

# The Making of a President

## Scientists and Artists Build Washington

Photography did not exist in George Washington's lifetime. So how do we know what he looked like? Recently, a team of experts led by scientist Jeffrey Schwartz used historical **evidence**, or clues, to build a statue of Washington at age 45. Here's how the team did it.

1. The team began by **scanning**<sup>1</sup> a **mold**<sup>2</sup> of Washington's face into a computer. A **sculptor**<sup>3</sup> had made the mold of the 53-year-old Washington's face in 1785. Washington's **dentures**, or false teeth, showed the shape of his mouth.
2. Once the team had an idea of what Washington's face looked like at age 53, sculptors re-created the face to show what it would have looked like at age 45. The nose and ears continue to grow during adulthood, so those features were sculpted smaller.
3. Painters added color to the statue based on historical documents that depict Washington with pale skin and grayish blue eyes.
4. The statue was placed in an exhibit that shows Washington leading his troops during the long winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1777.

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<sup>1</sup> **scanning:** using a machine to create an image of an object so the image can be put into a computer file

<sup>2</sup> **mold:** mask made from the imprint of a person's face

<sup>3</sup> **sculptor:** a person who makes sculptures (carving or modeling plastic, stone or metal into art)