

MEET THE CHIEF!

A FUN LOOK AT THE U.S. PRESIDENTS



JOEL F. KING

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Dedication: To my parents, Joe and Margaret King, for inspiring my love for history.



Joel King is a homeschool dad with a passion for creating educational resources with unique twists. He loves to play games with his three boys and believes that children retain knowledge better when having fun. Joel has a B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky and works as a state auditor. He lives with his wife and three boys in western Kentucky, where they have homeschooled for 25 years.





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Introduction

Since the first presidential inauguration in 1789, the United States has sought strong leadership. But just who can be president and what can they do?

Who can be president?

According to Article II of the U.S. Constitution, the president of the United States must

- ☆ be a natural-born citizen of the United States;
- ☆ be at least 35 years old;
- ☆ have been a permanent resident in the United States for at least 14 years.



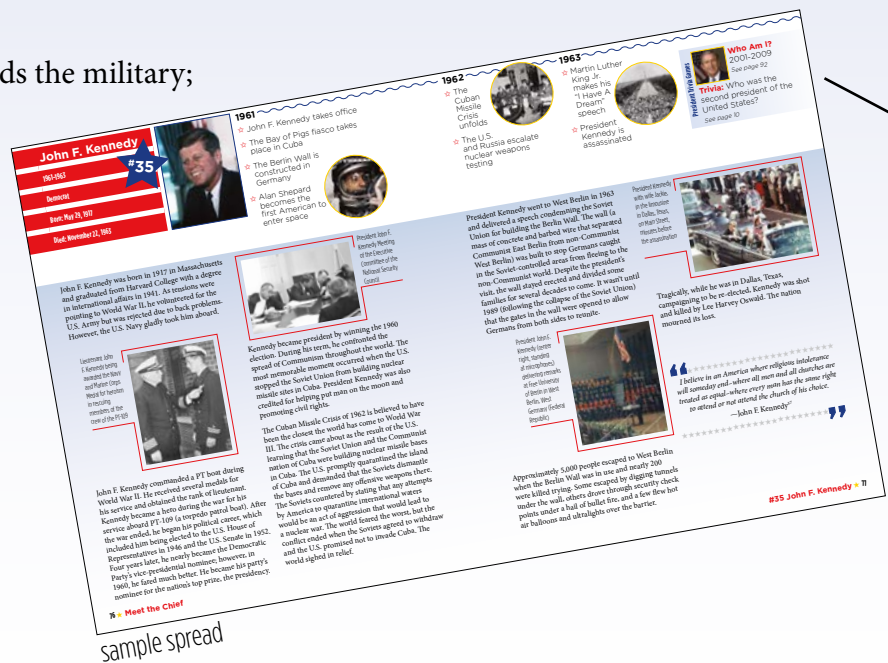
What is the president's job?

The U.S. government is composed of three branches.

- ☆ The legislative branch consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Together, the Senate and House are called Congress, and their primary task is to write laws.
- ☆ The judicial branch consists of the federal courts and the Supreme Court. Their primary job is to interpret the law.
- ☆ The executive branch is made up of the president, the vice president, and others who help the president. Their primary job is to execute the law.

As head of the executive branch, the president has a lot of power and responsibility. The president

- ☆ can sign or veto legislation;
- ☆ is commander-in-chief and commands the military;
- ☆ takes care that the laws are faithfully executed;
- ☆ appoints ambassadors and federal officers;
- ☆ nominates federal judges;
- ☆ can grant pardons and reprieves.



The Presidential Oath

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

A note about our presidents

Each president is unique in their faith and beliefs. As you learn more about the presidents of the United States, you may find that not all of them followed godly or biblical principles; they made mistakes, as well as accomplished great things. We hope as you learn about each president, you will be inspired to learn more about them and America, and will think of ways you might contribute to this great nation. Maybe one day you will become the president of the United States of America!



White House press briefing room



Who Am I?

