

**presidents**  
of the  
*United States of America*  
Volume I





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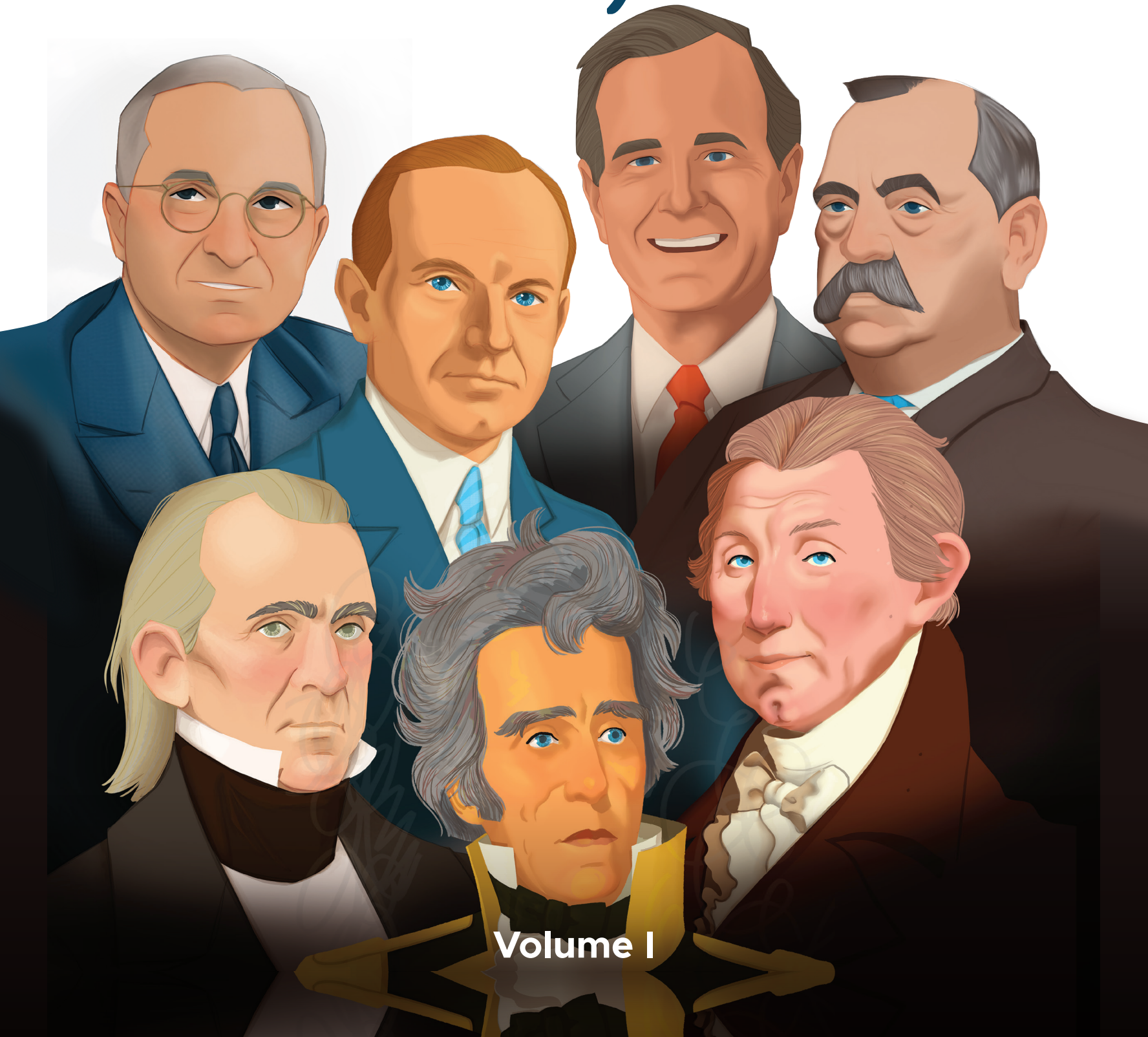
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# presidents of the *United States of America*



Volume I







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# James Monroe

"I'm the 5th  
president of the  
United States and I  
was the last Founding  
Father to be  
president"



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



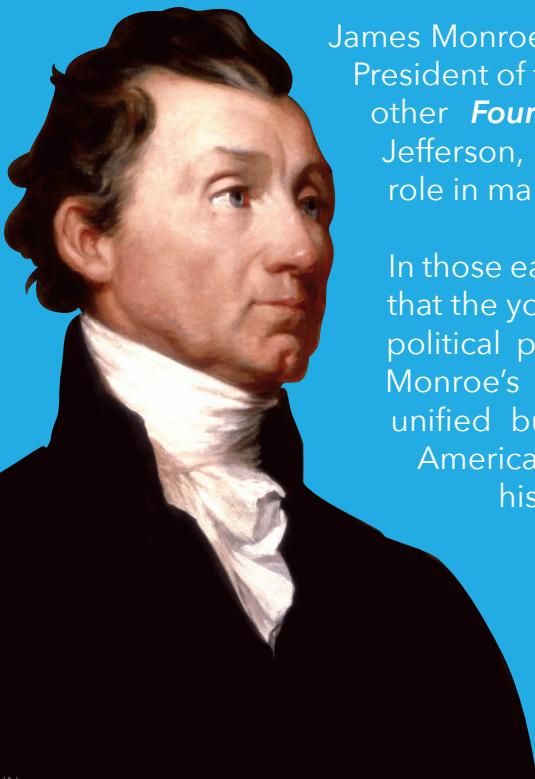
In this magazine, you'll learn all sorts of facts about James Monroe's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.  
We need your help to figure it out!

One country named their capital after President Monroe, and we need to find out which country it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

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

## Meet James Monroe

James Monroe not only fought to make America a free and independent country, but under his leadership, the young nation was stable and peaceful. As a young man, Monroe joined the war against the British during the American Revolution. In the years after the United States won independence, Monroe worked closely with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to expand the size of the country and defend it from enemies.

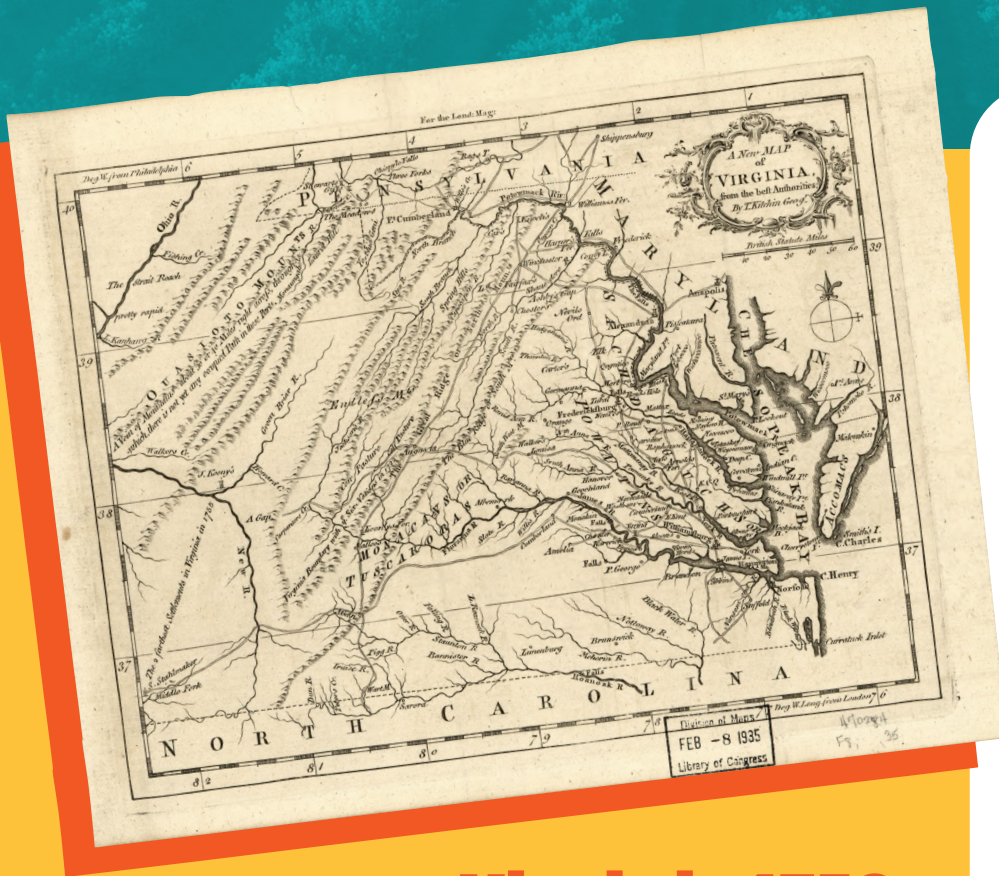


James Monroe was the **L**ast of the founding generation to serve as the President of the United States. Although he might not be as famous as other **Founding Fathers**, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, he was always around, helping them and playing a key role in making the United States a stronger country.

In those early years, there were a lot of arguments over the direction that the young country should take. This led to the formation of two political parties—the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. Monroe's fellow Founders had a hard time keeping the country unified but somehow, Monroe was able to do it. Since many Americans set aside their differences and got along well during his presidency, this time is called the "**Era of Good Feelings**." President Monroe also announced a very important rule in foreign policy called the Monroe **Doctrine**. It declared that European countries were no longer allowed to take control of places in the **Western Hemisphere**. It is a rule that America followed for a long time after Monroe left office.

# Young James

James Monroe was the second child and first son of Spence and Elizabeth Monroe. His father was a Virginia farmer, and he owned slaves. Young James grew up with one older sister and three younger brothers. He worked hard in school and on his family's farm. By the time he was about 16, both of his parents had died. James and his siblings were sad about losing their parents, but they were now in charge of some land and slaves and had to act as responsible adults.



