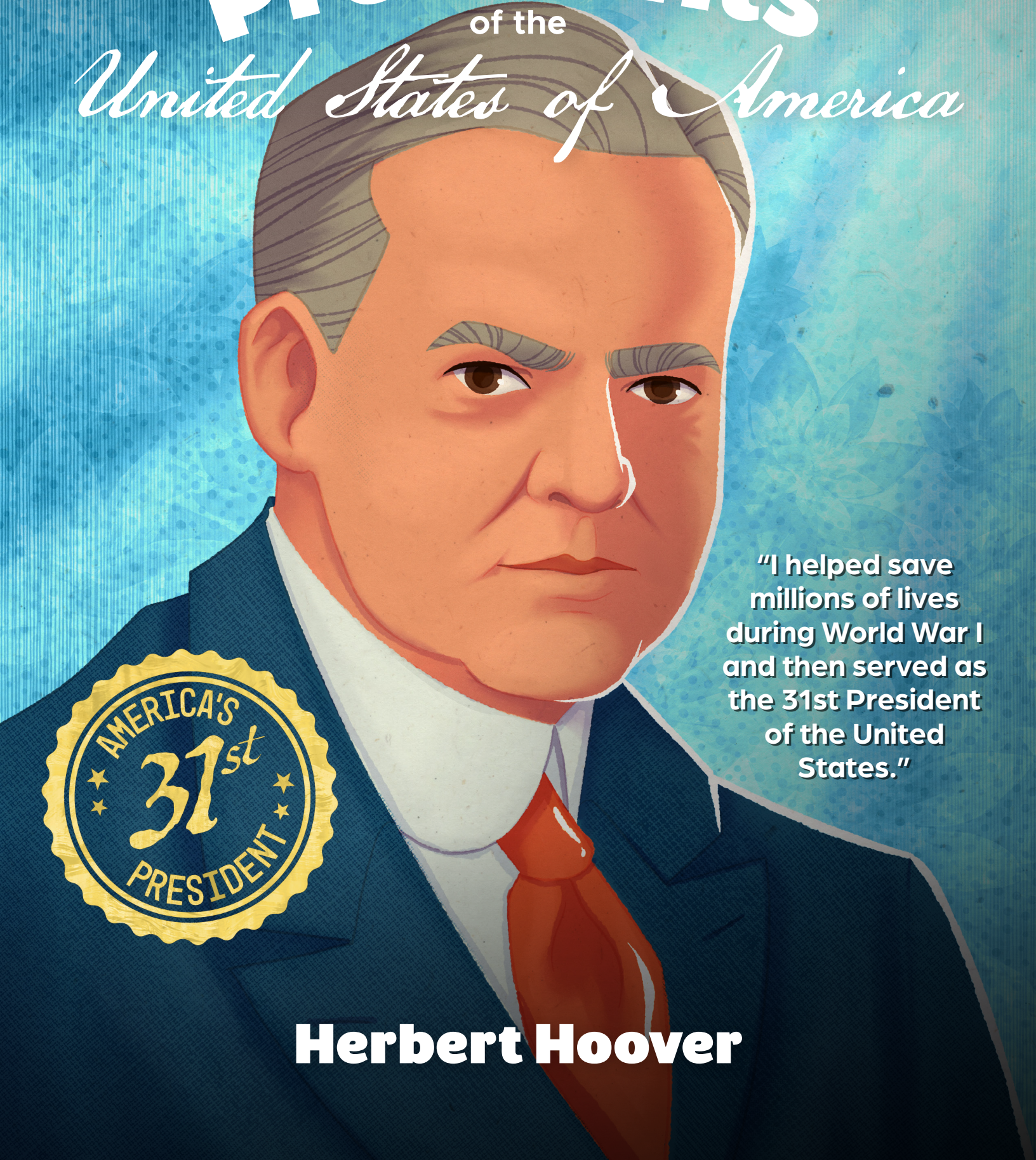


presidents of the *United States of America*



"I helped save millions of lives during World War I and then served as the 31st President of the United States."

Herbert Hoover



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Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

Hoover was the only president who could speak a certain foreign language, but we need your help to figure 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.

