

presidents of the *United States of America*

**"I was the 22nd
and 24th President
of the United
States and I am
the only president
to serve two
non-consecutive
terms."**



Grover Cleveland



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Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

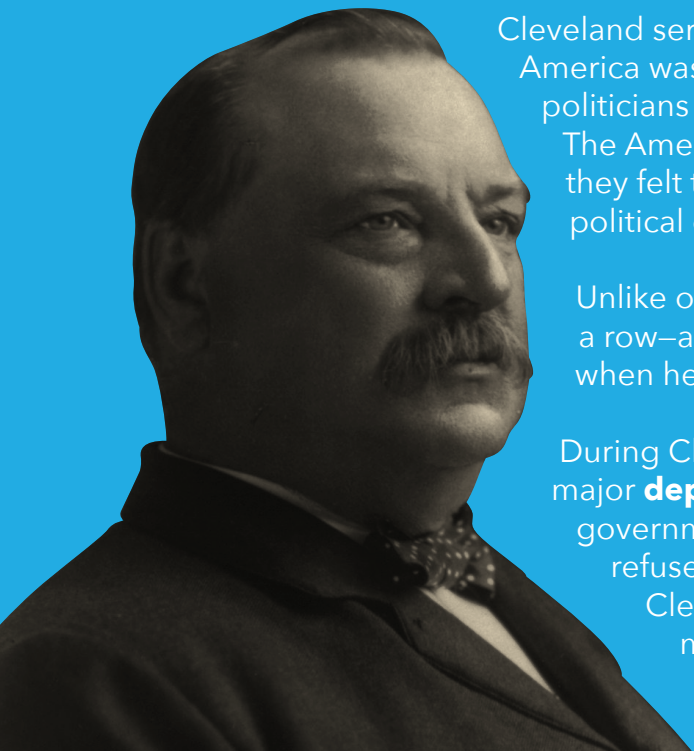
In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Grover Cleveland's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

President Cleveland's friends gave him a nickname because he had a big belly, but we need to find out what it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

Meet Grover Cleveland

Have you ever felt pressured by other people to do something you didn't think was right? This happened often to one of our presidents, Grover Cleveland. People wanted him to make the government more powerful and spend more taxpayer money. As a public official, however, Cleveland stood by his principles. He strongly believed that the people should be free to live their lives the way they wanted without the government telling them what to do. When he was president, he refused to give more power to the government even when politicians pressured him to do so.



Cleveland served as president **d**uring the **Gilded Age**, a time when America was rapidly growing into a very powerful country. Many politicians were abusing their power and stole government money. The American people elected Cleveland president twice because they felt that, unlike other leaders, he could be trusted with political office.

Unlike other two-term presidents, Cleveland didn't serve them in a row—after his first term in the White House, he was defeated when he ran for re-election, but won another term four years later.

During Cleveland's second term, the **economy** experienced a major **d**epression. People wanted Cleveland to make the government more powerful to address the situation, but he refused because he feared it would harm the country. Although Cleveland left the White House as an unpopular president, many still respected him for doing what he believed was right while in office.



