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Alexander Hamilton

You may know Alexander Hamilton from his musical, Hamilton, but as you may know he did much more than sing show tunes. Hamilton was born January 11, 1775/77 in Nevis, British West Indies. Hamilton was a New York delegate for the Constitutional Convention in 1787, one of the main writers of the Federalist papers, and was the first secretary of the treasury of the United States. He was the champion of a powerful central government. He died while fighting Aaron Burr.

Alexander Hamilton was born to James Hamilton and Rachel Fawcett Lavine. James Hamilton left his family and abandoned them in 1765. When Hamilton was 11 he was working as a clerk in her mother’s shop. When his mother died he became a ward to his mothers family. In 1772 his skill and engaging ability got him a job as manager instead of his bookkeeper title. Later he was sent to preparatory school by his friends in Elizabethtown, New Jersey and in fall of 1773 he enrolled and went to King’s College in New York. In school he was very ambitious and successful with good grades, but that was interrupted with the revolt brewing against England. In the years of 1774-1775 he wrote three influential pamphlets which were in agreement with the Continental Congress about boycotting British goods.

In the spring of 1776 his friends convinced Hamilton to be commissioned a captain in the provincial artillery. He organized his own group and during the Battle of Trenton his men prevented under Lord Cornwallis from getting across the Raritan River and stopped them from getting to George Washington’s main army. In February of 1777 Washington asked Hamilton to become an aide-de-camp with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In the four years he was with Washington’s company he grew close to the general and was trusted to correspond with him. He was sent on important missions for the military and thanks to his bilingualism of english and french.

Hamilton married Elizabeth Schuyler on the 14th of December, 1780. In 1781 Hamilton left Washington after an argument with the general. Washington gave Hamilton field command and he led a successful assault during the Siege of Yorktown which helped lead to the surrender of General Cornwallis. After the Siege of Yorktown he was selected to be a delegate to the Confederate Congress in the year 1782. Hamilton was one of New York’s delegates during the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He also helped James Madison and John Jay in writing the *Federalist Papers,* writing most of the essays, writing 51 out of the 85, James Madison wrote 29, and John Jay wrote 5. After George Washington became president he made Hamilton secretary of the treasury. After Hamilton left the cabinet he was still politically active for a while.

Alexander Hamilton was killed during a duel with Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804 after getting shot and mortally wounded. The amazing things he did, such as fighting in the American Revolution, wrote the draft for the constitution, established the financial system, created the federalist party, and wrote most of the *Federalist Papers*. He is remembered for his great works in our day to day life by how America is functioning and will always be remembered as one of the most influential founding fathers.

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