

presidents of the *United States of America*

"I fought courageously in the Civil War and served as the 19th President of the United States."



Rutherford B. Hayes



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Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

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

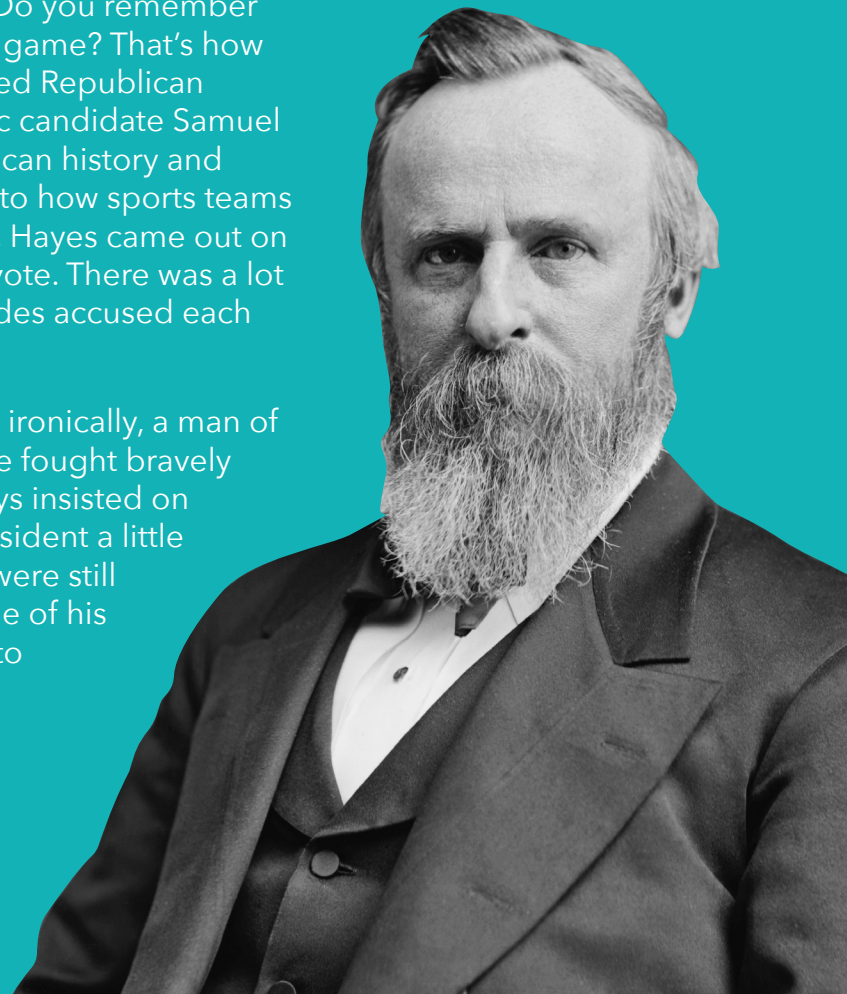
One of his soldiers during the Civil War became a close friend and, like Hayes, also ended up becoming President of the United States. We need your help to find out what his name was. Your task is to help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them 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 Rutherford B. Hayes

Have you ever watched a close sports game? Do you remember feeling nervous or excited as you watched the game? That's how America felt in the 1876 election, which featured Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes and Democratic candidate Samuel J. Tilden. The election was the closest in American history and lasted many months after election day, similar to how sports teams play overtime to decide the winner. Ultimately, Hayes came out on top, winning in the **Electoral College** by one vote. There was a lot of controversy during the election and both sides accused each other of cheating.

Even though the election was ugly, Hayes was, ironically, a man of integrity and courage. During the **Civil War**, he fought bravely and was wounded multiple times, but he always insisted on returning to the battlefield. Hayes became president a little over a decade after the Civil War, when there were still hard feelings about the conflict. Although some of his decisions were controversial, he worked hard to restore unity to the nation.