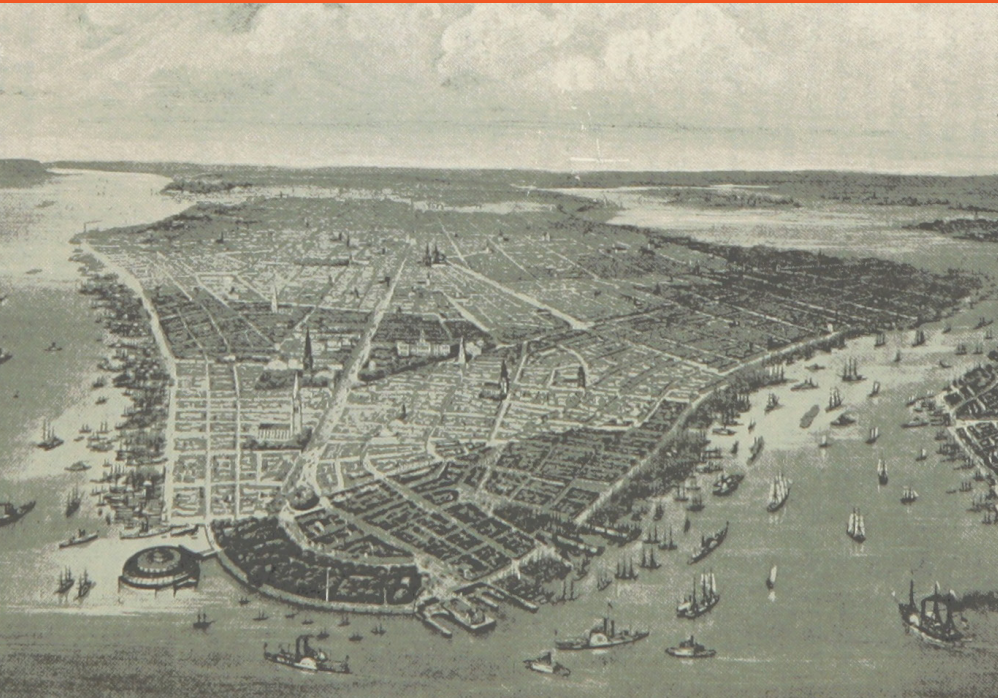
Young Grover

Cleveland was born on March 18, 1837 in Caldwell, New Jersey. Grover Cleveland came from a big family. He was born right in the middle—the fifth of nine children. His father, Richard Cleveland, was a church minister. Young Grover spent most of his childhood in central New York. He loved having fun, pulling pranks on others, and playing sports outdoors.

Grover went to school like most kids, but this changed when he was 16. His father died of a stomach ulcer, which meant Grover had to find a job to support his mother and siblings. It was a difficult time for the Clevelands, but Grover found a job as a teacher at the New York Institute for the Blind in New York City. One of his coworkers, Fanny Crosby, later wrote, “He seemed a very gentle, but intensely ambitious boy, and I felt that there were great things in store for him.”

Quote

“Whatever you do, tell the truth.”
- July 1884



Interesting Facts

- He was born with the name Stephen Grover Cleveland, but he went by Grover.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He was distantly related to Moses Cleaveland, who founded the city of Cleveland, Ohio.
- Since he had the reputation of being honest, he was nicknamed “Grover the Good.”
- He is the only president (as of 2023) to serve two non-**consecutive** terms.
- He is the first president to be married in the White House.
- He is the first president to have a child (his daughter Esther) born in the White House.
- He is the first president to be filmed.

A Rapid Rise to the Presidency

Even though Cleveland couldn't afford going to college, he decided to become a lawyer. At the time, it wasn't necessary to go to law school to become a lawyer—one could learn how to practice law by working at a law firm, which Cleveland did after moving to the City of Buffalo in Erie County, New York. He did, however, have to **pass the bar** to officially be a lawyer, which he did in 1858, when he was 22 years old.

Cleveland gained a reputation for being a hardworking, honest attorney. He also enjoyed socializing with others and going hunting and fishing. The people of Erie County were impressed by his work and elected him as their sheriff in 1870. Cleveland served for a few years and returned back to his law practice.

When it came to politics, Grover Cleveland supported the **Democratic Party** because he agreed with their stance that the government shouldn't have too much power or spend too much money. The Democrats in Buffalo knew he was a man of integrity, so they chose him as

their candidate for mayor in 1881. Cleveland won the election and, as mayor, he had the power to **veto**, or **re**ject, wasteful spending and fight corruption, which often originated from a group called **Tammany Hall**. He did the same thing when he became Governor of New York in 1883. Since New York was a large and influential state, he received a lot of attention across the country and many people wanted him to run for President of the United States.

The Democrats chose him as their candidate for president in 1884 against the **Republican Party's** candidate James Blaine. It was a very divisive election and both sides ruthlessly attacked each other. The Republicans accused Cleveland of misbehaving in his personal life. People then and now still debate if Cleveland was as honest privately as he was publicly. Still, Grover Cleveland won the presidency by a very close margin. People were amazed that he had risen so quickly from mayor to Governor to president in just three years.

Quote

*"Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters."
- July 1886*



First Term as President

Cleveland was the first Democrat elected president in almost 30 years. Just as he did as mayor and Governor, he fought corruption and wasteful spending. He vetoed more bills from Congress than all previous presidents combined. He also wanted to deal with **Native Americans** fairly. When he heard that the previous president, Chester Arthur, had allowed white settlers to take away land from the Native Americans in the Dakota Territory, he reversed this decision so they could keep it.

Unlike most presidents, Cleveland had not married before moving into the White House. In 1886, during his second year as president, he married a young woman named Frances Folsom in the White House. They would end up having six children.