## Virginia 1758

In 1776, Virginia looked a little different than it does today. In 1863, Virginia was divided into 2 states, Virginia and West Virginia, during the American Civil War.

## Interesting Facts

- James Monroe was born on April 28, 1758 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
- He is the first President whose child (daughter Maria) got married in the White House.
- He is the first President to ride on a steamboat, which he did in 1817.
- He died on July 4, 1831 in New York, New York at the age of 73.
- He is the third President to die on American Independence Day (the first two were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson).





## Soldier

In 1774, Monroe enrolled as a student in William and Mary College, **B**ut he soon got swept up in the major events of the day. At the time, **Great Britain** ruled the American **colonies**, but it **oppressed** the colonists with heavy taxes. In 1776, Americans, fed up with the taxes, declared **independence** from the British. The American Revolution was in full swing.

James Monroe joined the American Army to defend his country. During the battle of Trenton, he crossed the icy Delaware River with George Washington during a dangerous winter storm. When they faced the enemy, Monroe courageously led a charge against enemy cannonfire. He was struck by a bullet in the shoulder and almost died, but he recovered. The Americans won the battle and James Monroe was a war hero.

## Washington Crossing the Delaware

At the age of 18, James Monroe fought alongside General George Washington during the famous battle of Trenton, which saved the American Revolution. In Emanuel Leutze's famous painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, Monroe is depicted holding the flag next to Washington (although, during the actual crossing, Monroe wasn't on the same boat with Washington).





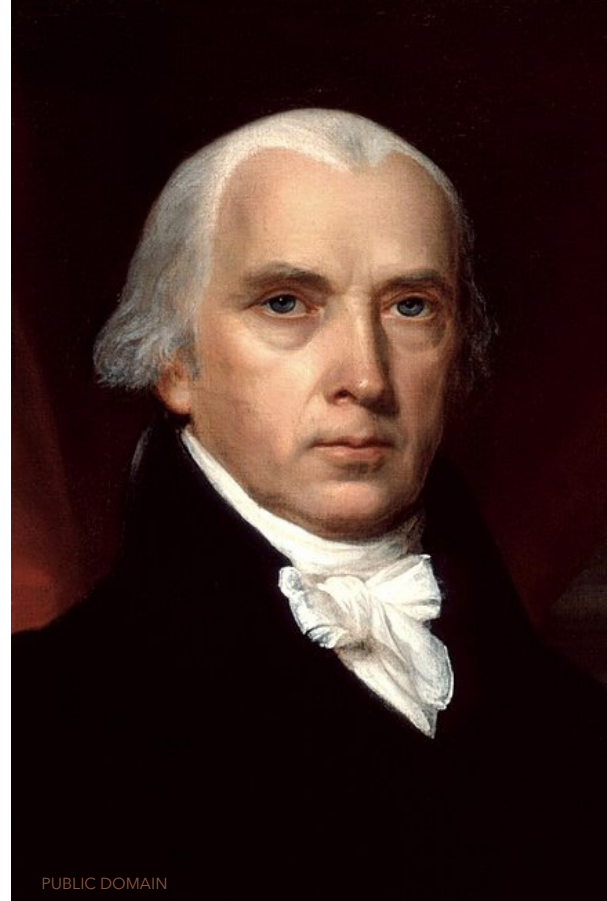


## Rise to Power

After Monroe left the military in 1779, he studied hard to become a lawyer and eventually entered politics. At first, he was elected to the Virginia legislature and then to the **Continental Congress**. In 1786, as he was rising in politics, he married a woman named Elizabeth Kortright and they ended up having three children.

James Monroe was chosen by both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to travel around Europe representing the United States. In 1803, he helped President Jefferson buy a large amount of land from France, making America twice as large as before. The agreement, called the **Louisiana Purchase**, helped to strengthen the young country.

In 1812, war broke out again between the United States and Great Britain. When the British invaded America's capital, Washington, D.C., Monroe helped President James Madison defend the country. Monroe calmly organized the military effort to fight back against the British. Many people praised Monroe for being a strong leader. He took advantage of this praise and was elected President of the United States in 1816.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

James Madison,  
fourth President of  
the United States of  
America.

## The Louisiana Purchase

Through the Louisiana Purchase, the United States acquired land that now includes all or part of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

### Quote

"National honor is the  
national property of the  
highest value."  
- first inaugural address,  
March 4, 1817

# President



President Monroe used his long **foreign policy** experience to strengthen America even further. In 1819, he and his secretary of state, John Quincy Adams, successfully negotiated with Spain to add Florida to America.

## Quote

*"The American continents... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power."*  
- Monroe Doctrine speech, December 2, 1823

Although Monroe was popular and the country was more united than it had ever been, there was a major unresolved problem: **slavery**. Americans in southern states supported slavery, but many Americans in the northern states opposed it. Southerners wanted more states that had slavery to join the country. When Missouri, which had slavery, tried to enter the United States, Northerners worried that this would give slavery supporters too much power. People were afraid that a **civil war** would break out between both sides. Congress was able to come up with a compromise: Missouri was allowed to have slavery but another state, Maine, was created where slavery was banned. This was called the Missouri Compromise, and Monroe signed it into law in 1820. It saved the country from a destructive civil war for about 40 years but the issue of slavery remained unresolved.

Despite the controversy over slavery, people were very happy with Monroe's leadership. That same year, Monroe was re-elected by a wide margin as president.

Monroe and Adams were both worried about what the European countries were doing in the Western Hemisphere. Centuries earlier, Europe had established colonies in North and South America, but they often oppressed the people in them. The American Revolution and the Spanish American wars of independence ended European rule in the Western Hemisphere, but many of those countries wanted their colonies back. With Adams' help, Monroe declared in December of 1823 that Europe would no longer be allowed to have colonies in North and South America. This declaration became known as the Monroe Doctrine, and it became an important rule for future presidents to follow.

PUBLIC DOMAIN



Monroe decided to retire after serving two terms. In 1824, Adams was elected to succeed him as president.



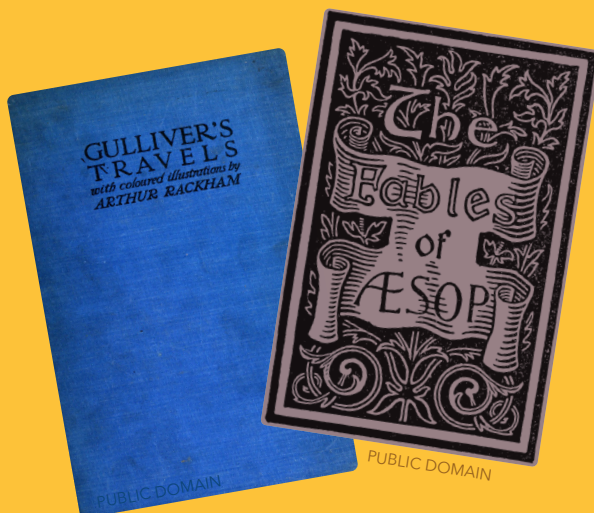


## Quote

"The American people have encountered together great dangers and sustained severe trials with success. They constitute one great family with a common interest."

- first inaugural address, March 4, 1817

Kids back then didn't have movies or TV shows to watch, but they could read classics, like *Gulliver's Travels* and *Aesop's Fables*. These books were full of adventures and life lessons that sparked childrens' imaginations.

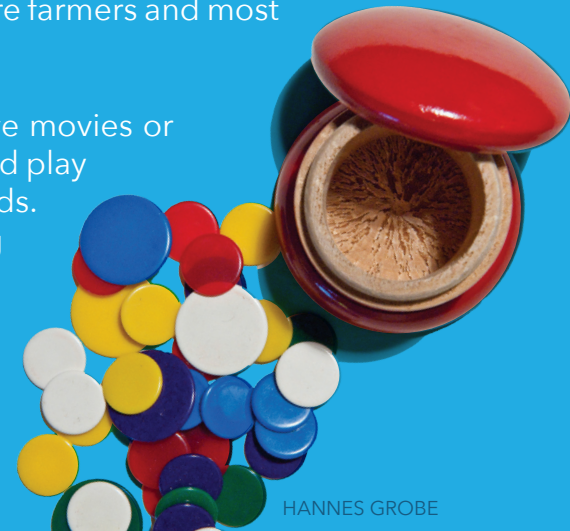


## Life During James Monroe's Time

When James Monroe was president, America was one of the youngest countries in the world. European countries were far more powerful and had more influence around the world. The United States, however, was becoming more powerful and wealthy every day. It was also one of the few republics in the world where people were free and could decide the future of their country.

Most people who lived during Monroe's time didn't have a lot of the things that we enjoy today. Nobody had anything close to a cell phone or a computer. Most of them didn't have running water or electricity in their homes and, instead, had to use candles or lamps for lighting. There were no cars, so people had to walk or ride horses to get to school or work. Most people back then were farmers and most kids had to work hard on farms.

Even though kids didn't have movies or TV shows to watch, they could play games like dominoes or cards. They also liked playing tiddlywinks. In this game, players use a disk to flip smaller disks, called winks, into a cup. The first player to sink all of their disks into the cup wins.



HANNES GROBE



# Legacy

Monroe had a long and distinguished career of service and played important roles during key moments in America's early history. Most history books celebrate presidents that served during times of crisis, while ignoring those who served in less dramatic times. Many of those who led America during quieter times, however, achieved something very difficult to attain: prosperity. Not only did Monroe preside over prosperity, but he did something even more rare: he helped to unify the country. It was such a unique moment that historians named it the "Era of Good Feelings."