Rutherford and Lucy Hayes

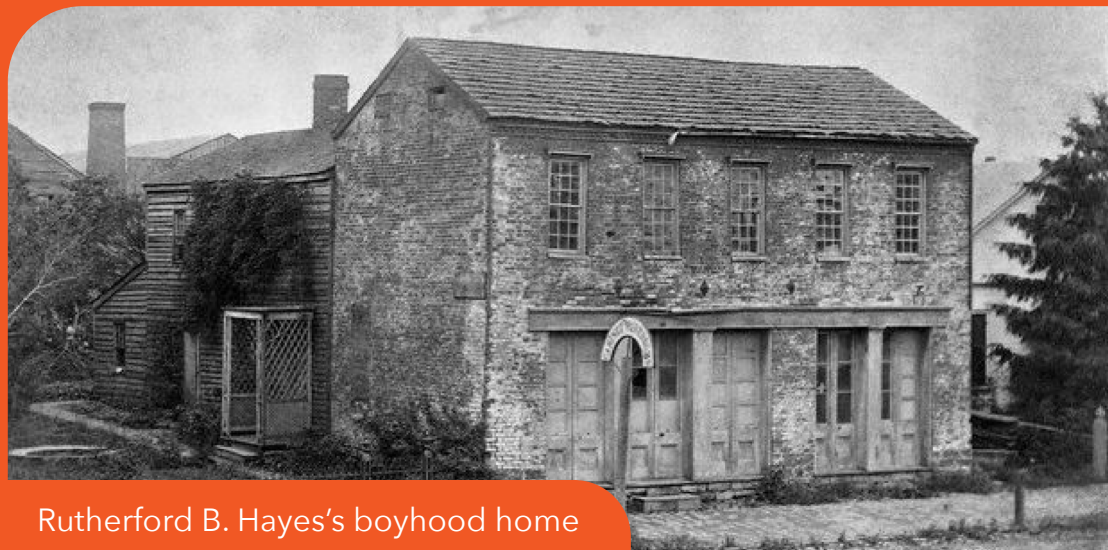
Young Rud

Rutherford Birchard Hayes was born on October 4, 1822 in Delaware, Ohio. He was the fifth child of Rutherford and Sophia Hayes. His father was a store owner, but he died of **typhus** less than three months before baby Rutherford's birth. Young Rutherford, nicknamed Rud, grew up close to his sister Fanny. They played together, enjoyed the outdoors, and attended the same school.

Young Rud loved learning about American history and admired figures like George **W**ashington. He was a good student and ended up attending Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. In 1842, he graduated as the valedictorian of his class.

Interesting Facts

- He survived being wounded several times during the Civil War.
- He was a member of the Whig and Republican parties.
- The 1876 presidential election, which Hayes won controversially, had the highest voter turnout in American history, at 81.8%.
- He was the first president to lose the popular vote but win the electoral vote.
- He was the first president to have a telephone installed in the White House.
- He signed a law allowing women lawyers to argue before the Supreme Court.



Rutherford B. Hayes's boyhood home

Early Career

Hayes was an **a**mbitious young man. He attended Harvard **L**aw School, earning a law degree in 1845. He passed the bar and became an attorney, eventually settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. During this time, Hayes made many friends and had an active social life. He joined several social groups and enjoyed himself.

In 1847, he met an attractive young woman named **L**ucy Webb. They fell in love and got married in December 1852. Theirs was a happy marriage, and they eventually had eight children.

During the 1850s, Americans were divided over the issue of slavery. Many Southerners supported it, while many Northerners opposed it. Hayes and his wife hated slavery. As a lawyer, he often defended enslaved servants **i**n court who had run away from their owners into Ohio.



The Civil War

Hayes was such a good lawyer that he was chosen as Cincinnati's **solicitor**, serving from 1858 to 1861. By the end of his tenure, however, the American Civil War had broken out. Hayes joined the **Union** Army and fought courageously in several battles. In fact, at the Battle of South **M**ountain in 1862, he was shot in his left arm. Then, at the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864, Hayes was injured when a musket ball struck him in the head after hitting someone else. Thankfully, he survived all of his injuries. By the time the war ended in 1865, Hayes had been promoted to general.



Rise to Power

Republicans were **looking** for strong candidates to serve in Congress, so they chose Hayes to run in 1864. He won the election and took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives the following year. As a congressman, Hayes strongly supported the 14th and 15th amendments, which protected the rights of newly freed African-Americans.

