carefully helped plan the role of the House of Representatives, giving them the power to originate money **bills**, pushed to **elect** them held every two years, and wanted to change the number of representatives from a state as its population changed. He also fought to give voting rights to all men, not just property owners, and to make sure new states that entered the union came in as equals to the original **states**.

Although his contributions to the drafting of our Constitution were great, in the end he refused to **sign** it. He had a long list of **objections** but the first was that There is no Declaration of Rights. He was also upset that the Constitution did not end the slave trade, saying “Every master of **slaves** is born a petty tyrant.” A third worry was about the Convention's decision to have a simple majority rather than a two thirds **vote** in Congress for economic matters. He was afraid that this would hurt the South by giving a strong advantage to northern shipping interests.



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George Mason Word-find Puzzle

Print this page and find the hidden words.

P F R E E D O M L W F W Z S R
O B S N D T W N I R B I L L S
W A T A L I A O S C S A P A X
E V H G J S R N X R J T S V R
R Z R F U B Q I E N E H M E E
T G E O R G E M A S O N L S P
I R A V Y F A P L N U Y T G R
R E T S O R G O T K E I N S E
F A I R F A X R E S O L V E S
S T A T E S U T S V C Q H N E
E C G O T Y R A N U D F T A N
E O B X H E F T Y R A N N Y T
T M G E K O Y I F E I S K E A
T P E T I T I O N L V N Y L T
I R P J C R S N I I U I E E I
M O Q D P I Z R I G H T S C V
M M L R H A O T S I T C U T E
O I E U A L T X V O T E O G S
C S I G N T D H J N Z I H Y O
S E A L V O B J E C T I O N S

**BILLS
COMMITTEE
ELECT
FAIRFAX RESOLVES
FRAMERS
FREEDOM
GEORGE MASON
GREAT COMPROMISE
HOUSE**

**JURY
NONIMPORTATION
OBJECTIONS
PETITION
POWER
PRESS
RELIGION
REPRESENTATIVES
RIGHTS**

**SEAL
SENATE
SIGN
SLAVES
STATES
THREAT
TRIAL
TYRANNY
VOTE
WAR**