## True or False

Circle the Answer

1. James Monroe fought alongside General George Washington. **T F**
2. President Monroe served as president during World War II. **T F**
3. Monroe died on the same day of the year as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. **T F**
4. President Monroe served for three terms. **T F**
5. The Arkansas Compromise was signed into law in 1820. **T F**

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

## Word Search

P	S	V	K	D	R	P	Z	T	M	V	W	G	G	D
R	T	U	I	H	G	L	E	K	R	A	Q	Z	J	E
O	E	E	Q	R	G	Z	V	P	S	K	F	Q	K	S
S	A	E	C	E	G	E	S	H	G	V	L	W	W	S
P	M	C	W	N	S	I	I	L	C	E	R	R	E	E
E	B	C	C	N	E	N	N	E	O	R	N	O	M	R
R	O	D	T	E	G	D	S	I	G	W	N	Z	D	P
I	A	J	L	T	C	O	N	P	A	I	K	I	X	P
T	T	M	O	Q	L	I	I	E	M	J	A	X	J	O
Y	D	N	U	D	V	A	V	O	P	J	Y	X	N	R
V	K	Y	I	M	L	I	D	I	O	E	Q	B	L	A
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	L	D	D	R	M	A
B	R	E	N	I	R	T	C	O	D	W	M	N	R	V
E	T	U	J	D	G	F	T	R	N	Z	A	I	I	C
K	T	U	A	J	O	W	P	X	S	Y	H	R	A	H

CIVIL WAR  
INDEPENDENCE  
PRESIDENT  
STEAMBOAT  
DOCTRINE  
MONROE  
PROSPERITY  
VIRGINIA  
DOMINOES  
OPPRESSED  
SOLDIER  
WASHINGTON





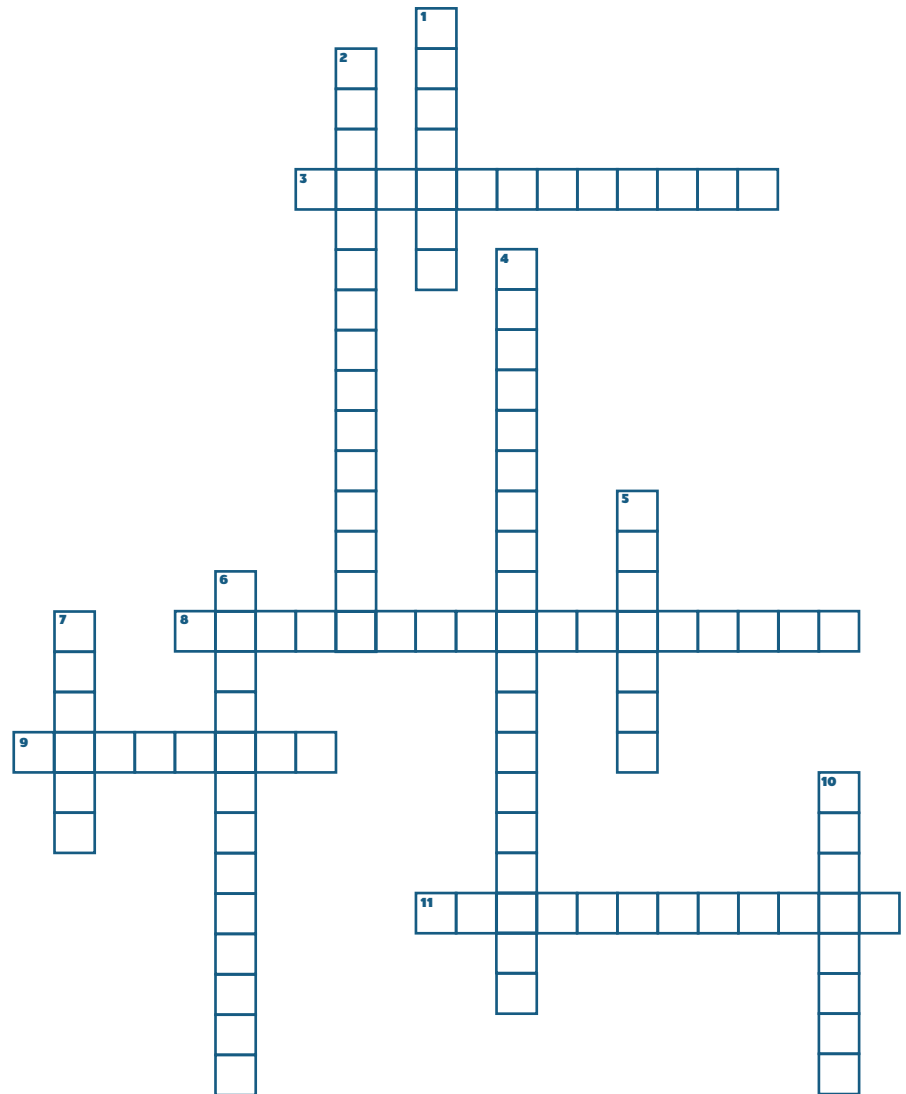
## Cross Word

### ACROSS

3. To be free of another country's control.
8. The agreement in which the United States bought a large section of what is now most of the midwest from France; it almost doubled the size of the country.
9. A belief or rule adopted by the government.
11. A country in Europe that ruled the United States before it became an independent nation.

### DOWN

1. A system in which people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.
2. The people who played leading roles in creating the United States, establishing its independence, and designing its Constitution and government.
4. The group of people during the American Revolution who represented the colonies and made laws for the whole country.
5. To use power and authority to treat people unfairly.
6. The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.
7. A territory controlled by another country.
10. A military conflict that occurs inside of a country where the citizens of that country fight each other.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 10



UNSPLASH

# Glossary

**Founding Fathers:** The people who played leading roles in creating the United States, establishing its independence, and designing its Constitution and government.

**Era of Good Feelings:** A unique period of time in the early 19th century when the United States was generally unified politically under the Democratic-Republican Party.

**Doctrine:** A belief or rule adopted by the government.

**Western Hemisphere:** The half of the Earth west of the prime meridian, where North and South America are located.

**Great Britain:** A country in Europe that ruled the United States before it became an independent nation.

**Colony:** A territory controlled by another country.

**Oppress:** To use power and authority to treat people unfairly.

**Independence:** To be free of another country's control.

**Continental Congress:** The group of people during the American Revolution who represented the colonies and made laws for the whole country.

**Louisiana Purchase:** The agreement in which the United States bought a large section of what is now most of the midwest from France; it almost doubled the size of the country.

**Foreign Policy:** The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.

**Slavery:** A system in which people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.

**Civil War:** A military conflict that occurs inside of a country where the citizens of that country fight each other.

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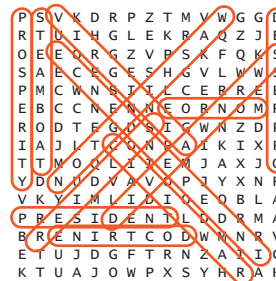
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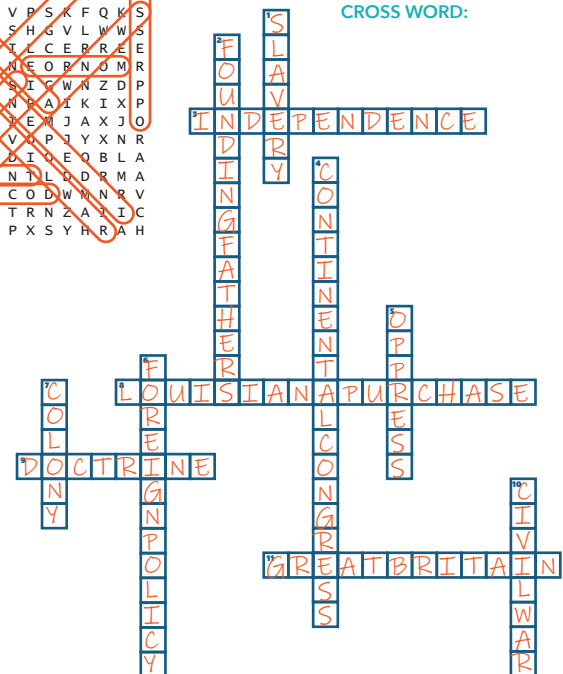
**Images:** WikiCommons, Unsplash, Hannes Grobe

## Answers

WORD SEARCH:



CROSS WORD:



TRUE OR FALSE:

1. T 2. F
3. T 4. F
5. F

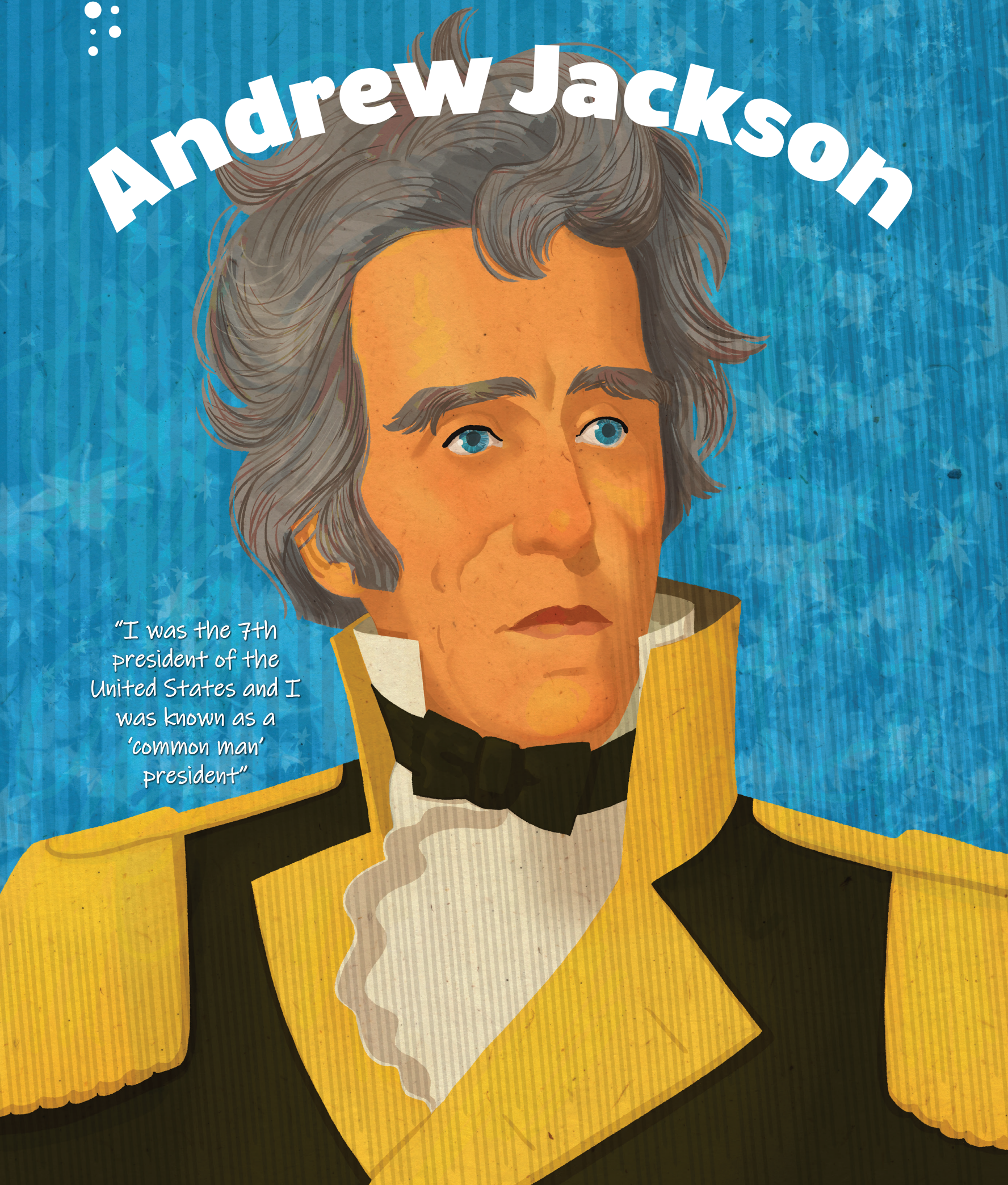
COUNTRY THAT  
NAMED THEIR CAPITAL  
AFTER MONROE:  
LIBERIA





# Andrew Jackson

"I was the 7th president of the United States and I was known as a 'common man' president"





# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



In this magazine, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Andrew Jackson's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.  
Can you solve the puzzle?

President Jackson had a pet and we need to find out it's name and what kind of animal it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

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

## Meet Andrew Jackson

Next time you have **A** 20 dollar bill, take a look at the man with wavy hair. His name is Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president, and he was responsible for making America a more **democratic** place. Before Jackson was president, the only peo**P**le who could vote were wealthy men who owned a lot of land. Jackson felt this was unfair, so he fought to allow more men, including those who were poor, to vote and make their voices heard.

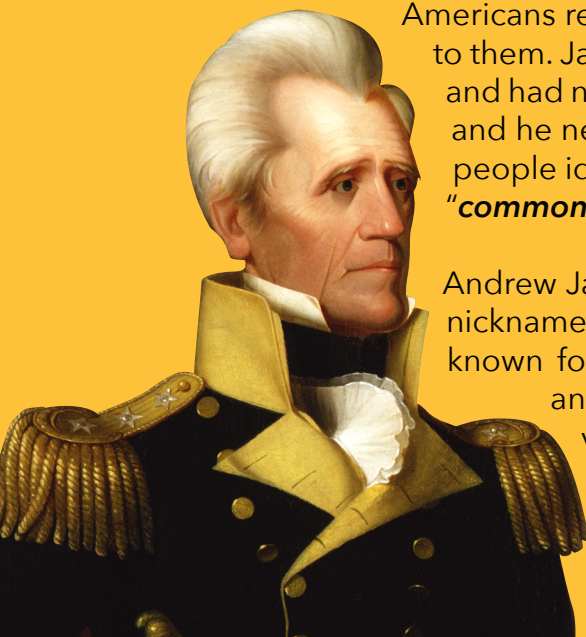
Jackson also changed what people wanted from their presidents. Prior to Jackson, Americans elected mostly wealthy, well-educated presidents. Americans respected them, but didn't feel a connection to them. Jackson was different—he had grown up poor and had never gone to college. He w**A**s blunt, honest, and he never shied away from a fight. Since so many people identified with him, he is regarded as the first "**common man** president."

Andrew Jackson was known for being tough. He was nicknamed "Old Hickory," because hickory trees are known for being strong and durable. As a general and as president, he did things that made him very popular, but also very cont**R**oversial. Even today, people still debate whether Jackson made America a better place, but everyone agrees that he was one of the most important U.S. presidents.



## Interesting Facts

- He is the only president to be held as a **prisoner-of-war**.
- He is the first president to ride a train.
- He is the first president to be the target of an assassination attempt.
- He is the only president to pay off the entire national debt.
- He is the first president to install indoor toilets at the White House.







# Young Andrew

Andrew Jackson lived a tough life right from birth. His father, also Andrew, died in a logging accident before he was born, so his family had to survive without him. The American Revolution broke out when Andrew was eight years old and made life hard for his family. He lost his oldest brother Hugh, who died after fighting the British in 1779.

At the age of 13, Andrew joined the fight with his brother, Robert, and was captured by the enemy. While imprisoned, a British officer ordered him to shine his boots. Young Andrew courageously refused, angering the officer who then slashed him on the face with his sword. This left Andrew with lifelong scars, but he never regretted standing up to the officer.

Andrew and Robert both got smallpox while in prison. They were released and Andrew recovered, but Robert didn't and he died. Meanwhile, Andrew's mother Elizabeth was serving as a nurse for American soldiers. Unfortunately, she got cholera and also died. Andrew had lost his entire family by the age of 14 and was now an orphan.

## Did You Know?

Andrew Jackson was born on March 15, 1767 in the Waxhaws region of the Carolinas.

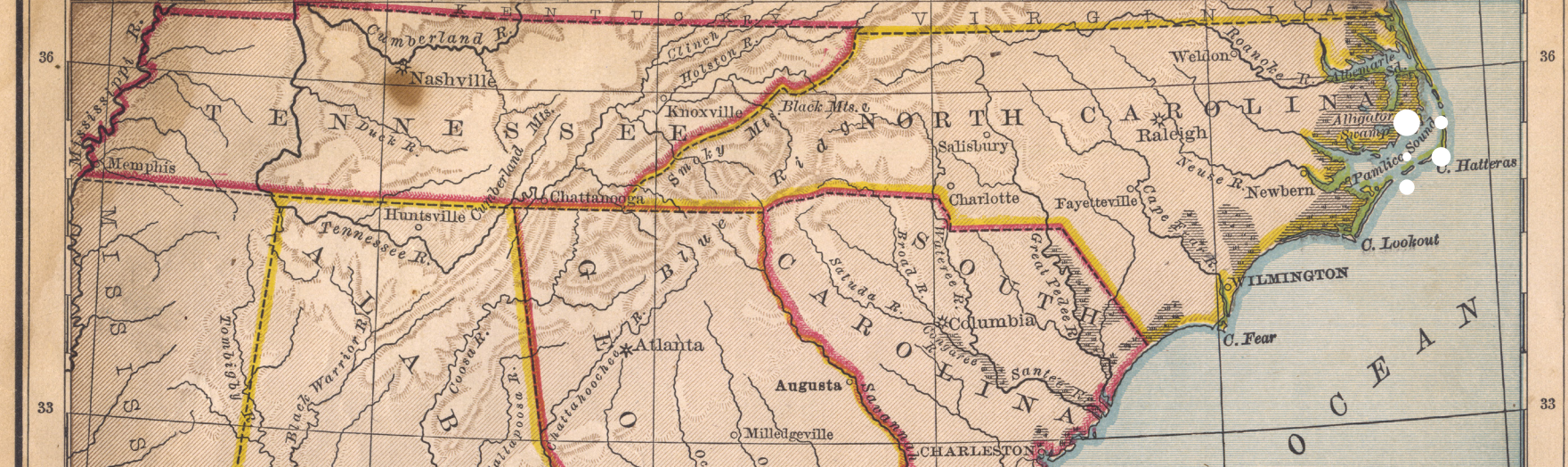
It isn't clear if he was born on the North Carolina or South Carolina side of the border.

He was the first president to be born in a **log cabin**.



GETTY IMAGES





GETTY IMAGES

## Duels

Jackson had a quick temper and participated in several **duels**. In 1806, Jackson challenged a man named Charles Dickinson to a duel after he had insulted him and his wife. During the duel, Dickinson shot Jackson in the chest. Jackson held his ground and shot and killed Dickinson. Jackson carried the bullet in his chest for the rest of his life.



