



Washington's Letter to Martha

He sent this letter to tell her of his appointment as leader of the Continental Army....

Read the letter and answer the questions on the next page. Explain why you answered the question the way you did by quoting part of the letter that you feel supports your answer.

Philadelphia June 18th 1775

My Dearest,

I am now set down to write to you on a subject which fills me with inexpressable concern—and this concern is greatly aggravated and increased when I reflect on the uneasiness I know it will give you—It has been determined in Congress, that the whole Army raised for the defence of the American Cause shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the Command of it. You may believe me my dear Patcy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment I have used every endeavour in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the Family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my Capacity and that I should enjoy more real happiness and felicity in one month with you, at home, than I have the most distant prospect of reaping abroad, if my stay was to be Seven times Seven years. But, as it has been a kind of destiny that has thrown me upon this Service, I shall hope that my undertaking of it, is designed to answer some good purpose... it was utterly out of my power to refuse this appointment without exposing my Character to such censures as would have reflected dishonour upon myself, and given pain to my friends.... I shall rely therefore, confidently, on that Providence which has heretofore preservd, & been bountiful to me...."

Do you think George Washington wanted to be the head of the army? Why?

Do you think George Washington enjoyed war? Why?

How do you think George Washington felt about his wife and family? Why?

Do you think George Washington thought his job as leader of the army was going to be easy?