In 1867, during the era of **Reconstruction**, Hayes was elected Governor of Ohio, serving two terms from 1868 to 1872. As Governor, he continued to fight for the rights of black Americans, while also helping to establish Ohio State University. He declined to run for a third term and left office in 1872. He was enjoying **retirement**, but was chosen by the Republicans again as a candidate for Governor. He won again and took office in 1876.



Quote

*"The deadliest enemy the Union has is slavery – in fact, its only enemy."
- June 1862*

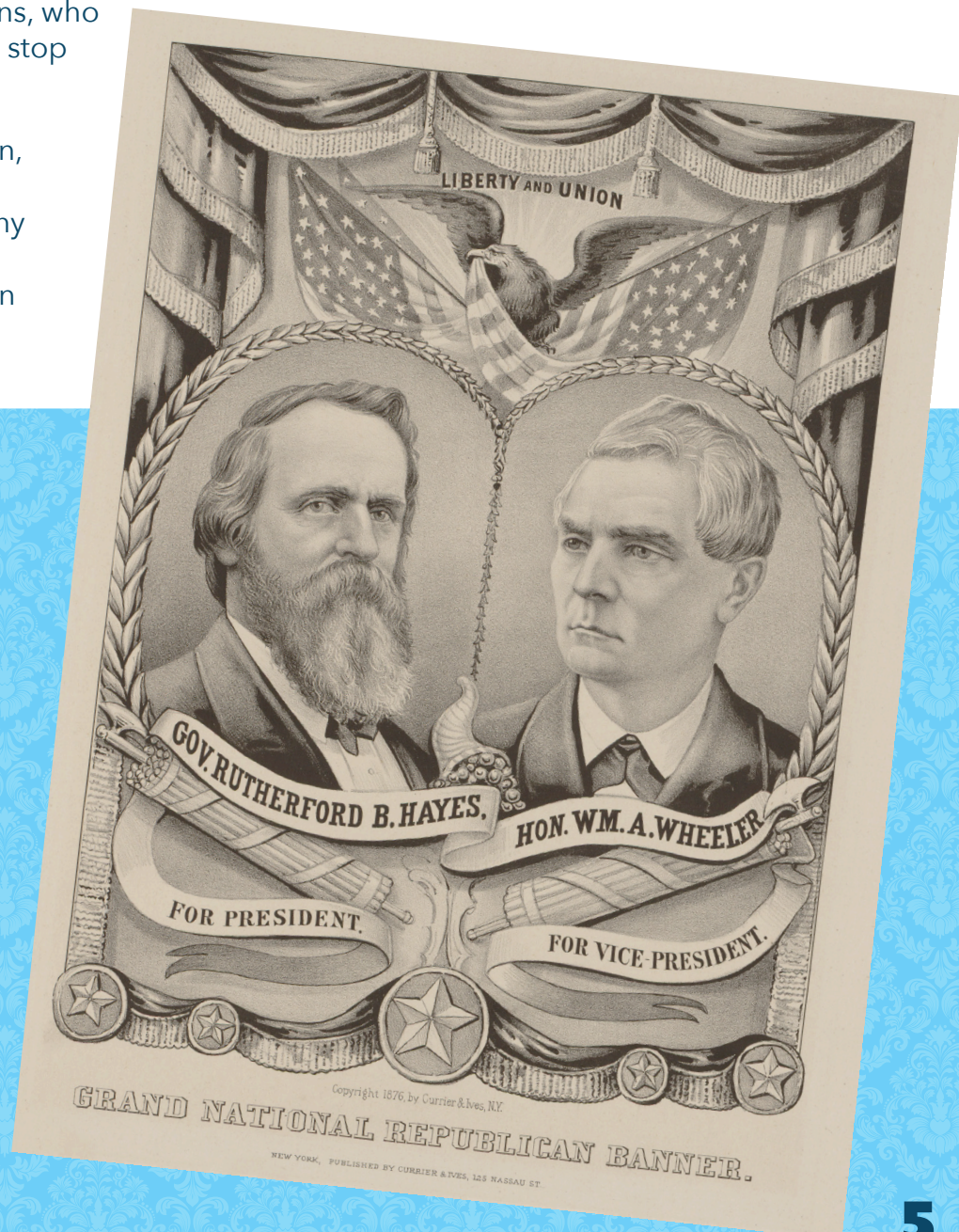
The 1876 Presidential Election

By 1876, Republican President Ulysses S. Grant was finishing up his second term. His administration was bogged down by scandals and an economic depression. The Republicans needed a strong candidate to keep the White House. Hayes was the perfect choice: he was from Ohio, a state with many electoral votes, was a war hero, and had a reputation for integrity. He won the Republican nomination in June.