## Quote

"It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes."  
- July 10, 1832

14

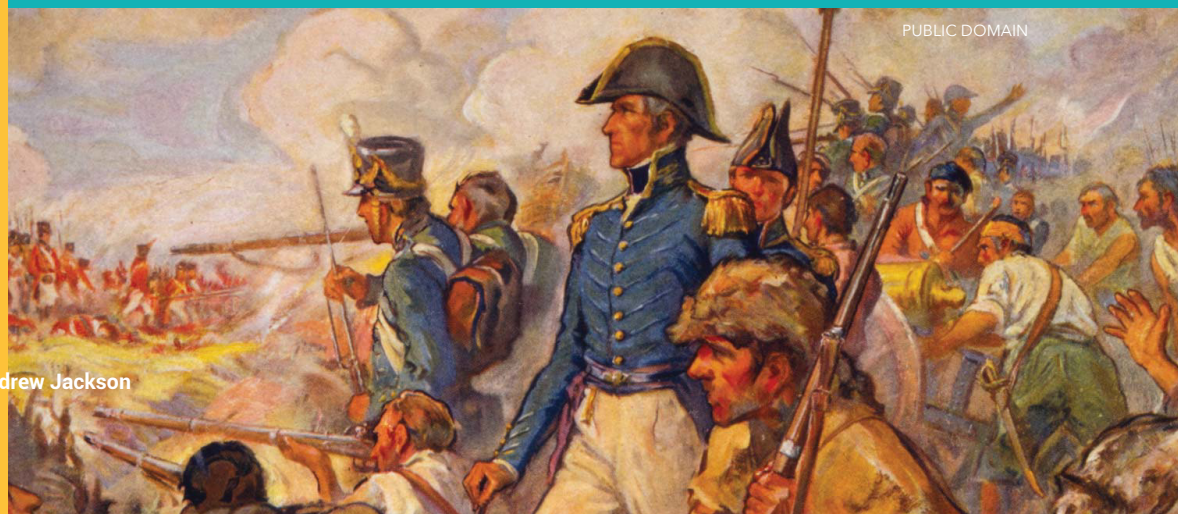
Presidents of the United States of America: Andrew Jackson

## Rise to Power

As painful as these losses were, Jackson wouldn't let them stop him from succeeding in life. America was a new independent nation, full of opportunity. Jackson took advantage of this, becoming a lawyer and moving to a new frontier town in what was then considered the west, called Nashville, Tennessee. He made enough money to buy land and slaves. He also fell in love with and married a woman named Rachel Robards.

America's first war as an independent nation was the War of 1812. Jackson became famous when he left his life in Nashville to become a general and fight the invading British. During the **Battle** of New Orleans in January 1815, Jackson led a **ragtag** group of unlikely soldiers: they included not just regular soldiers, but also **Native Americans**, former slaves, and even pirates. Most people expected Jackson's men would lose to the British, who were better trained and had a larger force. Jackson proved them wrong. His men surprised the enemy with intense cannon and rifle fire. It was an overwhelming victory, which helped keep the United States independent and free from the threat of the British. Jackson became a national hero. Many **Americans** wanted him to become president.

Jackson ran for president in 1824. Even though he won the popular vote, he lost in the **Electoral College** to John Quincy Adams. He and his supporters felt they had been cheated and he ran again in 1828, this time winning. Sadly, his wife died shortly after the election of a heart attack.



PUBLIC DOMAIN



## Seventh U.S. President

As president, Jackson introduced a new idea, called Jacksonian Democracy, where the people, especially the common man, would play a bigger role in the country's political system. He fought for laws that allowed all white men, including the "common man," to vote.

At the time, the federal government kept its money in a national bank. Jackson felt that the bank was an enemy of the people. He believed that its leaders used government money to help rich people while everyone else suffered. In response, Jackson took the government's money out of the bank, causing it to collapse.

Jackson made a very controversial decision when he forced Native American groups to leave their lands in the southern United States and move west of the Mississippi River. Many whites wanted to settle on the Natives' lands and both sides often fought each other over territory. There were no perfect solutions to the problem, especially since the government didn't have the resources to stop the settlers and prevent the violence. President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830, which allowed him to negotiate with the natives to move them.

### Adopted Children

Although Jackson fought against Native Americans and is known for removing them from their homelands, he did adopt and raise one, a boy named Lyncoya, as his own son. Jackson found Lyncoya on the battlefield in 1813, sent the boy to Jackson's home in Tennessee, and provided him with an education.

Unfortunately, Lyncoya died at the age of 16 of tuberculosis.

He felt that removing the natives was the most humane option available because they would be protected from the white settlers, but many natives were upset they were forced to leave places their ancestors had lived in for hundreds of years. Thousands of them died during the move due to starvation and illness. Many natives now refer to the trip as the "Trail of Tears."

### Cheese at the White House

A dairy farmer in New York gave President Jackson a giant, 1,400-pound cheese. Jackson let it age at the White House for two years and then invited the public to eat it in 1837. It was gone in two hours, but the smell of cheese remained in the White House for a long time.

### Quote

*"The bank... is trying to kill me, but I will kill it."*  
July 8, 1832





## Presidential Leadership

Jackson believed that every state had to respect federal law, or laws set by the national government in Washington DC. If any state could ignore a law, he felt, then every state could ignore it, and the whole country would split apart. When South Carolina tried to ignore a law that imposed a **tariff**, Jackson threatened military action. South Carolina backed off. This action helped prevent the country from splitting apart, but the **D**isagreements between the federal and state governments would be one of several issues that led to the **Civil War**.

Jackson was re-elected in 1832. By then, he was the leader of a new party, the **Democratic Party**. Opposing it was the **Whig Party**. After serving two terms, Jackson decided to leave the White House. His vice president, Martin Van Buren, was elected to re**P**lace him.

## Political Parties

### Democratic

The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies that expanded power to the common man.

### Whig

The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported tariffs and building canals and roads to boost the economy.



Map of United States during Andrew Jackson's presidency

### Quote

"Our Federal Union! It must be preserved!"  
April 13, 1830.

## National Debt

The United States has had a **national debt** for a long time. The last time it was fully paid off came during Andrew Jackson's presidency. He felt that having a debt prevented the United States from being fully independent. No president since Jackson has been able to pull off this feat.





## Retirement

Andrew Jackson retired back home to Tennessee to his home, known as the Hermitage. He was still very popular with the American people and remained active in politics. He helped convince Texas to join the United States and his close friend, James K. Polk, was elected president in 1844. By then, his health began to fail. He died of heart failure on June 8, 1845.



## Quote

*"Eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty... you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing."*

*Farewell address  
March 4, 1837*

## Controversial Legacy

Modern critics of Jackson often focus on his Native American policies and that he was a southern slaveholder without discussing his contributions to the country. His heroic victory at the Battle of New Orleans inspired millions of Americans and he left the country a more democratic place where more people could help shape its future.

Although the Trail of Tears led to great hardship for Native Americans, Jackson didn't have many good options and believed he was providing a pathway for many indigenous cultures to survive. Lastly, by strengthening the authority of the national government, he delayed the American Civil War long enough so that a new president, Abraham Lincoln, had enough resources to keep the country united.

# Word Search



N Z V V V H V Q T Z O N P S J  
X D E M O C R A T I C Q Z M A  
I V P M W V P Z W F Z L Z A U  
V O A R J L A R R N D Y M N E  
P T A R I F F C J K O J Y Y P  
I L Q P O S T H J H O J H W M  
S O C O M M O N M A N C D J G  
L G W I B R E N H P J F H D S  
R C T Q V O B N E H U Q O L L  
U A U Y X I Z G D R M C R V R  
C B G F I G L J Q P O H K A U  
O I W T L P N W K F Q F H I G  
V N H V A C B C A U R D W H P  
X E I X U G Y R H R X U P A T  
Z Y G F C Y X W Z D R E G O R  
N E G L M O T F Q Q V L R W J

DUEL

TARIFF

LOG CABIN

PRISONER OF WAR

COMMON MAN

DEMOCRATIC

WHIG

RAGTAG

CIVIL WAR



## Pop Quiz

How old was Andrew Jackson when he became an orphan?

- A. 12
- B. 45
- C. 7
- D. 14

What state did Jackson move to after retiring from the presidency?

- A. Alaska
- B. Tennessee
- C. Georgia
- D. New York

What political party was Jackson a member of?

- A. Republican
- B. Democratic
- C. Whig
- D. Constitutional

Jackson was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ President?

- A. Common Man
- B. Green Thumb
- C. Orphan
- D. Fighter

What was the battle that made Jackson famous?

- A. Battle of Bunker Hill
- B. Battle of Gettysburg
- C. Battle of New Orleans
- D. Battle of Iwo Jima

What institution did Andrew Jackson close?

- A. Library of Congress
- B. Kindergartens
- C. Hospitals
- D. National Bank

What war did President Jackson fight in as a general?

- A. Civil War
- B. War of 1812
- C. French-American
- D. Revolutionary

What did Jackson install in the White House?

- A. Elevators
- B. Mirrors
- C. Toilets
- D. Fireplaces

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

## Word Scramble

NTEAVI AAMRCNEI

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LEERLCATO GLOELCE

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ALNIONAT DBET

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HTEIW HSEUO

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AKJNSOC

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CESHEE

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RHONAP

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OCMONM NMA

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 20



# Glossary

**Democratic:** When people in a system are more equal and can participate in the government, such as voting.

**Common Man:** The party formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies, which expanded power to the common man.

**Log cabin:** A house made out of tree logs that became a symbol in the 19th century of humble beginnings in America.

**Prisoner-of-war:** A person who has been captured and imprisoned by the enemy during a war.

**Ragtag:** A group that is disorganized and full of different people.

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

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

**Tariff:** A tax on something being bought or sold to a customer in another country.

**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.

**Democratic Party:** The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies that expanded power to the common man.

**Whig Party:** The party formed in the early 19th century in the United States that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported tariffs and building canals and roads to boost the economy.