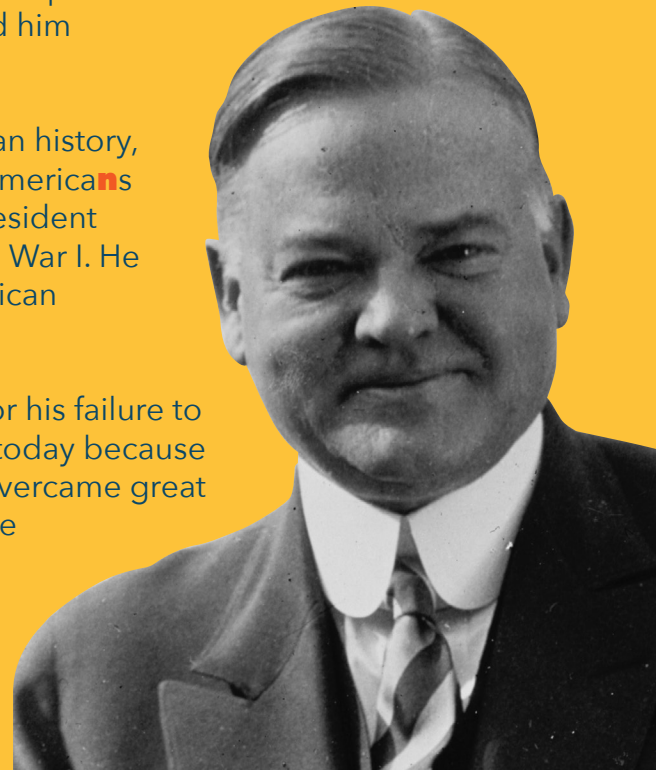
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

Meet Herbert Hoover

Some historians believe that Herbert Hoover directly saved **m**ore lives than anyone else in modern history. During and after **World War I**, Europeans were left homeless and without food and water. Families across the continent were left to starve. After hearing about Hoover's great organizational abilities, the American and European governments gave him the authority to provide the needy with shelter, nourishment, and medical care. His heroic efforts saved millions of people from certain death. The **A**merican people were so impressed that they nicknamed him "The Great **H**umanitarian," and elected him president in 1928.

The **G**reat **D**epression, the worst economic crisis in American history, began soon after Hoover took office. This time, millions of **A**mericans were unemployed and in desperate need. Unfortunately, President Hoover couldn't duplicate his impressive feats during World War I. He made decisions that made the Depression worse. The American people lost faith in him and voted him out of office in 1932.

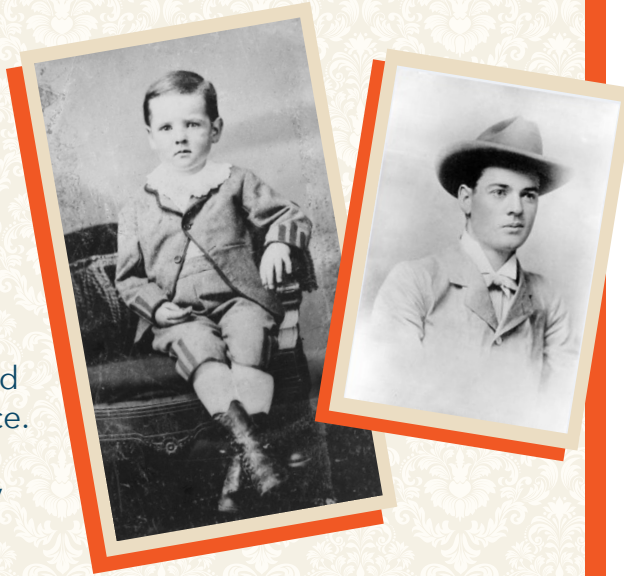
Ever since his **p**residency, Hoover has been known mainly for his failure to stop the Depression. Still, there are millions of people alive today because Hoover saved their ancestors during World War I. Also, he overcame great challenges in his own life. He was born to a poor family in the **Q**uaker community—a religious group from England that, among other things, has opposed slavery and warfare—and was orphaned at a young age. Despite this, he rose to become America's President. Hoover's story is one of both great triumph and tragedy.



Young Herbert

Herbert Hoover was born on August 10, 1874, in the quiet Quaker town of West Branch, Iowa. His father, Jesse, was a blacksmith. His mother, Hulda, was a very devout Quaker. Young Herbert had an older brother named Theodore and a younger sister named Mary. When Herbert was two years old, he almost died when he began coughing and couldn't stop. When he stopped breathing, his parents thought he had died, but his uncle, a doctor, was able to revive him.