The Democrats had chosen a strong candidate as well: New York Governor Samuel Tilden. Tilden had a long record fighting corruption and also came from a large state with many electoral votes.

Although both candidates were well-respected, the parties they led would stop at nothing to win. In fact, Democrats in the South intimidated and threatened African-Americans, who were mostly Republicans, to stop them from voting.

The night before the election, Hayes believed he had lost. Neither he nor Tilden had any clue that the election would become one of the wildest in American history.



America's Most Controversial Presidential Election

After the initial count, Tilden led in the **popular vote** and had 184 electoral votes—just one shy of winning the presidency—while Hayes had 166. The problem was that both parties claimed to have won three states—Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Hayes could only win the election if he carried all three states, while Tilden just had to carry one.

The next several months were among the ugliest in election history. Both sides tried to prevent the other side's votes from being counted.

Republicans felt that, had black people been allowed to vote fairly in the South, Hayes would have won the remaining states. The two sides couldn't come to an agreement over who won, so in January 1877, Congress created a special **Electoral Commission** to decide. Nothing like it had ever been created.

Since the Commission was slightly biased in favor of Republicans, by February it had awarded all three states to Hayes. Hayes had won 185

electoral votes, the exact amount needed to win the election, while Tilden finished with 184.

Democrats were outraged and many worried that violence would break out. Less than 12 years had passed since the end of the Civil War. Many Americans feared another such war would erupt. Still, even the Democrats knew that someone had to be chosen president in time for the inauguration in March. They accepted the result, but were still angry. They nicknamed Hayes "Rutherfraud" and "His Fraudulency."

Some say that the Democrats accepted Hayes's election in exchange for a promise that Hayes would remove federal troops from the Southern states. The troops had been in the South since the end of the Civil War and protected African-Americans from violence by Southern white people. Not surprisingly, Southerners hated the troops that were there. This deal is often called the **Compromise of 1877**. Historians, however, are not sure that any deal was actually made.



President Hayes's Inauguration



The Great Railroad Strike of 1877

Quote

*"My policy is trust, peace, and to put aside the bayonet."
- March 1877*

President

During his inaugural address on March 5, 1877, Hayes tried to reassure Southern Democrats that he would do what was **best** for the whole nation. By the time he was president, many Americans, Northerners and Southerners, were tired of keeping troops in the South and occupying the region. They wanted to move on from Reconstruction. Hayes wanted the country to move on too, so he removed the remaining troops and ended the occupation. He got the South to promise to respect the rights of African-Americans. This, however, was an empty promise and the violence against black Americans continued. For the next several decades, African-Americans suffered from discriminatory **Jim Crow** laws.

In addition, Hayes also dealt with a massive railroad **strike**, the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, and ordered federal troops to restore order. He also worked to reduce corruption by banning government workers from participating in activities that were too political. These efforts were called **civil service reform**.

Think About It

President Hayes served as president during a time when Americans disagreed on many issues. He chose, instead, to focus on establishing trust and keeping the nation at peace. Think about the last time you had a disagreement. How did you handle it? How might you be able to follow President Hayes's example of being a peacemaker in future conflict? Jot down a few ideas below:

-
-
-
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Paraguay's Favorite

Even though most Americans have forgotten about Hayes, there is one country where he is truly beloved: Paraguay. During the 1860s, Paraguay fought against its neighbors in a conflict called the Triple Alliance War. Paraguay lost large amounts of land during the war and asked President Hayes to **mediate**.

During the negotiations, Hayes sided with Paraguay, which allowed it to recover much of that land. In fact, without Hayes, the country would be less than half its current size. The Paraguayans are grateful to Hayes to this day and have named schools, a province, a holiday, and even a soccer team after him.