**Duel:** A contest where two people settle a disagreement with weapons, such as guns, in the presence of other people.

**National Debt:** The total amount of money that a country's government owes by borrowing from others.

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**Images:** Wikicommons, Getty, Pixelbay, Unsplash

## Answers

N Z V V V H V Q T Z O N P S J  
X D E M O C R A T I C Q Z M A  
I V P M W V P Z W F Z L Z A U  
V O A R J L A R R N D Y M N E  
P T A R I E F C J K O J Y Y P  
I L Q P O S T H J H O J H W M  
S O C O M M O N M A N C D J G  
L G W I B R E N H P J F H D S  
R C T Q V O B N E H U Q O L L  
U A I Y X I Z G D R M C R V R  
C B G F I G L J Q P O H K A U  
O I W T L P N W K F Q F H I G  
V N H V A C B C A U R D W H P  
X E I X U G Y R H R X U P A T  
Z Y G F C Y X W Z D R E G O R  
N E G L M O T F Q Q V L R W J

**ANSWERS - POP QUIZ:**  
1. D, 2. B, 3. B, 4. A, 5. C, 6. D, 7. B, 8. C

**WORD SCRAMBLE:**  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN,  
ELECTORAL  
COLLEGE,  
NATIONAL DEBT,  
WHITE HOUSE,  
JACKSON,  
CHEESE, ORPHAN,  
COMMON MAN

JACKSON'S PET: A PARROT NAMED POLL





# James Polk

"I was the 11th president and I expanded America all the way to the Pacific Ocean"



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



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

When Polk was president, a young congressman attacked him for starting the Mexican-American War. That congressman would one day become president, and we need to find out just who he was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine 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!

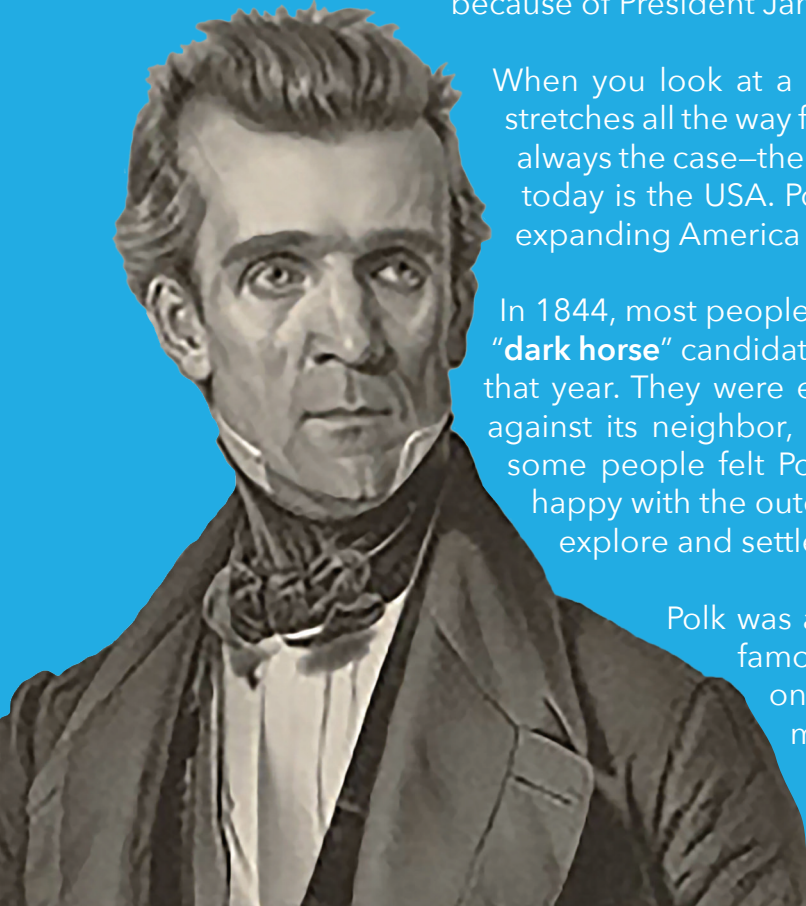
## Meet James K. Polk

Did you know that **A**izona, California, Nevada, and Utah are American states because of President James Knox Polk?

When you look at a map of the United States, you'll see that the country stretches all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This wasn't always the case—there was a time when other countries owned parts of what today is the USA. Polk played a big role in acquiring those territories and expanding America across the continent.

In 1844, most people in America didn't know who Polk was. He was called a "**d**ark horse" candidate and surprised everyone when he won the presidency that year. They were even more surprised when he led America into a war against its neighbor, Mexico, and won an overwhelming victory. Although some people felt Polk was wrong to start the war, most Americans were happy with the outcome because their country had more land for them to explore and settle.

Polk was a very hardworking president. Even though he isn't as famous as other presidents, he is considered by many to be one of the most important. Few presidents have done more to transform America into a major world power than James Polk.





## Young James

James Polk came from a **B**ig family. He was the oldest of ten children. His father Samuel was a hardworking farmer from North Carolina. His mother, Jane, raised James and his siblings, teaching them the importance of a strong work ethic and discipline. When James was 11, he and his family moved to the new **frontier** state of Tennessee where there was plenty of land to build farms. They travelled almost five hundred miles by wagon to get the**R**e. The trip was worth it: Samuel became a successful farmer and eventually owned thousands of acres of land and many slaves. He also got involved in local politics. While eating dinner, young James often heard his father discuss the major issues of the day with guests.

Unfortunately, **J**Ames spent much of his childhood sick in bed, which made it difficult for him to attend school. He once had very painful surgery to remove gallstones from his body. Fortunately, he recovered. His mother taught him at home and also hired several tutors for him. James overcame his illnesses and did well in **H**is studies, especially in reading, writing, and math.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Interesting Facts

- Polk was born on November 2, 1795 in Pineville, North Carolina.
- He and his wife Sarah never had any children.
- He is considered the first “dark horse” candidate to win the presidency.
- He is the first president to be elected under the age of 50.
- He is the only **Speaker of the House** to serve as President of the United States.
- He and his **cabinet** are depicted in the first photograph ever taken inside the White House.
- He is the first president to serve a full term and refuse to run for reelection.
- He is the first president to die under the age of 60. This made him the first president to die before one of his parents died.
- He only lived three months after leaving the White House, which is the shortest retirement for any president.
- His wife Sarah was widowed for 42 years, the longest of any first lady.

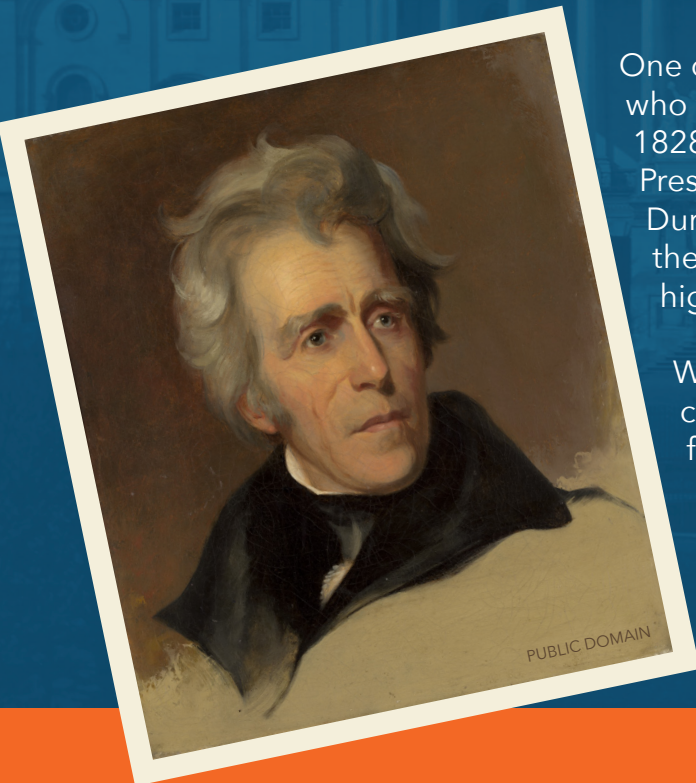




# Rise to the Presidency

When Polk was 20 years-old, he enrolled in the University of North Carolina. He was one of the top students in his clAss and learned how to speak well in front of other people. Out of his entire class, he was chosen to give the **commencement** speech at his graduation in 1818.

After graduating with honors, Polk became a lawyer, but he was mainly interested in politics. In 1824, he was elected to the U.S. Congress, but politics wasn't the only thing he cared about. He also wanted to settle down, so that same year, he married a beautiful and intelligent woman named Sarah Childress.



One of Polk's close family friends was a man named Andrew Jackson, who was a military hero from the War of 1812 and a politician. In 1828, Jackson was elected president. Polk strongly supported President Jackson and the new **Democratic Party** he had forMed. During Jackson's presidency, Polk rose to become the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which meant he was the highest-ranking congressman in the country.

When Andrew Jackson left the White House in 1837, Polk's career continued to rise. He ran for governor of Tennessee in 1839 and won, but lost his re-election race in 1841. He tried to return as governor in 1843, but lost again.



## Speaker of the House

Prior to becoming president, James K. Polk was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker is chosen by the members of Congress and must have the support of a majority of the members voting. The Speaker plays a major role in what legislation is voted on in Congress. For most of American history, it has been in the line of succession to the presidency. As of 2021, the Speaker of the House becomes the President of the United States if the president and the vice president are unable to discharge their duties.

## Quote

"I love you Sarah. For all eternity, I love you."  
- last words, spoken to his wife, June 15, 1849.



## Quote

"Ours was intended to be a plain and frugal government."  
- inaugural address, March 4, 1845.

## Dark Horse Candidate

After Losing twice, Polk was depressed. His career seemed to be over, but he still had an ambition to return to office. As the 1844 presidential election approached, Andrew Jackson felt Polk was the best candidate. The Democrats chose Polk as their presidential nominee. He defeated the Whig Party's candidate Henry Clay that fall and became President of the United States.