Life, however, didn't get any easier for young Herbert. Both of his parents had died before Herbert was 10 years old. He and his brother and sister were orphans. Herbert moved to Oregon to live with his uncle. While there, he went to school and worked at a real estate office. His bosses realized that he was a hard worker and very well-organized.



Interesting Facts

- He was orphaned by the time he was 10 years old.
- He was a member of the Republican Party.
- He is the first Quaker to serve as president.
- As of 2022, he is the last president to be elected directly from a presidential Cabinet position.
- His Vice President, Charles Curtis, was the first vice president to have non-white ancestry (he was part Native American).
- He lived 31 years after leaving the presidency, one of the longest presidential retirements in American history.



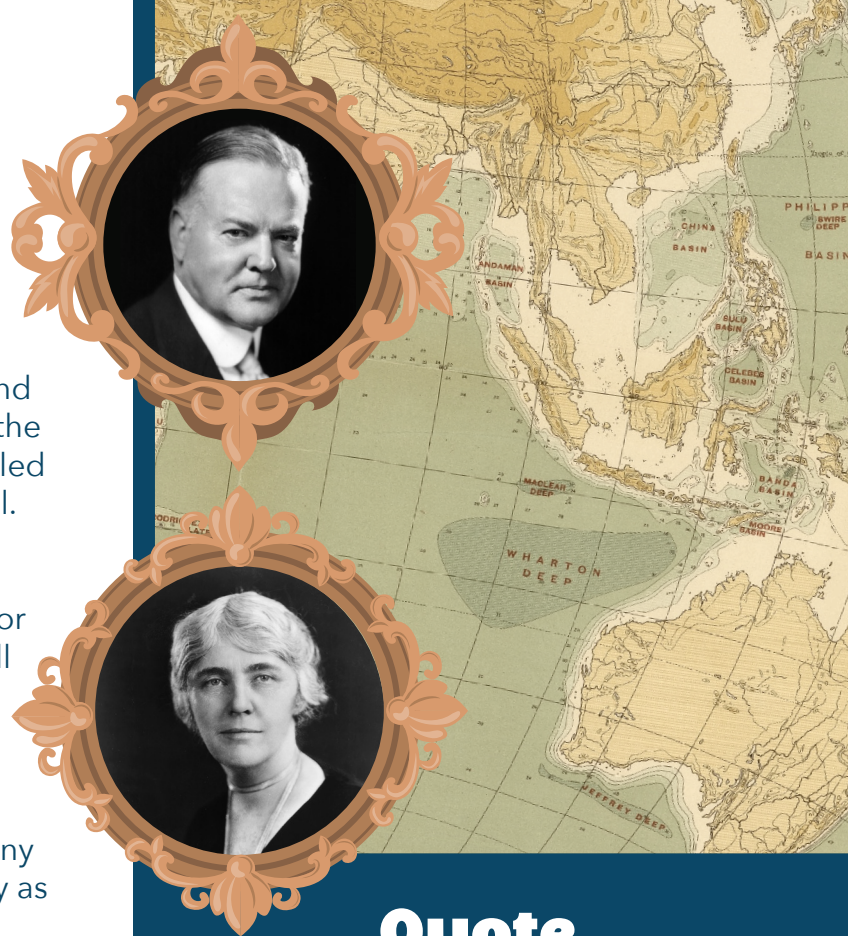
Herbert Hoover's
boyhood home in Iowa

Education, Family, and Early Career

One day at the office, he met an **engineer**. At the time, engineers were changing the world, designing magnificent railroads, steamships, and skyscrapers. Hoover wanted to be a part of all the exciting change, and when he was 17, he enrolled in Stanford University's new engineering school.

After graduating, Hoover went to work for a **mining** company based in London, England. For the next several decades, Hoover lived a life full of dangers and adventures. His job sent him around the world looking for and managing mines. He traveled through the dry deserts of Australia, the hills of China, and the jungles of Burma. His mine discoveries earned his company millions of dollars, and he became very wealthy as one of the world's most successful mine managers.

Along the way, Hoover married another student from Stanford, Lou Henry, in 1899. They would have two children, Herbert Jr. and Allan.



Quote

*"Within the soul of America is freedom of mind and spirit."
- August 1948*

Boxer Rebellion

Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover lived in China in 1900. During their time there, Chinese resentment of foreigners led to the outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion. The uprising turned violent, and a group of 100,000 Boxer rebels trapped many Europeans and Americans, including the Hoovers, in the city of Tientsin. The Hoovers courageously rode their bikes through Boxer gunfire to transport supplies and help save the city. An army of Americans, Europeans, and Japanese soldiers came to the city's rescue, and the Hoovers moved to London soon after.