Take a Guess!



Paraguay is divided into departments, like states. Can you guess which department is named after President Hayes?



The Easter Egg Roll Tradition

Every year, the White House hosts the Easter Egg Roll. During the event, parents take their kids to the South Lawn of the White House so they can race each other by rolling a hard boiled egg with a spoon. The first to cross the finish line with their egg wins.

Originally, the event took place at the U.S. Capitol, but members of Congress were mad because the kids ruined the grass during the race. They banned the kids from using the Capitol for the Easter Egg Roll.

President Hayes felt bad for the kids, so he opened up the White House to them in 1878. Ever since then, the White House has hosted the Egg Roll every Easter.



Quote

*"He serves his party best who serves the country best."
- March 1877*



Retirement

Hayes promised in 1876 that he would **only** serve one term and made good on that promise. After James Garfield was elected to succeed him, Hayes retired in 1877. He had overcome the controversy of the 1876 election and left office as a respected figure.

During his retirement, Hayes worked hard to promote education for young Americans, especially black youth, and to help reduce crime. He was saddened in 1889 when his beloved wife Lucy died. Less than four years later, on January 17, 1893, Hayes died of heart disease at the age of 70. His last words were, "I know that I'm going where Lucy is."



Legacy

Americans have largely forgotten about Rutherford B. Hayes. If anyone remembers him, it's usually because of the very controversial 1876 election, in which both parties acted very dishonestly to win. The irony is that both Hayes and Tilden were honorable men who weren't directly involved in these misdeeds. His nicknames "Rutherfraud" and "His Fraudulency" were truly undeserved.

Some have criticized Hayes for ending Reconstruction, which allowed Southerners to violate the rights of black Americans. The rise of Jim Crow was a terrible tragedy for the country, but it isn't fair to blame this entirely on Hayes. Most Americans in both parties wanted Hayes to end Reconstruction and there was little he could do about it. Hayes fought to improve the lives of African-Americans before and after his presidency. It is possible that Hayes could have done more for them during his tenure in the White House, but he did help the country move on from the Civil War.



Quote

*"Conscience is the authentic voice of God to you."
- March 1892*

Glossary

Electoral College: The group of people that, according to the U.S. Constitution, elect the president and vice president of the United States.

Civil War: The conflict in the United States from 1861 to 1865 between the Union government and the Confederacy, which wanted to break away from the Union and start a new, independent country.

Typhus: A disease caused by a bacterial infection.

Solicitor: The chief lawyer in a government or city department.

Union: The United States government during the Civil War that fought to prevent the Confederate states from seceding.

Reconstruction: The period in American history after the American Civil War ended in 1865 until the late 1870s. The goal of Reconstruction was to rebuild the country, bring the former Confederate states back into the United States, and to assist the newly freed African-Americans in becoming U.S. citizens. Many historians believe that this period failed in its goals, since African-Americans continued to suffer under unjust laws.

Popular Vote: The vote for a candidate made by the broader population in a country or area, as opposed to that made by the Electoral College.

Electoral Commission: A special group of government officials chosen by Congress in 1877 to resolve the 1876 presidential election.

Compromise of 1877: An agreement that some historians believe was made to settle the 1876 presidential election. The Democrats allowed Republican Rutherford B. Hayes to become president in exchange for the end of Reconstruction. Many historians believe this agreement allowed the South to impose Jim Crow laws upon African-Americans.

Jim Crow: State and local laws in the South, in effect from the 1870s until the 1960s, that discriminated against African-Americans.

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.

Civil Service Reform: Government laws and actions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that were intended to reduce corruption in the federal government and allow for public officials to be hired based on their abilities and merit.

Mediate: To help to settle a dispute.

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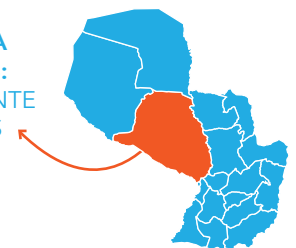
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Answers:

HAYES'S ARMY FRIEND
AND FUTURE PRESIDENT:
WILLIAM MCKINLEY

TAKE A
GUESS:
PRESIDENTE
HAYES



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