## Quote

"With me it is emphatically true that the presidency is 'no bed of roses.'"

- Diary entry, September 4, 1847.

## President



Once he moved into the White House in March 1845, President Polk got right to work. Every day, he worked long hours into the night.

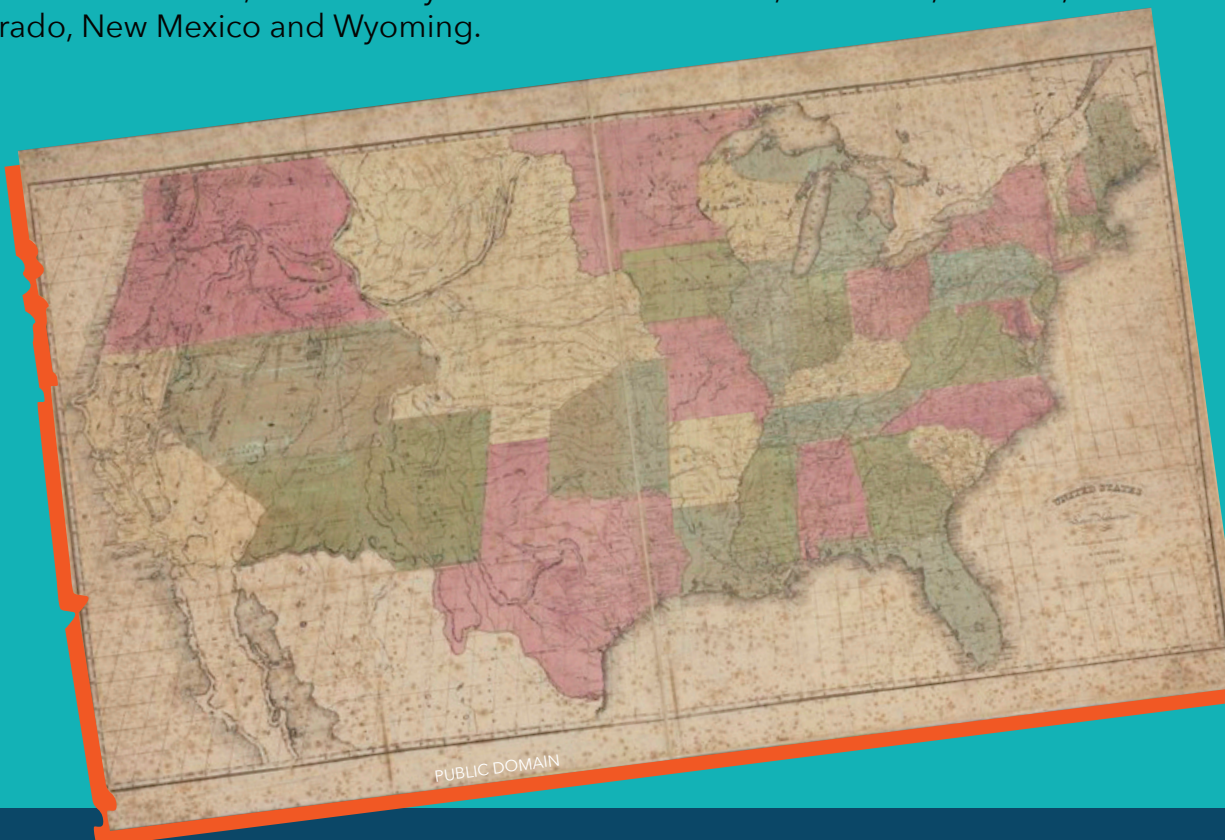
The previous president, John Tyler, tried to get Texas to join America as a new state. Texas used to be under Mexico but it declared independence in the 1830s because Mexico's government was **corrupt** and it didn't respect the rights of its citizens. After Texas won independence, President Tyler tried to convince it to join the United States. Polk made sure to continue this effort, and Texas entered the Union by December 1845. Americans were happy that Texas was now part of their country, but Mexico was upset because it wanted the state back.

Americans wanted more land and weren't happy that much of the western part of North America was still owned by Mexico. They also wanted this land to settle and live on. Tensions between the two countries increased and war broke out in April 1846.

Under Polk's leadership, the U.S. military defeated Mexico and even took over its capital, Mexico City. Polk had to overcome many challenges: he didn't get along well with his top generals Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor.

Still, when the war ended in February 1848, America had won an impressive victory. The vStates had acquired half a million square miles of land, which today includes all of Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah and parts of Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Back in 1844, Polk had promised he would only serve one term. He was true to his word and didn't run for re-election in 1848. That year, one of his generals, Zachary Taylor, was elected to replace him as president. He and Sarah left the White House in March of 1849 and moved back to Tennessee.







# Mexican-American War

Many of the young soldiers that fought in the Mexican-American War would later become the most important generals of the American Civil War. This included Winfield Scott Hancock, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, Joseph E. Johnston, George McClellan, George Meade, George Pickett, and most famously, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Many of them became close friends, learned about each others' strengths and weaknesses, and gained valuable combat experience. Sadly, they would find themselves fighting on opposite sides when the Civil War broke out.



## Retirement

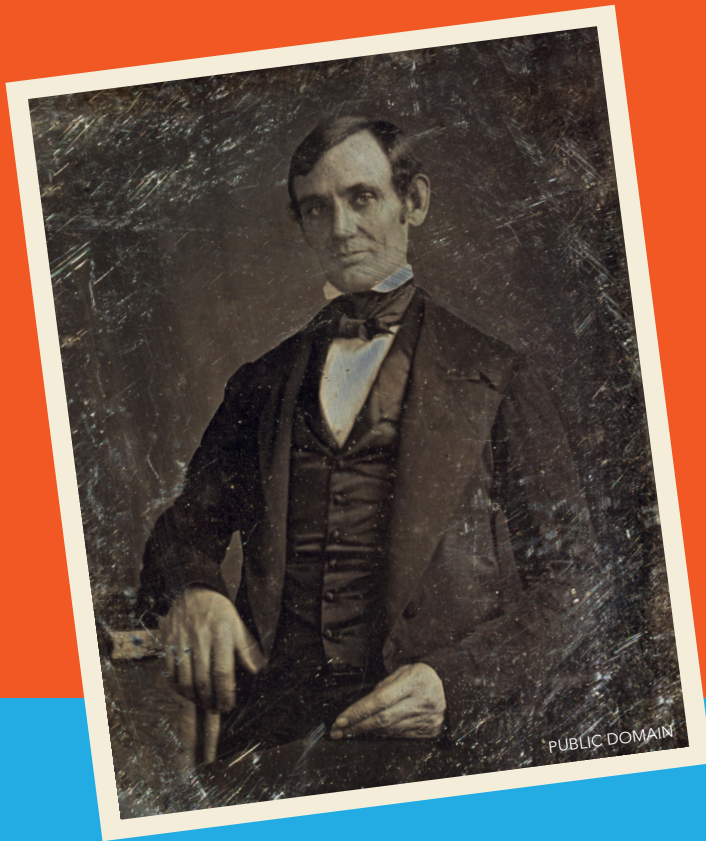
Former President Polk was exhausted after finishing his term. Although he was one of the youngest presidents to enter office at age 49, by now he was 53 years old and in poor health. He contracted cholera and died on June 15, 1849 at his home in Nashville, Tennessee.





## Legacy

James Polk left a very important **legacy** for his country. By expanding America's size, he helped it become a major power in the world. This opened up new territories to Americans, allowing millions of people to prosper, and strengthened the country, but also introduced new problems. At the time, **slavery** existed in the southern United States and some wanted the new territories to have slaves, while others disagreed. For the next twelve years after Polk's death, Americans would argue about this issue, but couldn't come to an agreement. The problem of slavery would only be settled by the Civil War under the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.



