

Name: _____

Date: _____

Let's Practice TEXT STRUCTURES

CHRONOLOGICAL/SEQUENCE

BUILDING THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Before he became the first president of the United States, General George Washington led the colonies to victory against England in The Revolutionary War (1775 - 1783). When the war ended, Congress wanted a statue built in the nation's capital to honor the war hero. However, having only newly won their independence from England, the colonies didn't have an official capital, yet.

George Washington was elected as the first US president in 1789. He chose a location on the Potomac River as the location of the nation's capital (known today as Washington, DC). When the architect drew up the blueprints for the capitol, he left a spot for the Washington Monument. Building a new capital city was expensive. To save money, President Washington scrapped the idea of building his memorial.

George Washington died in 1799. Renewed interest in building his memorial arose 34 years later. The year 1832 marked the centennial (100-year) anniversary of Washington's birth. A group of citizens formed the Washington National Monument Society. They held a design contest and collected donations to fund the memorial's construction. Architect Robert Mills won the contest. His design featured a 600-foot-tall, four-sided tower surrounded by a Greek temple-like structure with statues of 30 war heroes and founding fathers inside.

The first stone of the tower was laid on July 4, 1848. Six years into construction they ran out of funding. Work on the memorial stopped, leaving an unfinished tower of 152 feet. It stood incomplete throughout the Civil War (1861 - 1865). After the war, the focus was on rebuilding the country, not on completing a memorial.

The 100-year anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1876 reawakened interest in completing Washington's memorial. President Ulysses S. Grant authorized the completion of the Washington Monument. The project would be overseen and funded by Congress. Based on feedback from architects and building engineers, the temple-like structure was eliminated, and the height of the tower was lowered to 555 feet.

Construction of the Washington Monument was completed on Dec. 6, 1884. An official dedication ceremony was held on February 21, 1885, the day before Washington's birthday. In 1910, a law was passed stating that no building in Washington, DC could be taller than the Washington Monument.

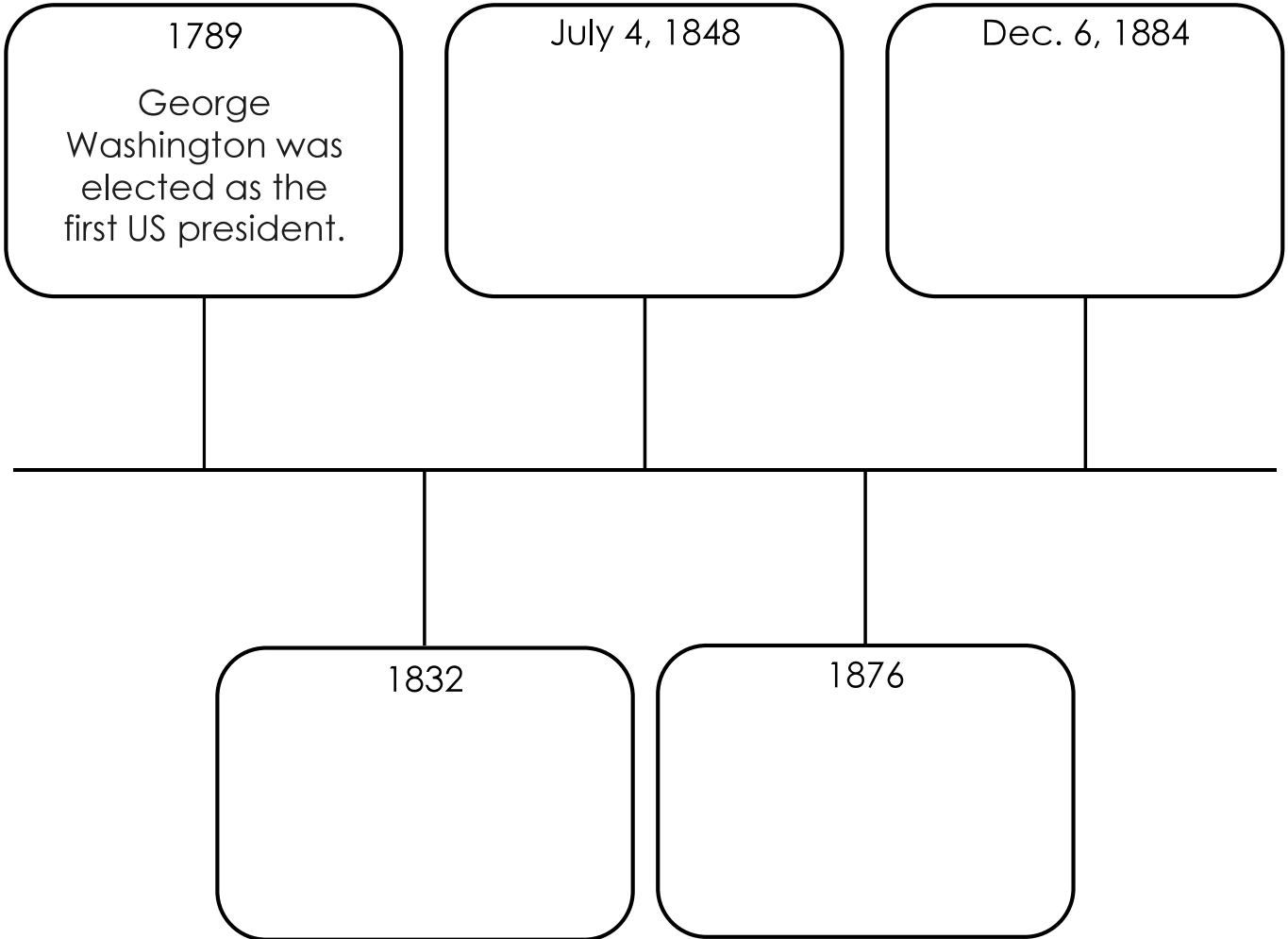


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TEXT STRUCTURE ➡ Chronological/Sequence

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage "Building the Washington Monument" and fill in the timeline below.



List key words and phrases from the passage that show the text structure is chronological order/sequence.

What was the author's main purpose for writing this passage?