Quote

"A sensitive man is not happy as President. It is fight, fight, fight all the time."
- September 1908



Private Citizen

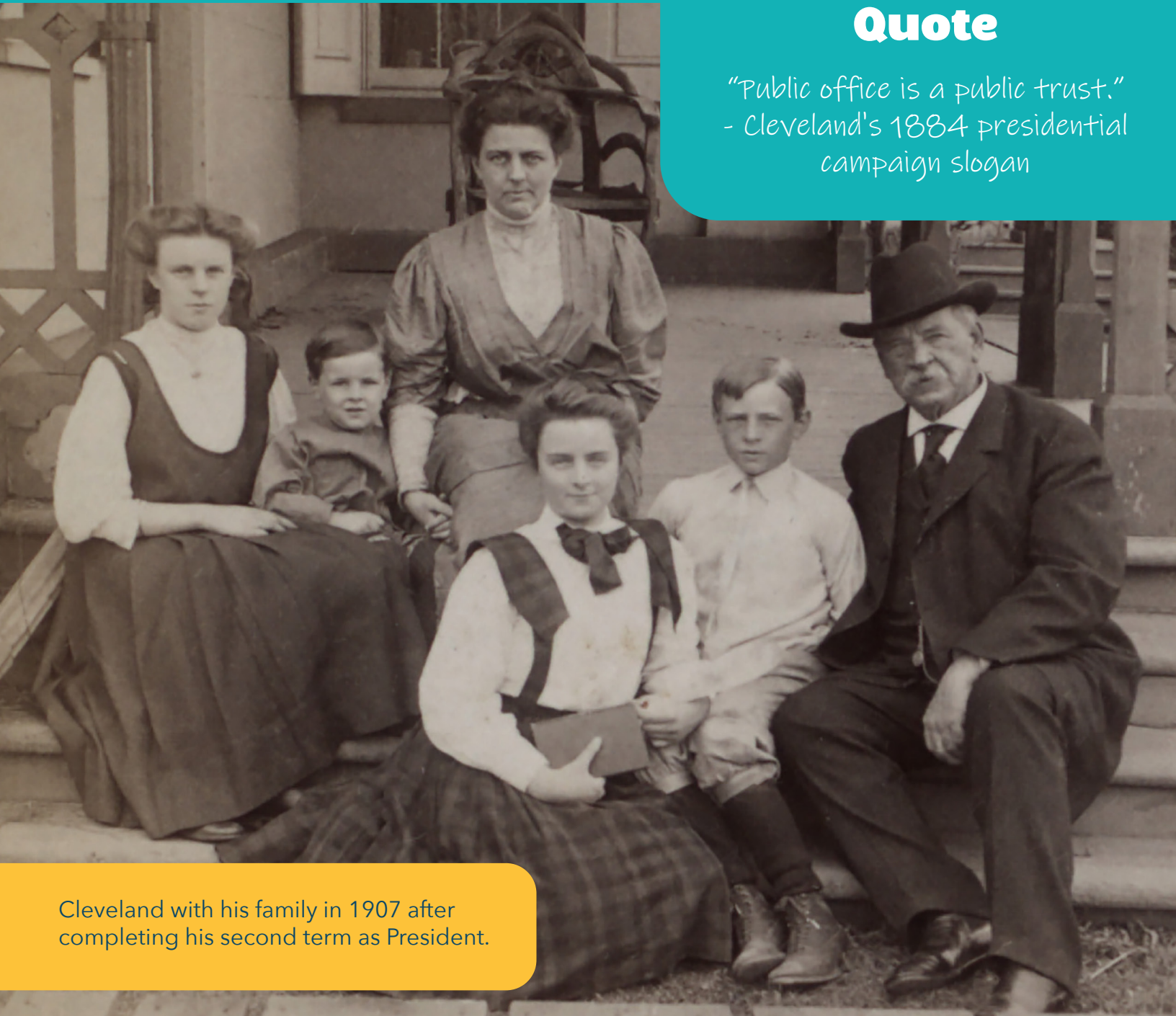
In 1888, Cleveland ran for re-election, but lost in a close race to Republican Benjamin Harrison. Just before the Clevelands left the White House, Frances told a staff member, "We are coming back four years from today."

Still, Cleveland had to wait four years until the next

election. In the meantime, he went back to New York and became a lawyer again. He also traveled often to a summer home in Bourne, Massachusetts where he spent hours fishing. He and Frances had their first child, Ruth, in 1891. Throughout that time, he kept his eye on the next presidential election.

Quote

*"Public office is a public trust."
- Cleveland's 1884 presidential
campaign slogan*



Cleveland with his family in 1907 after completing his second term as President.

Second Term as President

Frances's prediction came true. In 1892, Cleveland ran again for president against Harrison and won. Unfortunately, his second term was more difficult than his first. In 1893, the economy fell apart and the nation entered a major depression. Many Americans lost their jobs. Workers across the country were mad at their low salaries and several, including those working on railroads, went on **strike** and put up obstacles to prevent trains from operating. Some of the strikers **b**ecame violent and burned down trains. President Cleveland sent in military troops to stop them and restore order.