2001-2009

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Trivia: Who was the second president of the United States?

See page 10

Two trivia games in one!

Turn to any president's page and look for the President Trivia Games at the top. Choose whether you want to guess who the president is in the picture, with his dates as president, or if you want to answer the trivia question. You can just do one or two at a time, or go through the whole book from beginning to end to see how many you know!

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George Washington

1789–1797

Independent

Born: February 22, 1732

Died: December 14, 1799

#1



1788–1789

- ☆ George Washington is elected America's first president
- ☆ Washington sworn in as America's first president



George Washington was born in Virginia when Virginia was still an English colony. When he was young, Washington became a surveyor and a soldier in the English army. Over time, he (like many colonists) became tired of being ruled by a king and wanted America to be independent.



George Washington during his surveyor days

George Washington wearing his colonel's uniform of the Virginia Regiment from the French and Indian War



Though Washington became a hero, he didn't try to capitalize on his popularity. Instead, he returned to his farm in Virginia. A few years later, however, his country needed his services one more time. His country needed a president!

On July 9, 1776, Washington led an American Independence celebration in New York City, reading the Declaration of Independence to the troops and sending copies of it to generals in the Continental Army.

When the colonies finally decided to break free from English rule, Washington (who was general of the Continental Army) was chosen to lead the cause. The ensuing war was tough and lasted seven years, but through General Washington's leadership, the colonists won their freedom in 1783.



George Washington and the Continental Army crossing the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War

1790

- ☆ The U.S. capital is moved from New York City to Philadelphia
- ☆ Bill of Rights adopted, ensuring freedom of religion



1796-1797

- ☆ America takes control of Detroit from the British
- ☆ Washington retires to Virginia after serving his last term



President Trivia Games



Who Am I?

1801-1809

See page 12

Trivia: Who was president during the Civil War?

See page 38



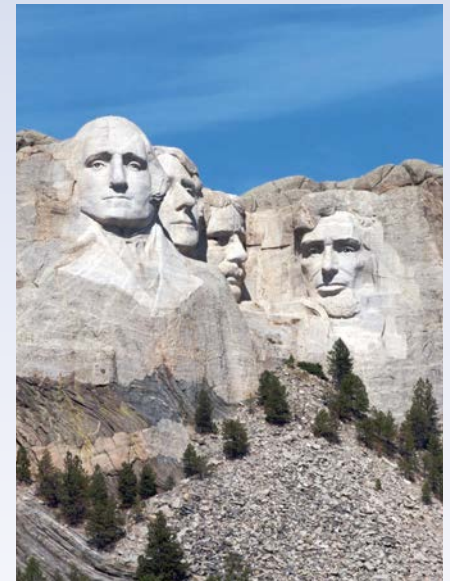
General George Washington Resigning His Commission

After the U.S. Constitution became the law of the land, Americans needed to select a president that they could trust, and they chose George Washington. President Washington served four years and was re-elected for a second term. After his second term ended, he returned to his home in Virginia.

John Adams was Washington's chief opponent in both elections. In those days, Adams became America's vice president because he received the second most votes.

George Washington died peacefully on December 14, 1799, from complications of an infection during a cold winter.

George Washington is often called the "father" of our country. He is one of the four presidents featured on Mount Rushmore.



Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States



For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

—George Washington¹



John Adams

1797–1801

Federalist

Born: October 30, 1735

Died: July 4, 1826

#2



1797

- ☆ John Adams takes office as new president
- ☆ *Old Ironsides* sets sail to defend America



Birthplace of President John Adams, in Quincy, Massachusetts



John Adams, the oldest of three sons, was born in 1735 in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts. At the age of 16 he went to Harvard College. He became a schoolteacher after he graduated and then a successful lawyer. In 1764, he married Abigail Smith and they had six children.