Quote

*"The glory of American ideals is the right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience."
- August 1928*



Rise to Power

In 1901, Hoover and his family moved to London. He was a top leader in his mining company and befriended many other businessmen. His life changed, however, when World War I broke out in 1914. The fighting in the war destroyed cities across Europe and disrupted every aspect of life. The people of Belgium, about 7.5 million total, ran out of food. Since Hoover was a brilliant organizer, he led an effort to get food and water for the Belgians. He saved the country from a devastating **famine**.

Hoover's work impressed American President Woodrow Wilson. After the United States entered the war in 1917, he gave Hoover two very important assignments. First, President Wilson asked Hoover to manage the country's food economy. American soldiers were fighting in Europe and needed food and supplies. Hoover asked the American people not to eat certain foods on certain days so that they could be sent to the soldiers instead.

When the war ended in 1918, Europe was completely destroyed. Just like in Belgium, people across the entire continent had little access to food. Wilson created the American Relief Administration to help the people of Europe and put Hoover in charge. Once again, Hoover organized the distribution of food for the poor and needy—this time, he saved people in 32 countries! Some historians say 200 million people would have died without Hoover's brilliant efforts.

Secretary of Commerce

In 1920, Republican candidate Warren G. **H**arding was elected president. He appointed Hoover to be **Secretary of Commerce**, which gave him an important role in the nation's economy. After President Harding died in 1923, he continued serving under Harding's successor, Calvin Coolidge.

Hoover found ways to make the economy more **efficient**. He brought business leaders together to figure out how to make products more cheaply, which made them less expensive for consumers. People around the world admired Hoover for all of his work. Many Americans felt Hoover was a genius, and when he ran for president as a Republican in 1928, they elected him in a landslide.

Quote

*"Being a politician is a poor profession. Being a public servant is a noble one."
- January 1962*



President

Throughout Hoover's career, he had engineered brilliant solutions to difficult problems. When the Depression broke out, many Americans believed he would succeed yet again. Unfortunately, he wasn't very effective at dealing with an economic crisis.

After the **stock market** crashed in October 1929, many businesses and banks failed. People lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings. Hoover tried to use the government to engineer solutions. He raised taxes on the American people, but this just made life harder for them. Higher taxes meant that the government took money right out of people's wallets and bank accounts. This made it more difficult for everyone to buy food and other necessities. This also meant businesses didn't have enough money to hire or pay their workers.

Americans would forever remember the Great Depression as a time of great hardship. The **unemployment rate** reached a record-shattering 25% in 1932, meaning that one out of every four workers was out of a job. People lost their homes and had to sleep in **shantytowns**. They blamed Hoover and mocked him by nicknaming their temporary homes "Hoovervilles." They slept outdoors and, to keep warm, they covered themselves with newspapers, which they called "Hoover blankets." When Hoover ran for re-election in 1932, he lost in a landslide to Democratic candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Sudoku

As an engineer, Hoover needed to be good with numbers. Use the numbers 1-9 to solve the sudoku puzzles. Each row, column, and 3x3 box can only contain one of each number between 1 and 9.

5			4	6	7	3		9
9		3	8	1		4	2	7
1	7	4	2		3			
2	3	1	9	7	6	8	5	4
8	5	7	1	2	4		9	
4	9	6	3		8	1	7	2
				8	9	2	6	
7	8	2	6	4	1			5
	1					7		8

	5			3	7			
8	3	1	4	2	7			5
9	7	4		8	6	1	2	3
3	8	6	1	4		2	5	7
7		5						
	4	9	7		2	8	3	6
5				7	4		9	8
	9		3		1			2
2				9		3		1

Hoover Dam

Herbert Hoover was a strong supporter of hydroelectric power (harnessing the power of water to produce electricity). In July 1930, President Hoover signed a bill to fund the building of a dam on the Colorado River (on the border of Arizona and Nevada), which would provide electricity to Americans living in parts of the western United States. The following year, Congress named the dam after Hoover. When it was completed in 1936, the Roosevelt Administration tried to rename it Boulder Dam, because of Roosevelt's dislike of former President Hoover. In 1947, however, Congress officially restored its original name, Hoover Dam.