Cleveland's decision to stop the violence was popular among Americans, but they blamed him for the depression. They wanted him to use the **federal government** to do more, but Cleveland felt this wouldn't help restore the economy and might make things worse. In 1896, the Democrats decided to choose a different candidate for president, William Jennings Bryan. Republican William McKinley won the presidency that year, so Cleveland and his family left the White House in 1897.



Quote

*"Public officers are the servants and agents of the people, to execute the laws which the people have made."
- October 1882*

A Secret Operation

During his second term, President Cleveland discovered he had a cancerous tumor in his mouth and needed to have it removed. Since there was an economic depression, he feared that if the public found out the president was ill and no one was in charge, the economy would get worse.

To keep this surgery secret, he pretended to go on a cruise vacation and had the tumor surgically removed on a boat called the *Oneida* in 1893. The surgery was a success.

Retirement

After the presidency, Cleveland and his wife moved to Princeton, New Jersey. He became a **trustee** of Princeton University and worked with its president, Woodrow Wilson, who would become the 28th President of the United States in 1913. Cleveland kept busy giving public speeches on political issues. Many people began to appreciate him for his contributions as president.

In 1904, tragedy struck when his daughter Ruth died at the age of 12. Three years later, Cleveland's health began to fail. The following year, he suffered a heart attack and died in his Princeton home on June 24, 1908 at the age of 71.



Legacy

Most Americans remember Grover Cleveland as the only president who served two non-consecutive terms. It's often forgotten that many respected him for sticking to his principles in public office. They elected him twice as president and he won the most popular votes in all three of his presidential elections.

Cleveland also vetoed many bills that would have wasted taxpayer dollars on ineffective projects. He also dealt fairly with other nations and peoples, such as when he protected Native American rights to their land. It was unfortunate that a major depression ruined his second term. While many Americans disagreed with his decision to not expand the size of government, they knew that he was acting on principles that he strongly believed in.

Quote

*"I have tried so hard to do right."
- Cleveland's last words,
June 24, 1908*



A Chance Encounter

During his presidency, Grover Cleveland met with a friend and his five-year-old son at the White House. Cleveland patted the boy on the head and told him, "My little man, I am making a strange wish for you. It is that you may never be President of the United States." That little boy was named Franklin D. Roosevelt and, ironically, became the 32nd President of the United States.



President Cleveland was known for his:

The system in a country involving money and how goods are created and sold.

1

When a president rejects a bill by Congress so it doesn't become a law.

2

When two or more things or events happen without a gap in between.

3

When employees of a company or other organization stop working because they are unhappy with something about their jobs, such as how much they are paid.

4

To meet the requirements to become a lawyer.

5 THE

The time in American history from the 1870s to the 1900s when the nation's economy grew rapidly but many politicians were very dishonest and broke the law.

6

A person, usually in a larger group called a "board," who helps manage an organization.

7

Write the letters in highlighted boxes to find out the answer:

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7**

Glossary

Gilded Age: The time in American history from the 1870s to the 1900s when the nation's economy grew rapidly but many politicians were very dishonest and broke the law.

Economy: The system in a country involving money and how goods are created and sold.

Depression: A period of time when the economy is weak and people don't have much money and have a hard time finding jobs.

Consecutive: When two or more things or events happen without a gap in between.

Pass the Bar: To meet the requirements to become a lawyer.

Democratic Party: One of the two major parties in the United States; during Cleveland's lifetime, it opposed giving the government too much power. The present-day Democratic Party supports giving the government additional power.

Veto: When a president rejects a bill by Congress so it doesn't become a law.

Tammany Hall: An organization in New York City that gained political power through dishonest activities, especially by bribing public officials with money.

Republican Party: One of the two major parties in the United States; during Cleveland's lifetime, it supported laws that helped boost American businesses and manufacturers.

Native Americans: People whose ancestors lived in North America before European settlers arrived.

Strike: When employees of a company or other organization stop working because they are unhappy with something about their jobs, such as how much they are paid.

Federal Government: The people, mostly in Washington, D.C, that have authority over the whole country.

Trustee: A person, usually in a larger group called a "board," who helps manage an organization.

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Images: WikiCommons

Answers

PRESIDENT GROVER WAS KNOWN FOR:

1. ECONOMY
2. VETO
3. CONSECUTIVE
4. STRIKE
5. PASS THE BAR
6. GILDED AGE
7. TRUSTEE

COURAGE

GROVER CLEVELAND'S NICKNAME:

UNCLE JUMBO

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