In 1770, John Adams became the lawyer for a number of British soldiers who were being tried for murder after they fired upon American colonists in what is called the Boston Massacre, which led to the deaths of five colonists. Despite local anger toward the soldiers, Adams saved all the men on trial from the hangman's rope. Hard feelings for Adams didn't last long because, a few years later, Massachusetts chose him as one of its representatives to the First and Second Continental Congresses!

John Adams served as George Washington's vice president during Washington's two terms. When Washington retired, the country cast ballots for a new president, and Adams was its pick. Shortly after Adams took office, our nation was thrust into a "quasi-war" with France.

By 1796, France and Great Britain were engaged in a war that had been going on for nearly ten years. France began capturing American ships because France saw America as a British ally. Neither the U.S. nor France ever officially declared war on the other. President Adams and many U.S. leaders feared a French invasion and built up the army and navy, but France didn't attack American soil and the United States remained safe.

Did you know that John Adams is considered one of America's Founding Fathers? In 1776, he was the foremost debater in trying to get the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress . . . and he signed it too!



The Boston Massacre as portrayed by Paul Revere

1799

-
- A circular portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte in military uniform, standing and holding a sword. He is wearing a grey coat with red lapels and cuffs, white breeches, and a black bicorne hat. He is holding a sword in his right hand. The background shows a battle scene with soldiers and smoke. The portrait is set within a yellow circular frame with a blue wavy border.

1800

-



President Trivia Games

See page 94



A painting of the USS Constitution, a three-masted sailing ship, sailing on a choppy sea under a cloudy sky. The ship is shown from a side profile, with its sails partially set. An American flag is visible on the stern. In the distance, another smaller sailing ship is visible on the horizon.

★★★★★

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Thomas Jefferson

1801-1809

Democratic-Republican

Born: April 13, 1743

Died: July 4, 1826

#3



1801

- ★ Thomas Jefferson takes office as new president
- ★ The First Barbary War begins
- ★ The Cane Ridge, Kentucky, Camp Meeting



Jefferson was the designing architect of his home, Monticello, in Virginia



Thomas Jefferson was born in 1743 in Virginia. He was the third of ten children. When he was 14 years old, his father died, and young Thomas inherited 5,000 acres of land and dozens of slaves. In 1772, he married Martha Wayles Skelton. The two had six children together. Tragically, one child died at birth.

Jefferson became the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. The document was written in 1776 and stated that the 13 colonies were finished with being ruled by the British and were now free to govern as they pleased. Of course, England was outraged with the colonists, and the Revolutionary War soon began.

Map of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase highlighted (in white)



The United States Declaration of Independence

In the election of 1800, Jefferson's political party was so confident of victory over President John Adams that it selected two candidates to run (Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr). But when the votes were cast and the electoral college met to select a winner, the unthinkable happened. Jefferson and Burr were tied with 73 votes each! According to the Constitution, if there was a tie, the U.S. House of Representatives would have to meet and vote for a winner. And vote they did! Thirty-five times the House voted, and each time Jefferson and Burr got the same number of votes. Finally, in the 36th vote, Federalist Alexander Hamilton broke party ranks and cast the deciding vote for Jefferson. Jefferson

1803-1804

- ☆ The U.S. makes the Louisiana Purchase from France

★ Ohio becomes the 17th state



1805

☆ Lewis and Clark
begin their
exploration
of the
West



Who Am I?

2009-2017

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President Trivia Games

Trivia: Which president was assassinated in Dallas, Texas?

See page 76

became president and, thanks to Hamilton, Aaron Burr had to settle with being vice president. This became one of the most disputed elections in history.

In 1804, Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton dueled each other in New Jersey. Hamilton shot first and missed. Burr, who was still vice president at the time, returned fire. His musket ball struck Hamilton in the lower abdomen and, a few moments later, Hamilton died. The duel stemmed from the 1800 presidential election and was legal at that time.