The dam is one of the most impressive engineering structures in the United States. It is 726 feet tall and 1,244 feet long at the crest, and weighs over six million tons. It generates about 4 billion kilowatt-hours of power every year, enough to serve 1.3 million people.



Retirement

Although it was a devastating defeat, Hoover continued to work hard after his presidency. He helped President Truman in 1947 and President Eisenhower in 1953 find ways to make government more efficient. He wrote many books and continued to give speeches. He also relaxed by spending time fishing, even writing a book titled *Fishing For Fun—And to Wash Your Soul*.

As the years went on, more Americans remembered his service during World War I and admired him for his amazing accomplishments. He lived one of the longest retirements of any president. He died on October 20, 1964 in New York City at the age of 90.

Quote

"I have no fears for the future of our country. It is bright with hope."
- March 1929

Legacy

Herbert Hoover's career is marked by both brilliant successes and devastating failures. His achievements during World War I and as Secretary of Commerce are among the greatest in modern history. He quite possibly saved hundreds of millions of people around the world from suffering and death. Few people in modern history have ever accomplished so much good for so many people.

However, he failed to understand that the same solutions in times of war do not work during an economic crisis. During wartime, the government is more effective when it has the power to defeat a common enemy. A strong economy, however, can only develop when the government has limited power and gives people and businesses the freedom to make decisions for themselves. Hoover tried to do too much during the Depression, raising taxes and making restrictive rules for businesses, and the American people suffered for it.

Hoover is rightfully criticized for these decisions, but this has led people to forget his great contributions prior to the presidency. When studying Hoover's legacy, it is important to recognize his entire story and to learn from both his mistakes and achievements.



Hoover-Ball

Herbert Hoover was a very busy man, but he made sure to stay in shape. To do so, in 1928, he and White House physician, Admiral Joel T. Boone, invented a sport called "Hoover-Ball."

It was a vigorous sport that combined parts of tennis and volleyball but involved using a heavier medicine ball. The game involved two to four players throwing a medicine ball back and forth over an eight-foot high net. The object of the game was to catch the ball without dropping it. During his presidency, Hoover played the game every morning at 7 a.m. with his friends and advisors on the White House lawn.



Writing Activity

President Hoover was very successful at saving lives during World War II. However, he faced many challenges and disappointments during the Great Depression. Write about a time when you were successful. Compare and contrast that to a time when you were unsuccessful.



Glossary

World War I: A war that involved most of the countries in Europe from 1914 to 1918. It was considered the most devastating war in history up to that time.

Humanitarian: A person who does much to improve people's lives.

Great Depression: The time in American history, starting 1929 and continuing throughout the 1930s, when the economy had collapsed and millions of people didn't have jobs.

Quaker: A member of a Protestant Christian religious group that is known for opposing participation in wars.

Engineer: A person who designs or builds machines and/or structures.

Mining: The process of obtaining valuable materials from the earth.

Famine: A situation where food is very difficult to find, and people are starving.

Secretary of Commerce: The government official in charge of the U.S. Department of Commerce who advises the President on trade issues.

Efficient: To work in a well-organized way with little waste.

Stock Market: The part of the economy where people can invest and own parts of companies to make money.

Unemployment Rate: The percentage of people in a country without a job out of everyone who is able to work.

Shantytown: An area where poor and homeless people build cheap, temporary homes, often made out of wood.

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Answers

HOOVER'S LANGUAGE: MANDARIN CHINESE

(Note: Mandarin Chinese is the national language of the People's Republic of China. It is, however, one of many languages and dialects spoken in China.)

SUDOKU:

5	2	8	4	6	7	3	1	9
9	6	3	8	1	5	4	2	7
1	7	4	2	9	3	5	8	6
2	3	1	9	7	6	8	5	4
8	5	7	1	2	4	6	9	3
4	9	6	3	5	8	1	7	2
3	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	1
7	8	2	6	4	1	9	3	5
6	1	9	5	3	2	7	4	8

6	5	2	9	1	3	7	8	4
8	3	1	4	2	7	9	6	5
9	7	4	5	8	6	1	2	3
3	8	6	1	4	9	2	5	7
7	2	5	6	3	8	4	1	9
1	4	9	7	5	2	8	3	6
5	1	3	2	7	4	6	9	8
4	9	8	3	6	1	5	7	2
2	6	7	8	9	5	3	4	1

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