Four years later, he was elected to a second term. During Jefferson's presidency, the U.S. made the Louisiana Purchase from France. The United States nearly doubled in size when it made the Louisiana Purchase from France for 15 million dollars. Over time, the United States would expand to reach the Pacific coast. Jefferson retired after his second term ended in 1809.



Duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on the same day? The date was July 4, 1826.

“

God who gave us life gave us liberty.
And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure
when we have removed their only firm basis,
a conviction in the minds of the people
that these liberties are of the Gift of God?

—Thomas Jefferson³

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Jefferson
Memorial in
Washington, D.C.



James Madison

1809–1817

Democratic-Republican

Born: March 16, 1751

Died: June 28, 1836

#4



1809–1810

- ☆ James Madison takes office
- ☆ The U.S. Census counts 7.2 million Americans



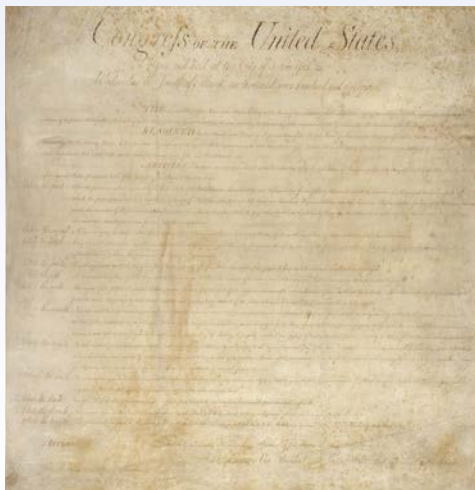
Madison wrote the Constitution at his estate near Orange, Virginia, called Montpelier.



James Madison, the oldest of 12 children, was born in Virginia in 1751. In his youth, he studied under a Scottish teacher and a reverend. In 1769, he began studies at what is now Princeton University and graduated two years later. Madison was only 25 years old when the Revolutionary War began. He served in the Virginia state legislature for most of the war and became a friend of Thomas Jefferson.

After the Revolutionary War, Madison became more active as an American politician and political philosopher. He was the principal author of the U.S. Constitution and a key architect of the Bill of Rights. Because of this, he is often called both the “Father of the Constitution” and the “Father of the Bill of Rights.”

Madison’s work was appreciated by many, and he was chosen by President Jefferson to be America’s secretary of state. He served in this position until the end of Jefferson’s final term in office, and his popularity continued to grow.



The Bill of Rights, twelve articles of amendment to the to the United States Constitution proposed in 1789



The capture of USS *President* was the last naval duel to take place during the War of 1812.

After Jefferson retired, James Madison ran for president in 1808 and won. He also won again four years later. During his tenure as commander in chief, he had to deal with one of the most trying times in U.S. history, the War of 1812. Battles against the British were fought in Canada, the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and on American soil.

The War of 1812 is also known as America’s second war of independence with the British

1812-1813

- ☆ The War of 1812 begins
- ☆ James Madison begins his second term as war continues



1814-1815

- ☆ Washington, D.C., is captured and burned by the British
- ☆ America wins the War of 1812



President Trivia Games



Who Am I?

1913-1921

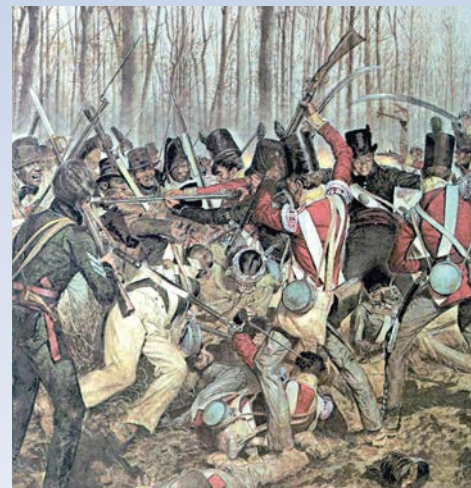
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Trivia: Who was elected president a record four times?

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Empire. Francis Scott Key penned the words to the American National Anthem during this war. The war officially began with an American declaration. Why were the Americans upset? First, Britain introduced trade restrictions that impeded American trade with France. Secondly, Britain began forcing American citizens to serve in the Royal Navy. Finally, Britain began supporting American Indians who were attacking American settlers in what are now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

The British Burning Washington



American soldiers in civilian clothes take on the British in the Battle of New Orleans.

Did you know that the Battle of New Orleans took place after the war was over? Due to poor means of communication, the commanders on both sides didn't receive news of the war's end until after the battle was fought!

The British struck a huge blow during the war by invading Washington, D.C., and burning the White House to the ground. The U.S. countered by successfully defending Baltimore and routing the English at the Battle of New Orleans. In the end, the United States won the war, and Britain realized it would never regain control of its old colonies. In the end, President Madison led the U.S. to victory and put an end to England's threat of taking over the country. He retired after his second term ended.



The belief in a God All Powerful wise and good, is so essential to the moral order of the world and to the happiness of man, that arguments which enforce it cannot be drawn from too many sources.

—James Madison⁴



James Monroe

1817–1825

Democratic-Republican

Born: April 28, 1758

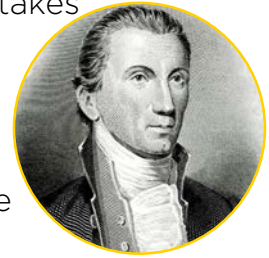
Died: July 4, 1831

#5



1817–1818

- ☆ James Monroe takes office as new president
- ☆ In Canada, the 49th Parallel is set between the U.S. and Britain



James Monroe was born in Virginia in 1758. As a student, he excelled in many subjects. When he was 16, he enrolled in the College of William and Mary, but the atmosphere leading to the Revolutionary War compelled Monroe to quit his studies and fight for America's freedom.

The Capture of the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton. On the left, the severely wounded Lieutenant James Monroe is helped by Dr. John Riker.



Shortly after the battles of Lexington and Concord in June of 1775, Monroe joined 24 men and raided an arsenal where they took muskets and swords. He later joined the Continental Army and served with distinction at the Battle of Trenton. After the war, he studied law under Thomas Jefferson and married

Elizabeth Kortright Monroe, wife of James Monroe



Elizabeth Kortright. As time passed, he became a leading candidate for the presidency.

With the Federalist Party in disarray, James Monroe became president by winning the elections of 1816 and 1820. In office, he began what is known as the "Monroe Doctrine," which stated that the U.S. would no longer tolerate European interference or colonization in both North and South America. The U.S. also purchased Florida from Spain for five million dollars, which, in turn, prompted war between America and the Seminole Indians living there. President Monroe retired after his second term ended.

1822 map of Florida Territory, published less than a year after Florida was ceded to the U.S. by Spain



The United States saw its borders with neighboring nations better defined while James Monroe was president. In the northwest, the U.S. and Britain established the 49th parallel as the border between

1821-1822

- ☆ Missouri becomes a state
 - ☆ Florida becomes a U.S. territory
- 



Who Am I?

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The American Colonization Society (ACS) was established in Washington, D.C., in 1816 for the purpose of returning freed African American slaves to Africa. It was founded by a small group of men, including Paul Cuffee, who captained voyages to Sierra Leone where he helped some African Americans establish a new colony.



The colony of
Freetown in
Sierra Leone

In 1821, the society began transporting more freed African Americans to other areas along Africa's west coast. With the help of the ACS, these new colonists pulled together, grew in power, and founded the Republic of Liberia. Without a doubt

A beach in
Monrovia, the
capital of Liberia



this new nation was unique to Africa. It modeled its government similar to that of the United States and even named its capital Monrovia, in honor of President James Monroe, who supported Liberia's existence.

4 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Our country may be likened to a new house.

*We lack many things, but we possess
the most precious of all — liberty!*

—James Monroe⁵

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