## Word Scramble

ADKR OSHER

BICNAET

ROTEIRFR

MOENTCEMCE

CADREMTIO

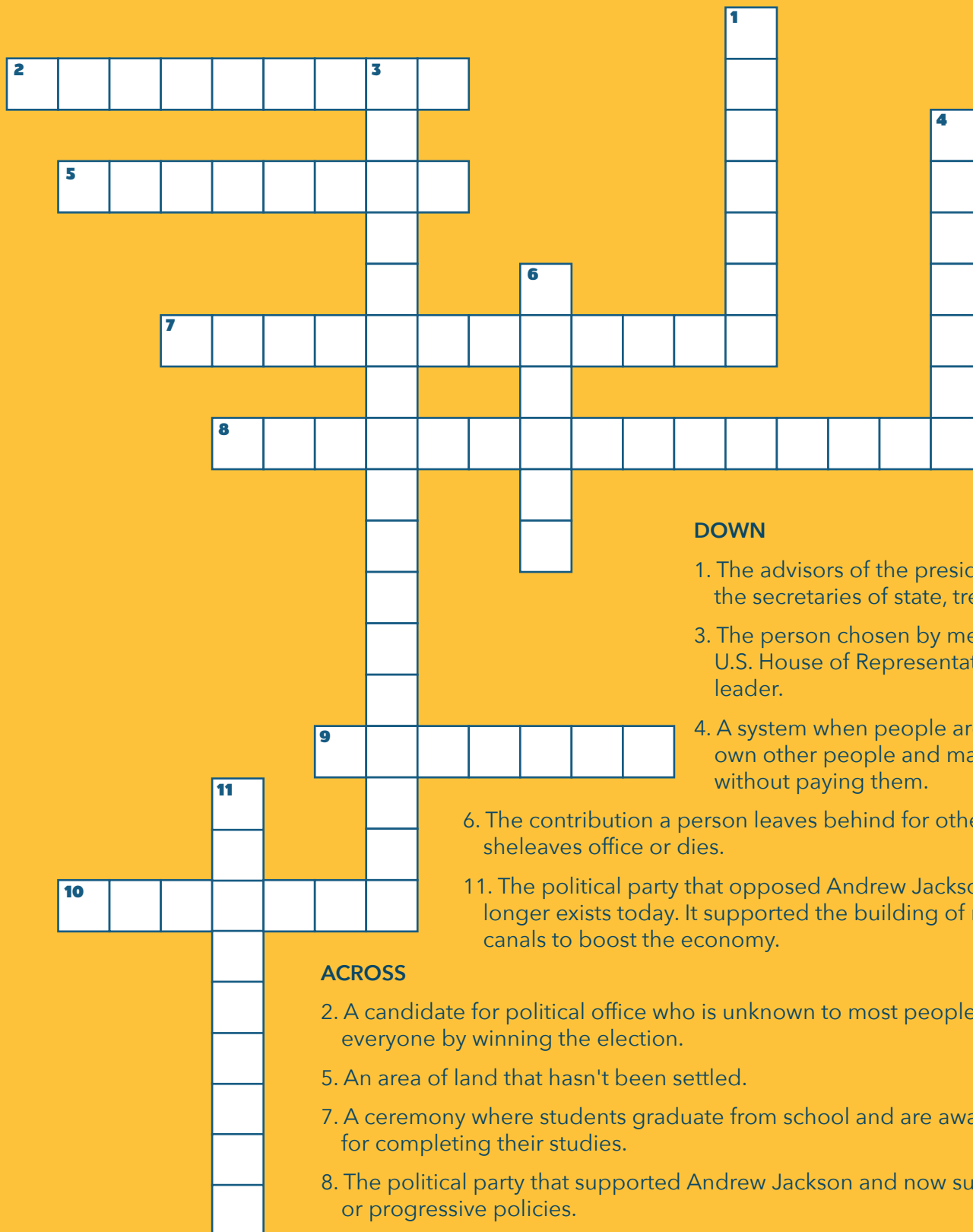
EMONIEN

GHIW

CYGALE




# Cross Word



## DOWN

1. The advisors of the president, including the secretaries of state, treasury, etc.
3. The person chosen by members of the U.S. House of Representatives to be its leader.
4. A system when people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.

6. The contribution a person leaves behind for others after he or she leaves office or dies.

11. The political party that opposed Andrew Jackson, which no longer exists today. It supported the building of roads and canals to boost the economy.

## ACROSS

2. A candidate for political office who is unknown to most people, but surprises everyone by winning the election.

5. An area of land that hasn't been settled.

7. A ceremony where students graduate from school and are awarded degrees for completing their studies.

8. The political party that supported Andrew Jackson and now supports liberal or progressive policies.

9. Dishonest, seeking selfish gain.

10. A person chosen by a party to be a candidate for specific political office.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30



# Glossary

**Dark Horse:** A candidate for political office who is unknown to most people, but surprises everyone by winning the election.

**Speaker of the House:** The person chosen by members of the U.S. House of Representatives to be its leader.

**Cabinet:** The advisors of the president, including the secretaries of state, treasury, etc.

**Frontier:** An area of land that hasn't been settled.

**Commencement:** A ceremony where students graduate from school and are awarded degrees for completing their studies.

**Democratic Party:** The political party that supported Andrew Jackson and now supports liberal or progressive policies.

**Nominee:** A person chosen by a party to be a candidate for specific political office.

**Whig Party:** The political party that opposed Andrew Jackson, which no longer exists today. It supported the building of roads and canals to boost the economy.

**Corrupt:** Dishonest, seeking selfish gain.

**Legacy:** The contribution a person leaves behind for others after he or she leaves office or dies.

**Slavery:** A system when people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.

30

Presidents of the United States of America: James Polk

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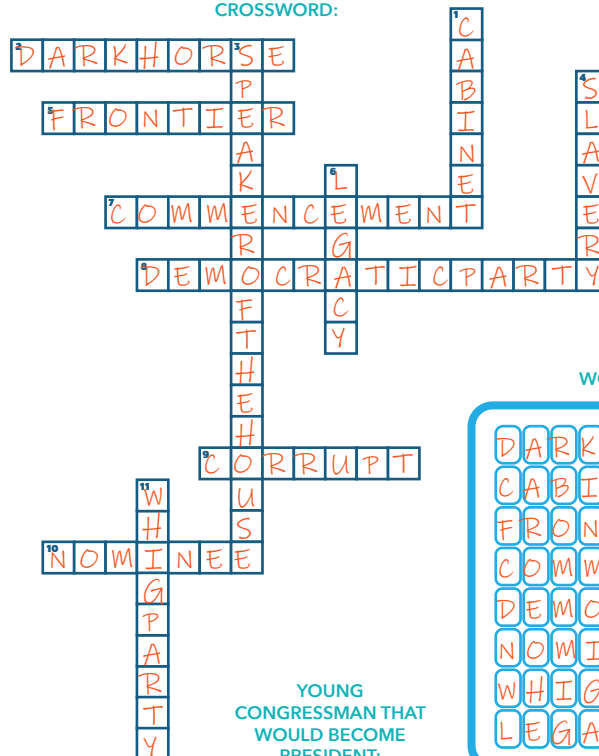
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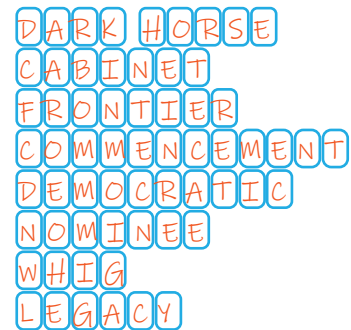
Images: WikiCommons

## Answers

CROSSWORD:



WORD SCRAMBLE:



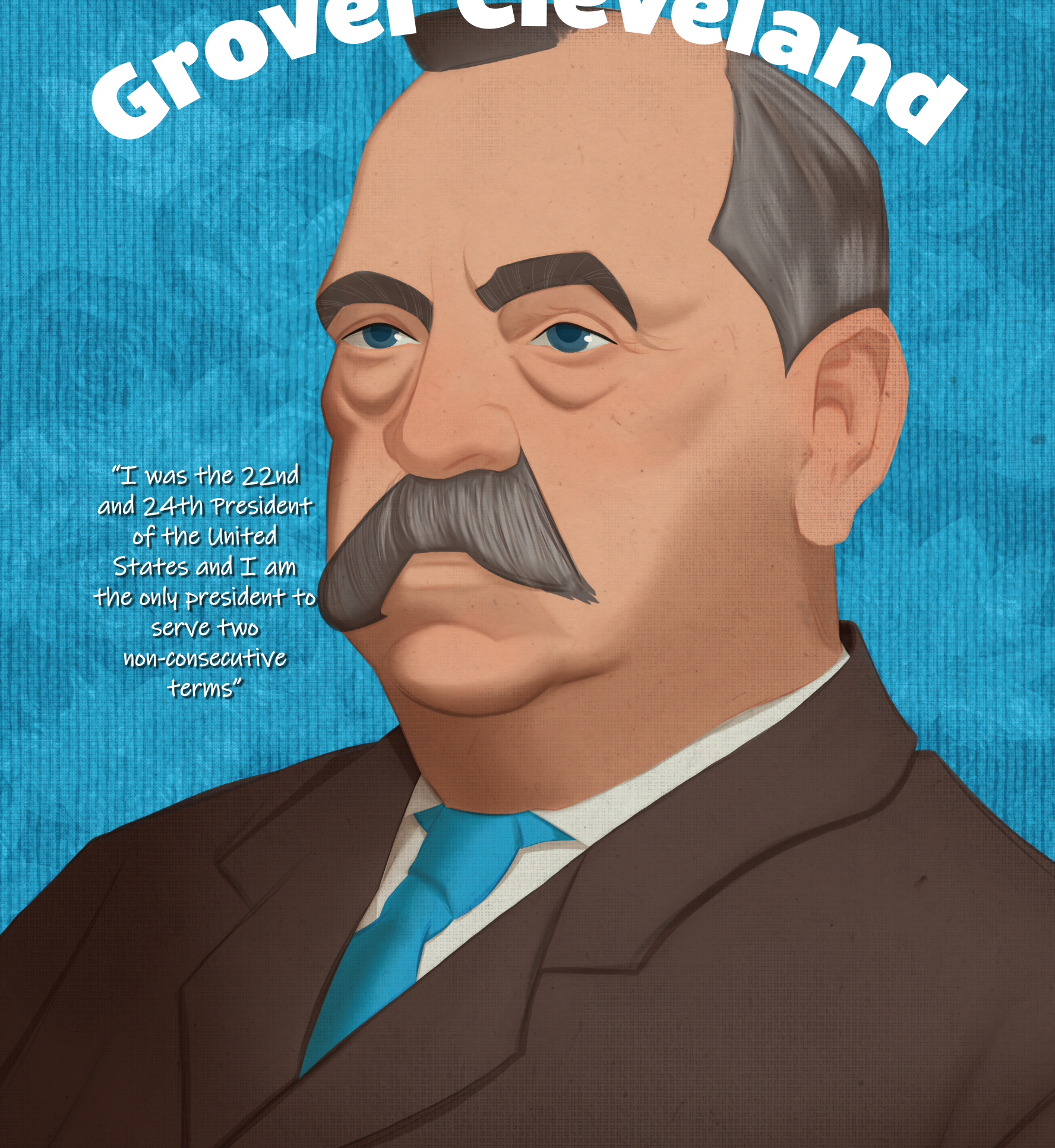
YOUNG  
CONGRESSMAN THAT  
WOULD BECOME  
PRESIDENT:  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN





# Grover Cleveland

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





# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



In this magazine, 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.

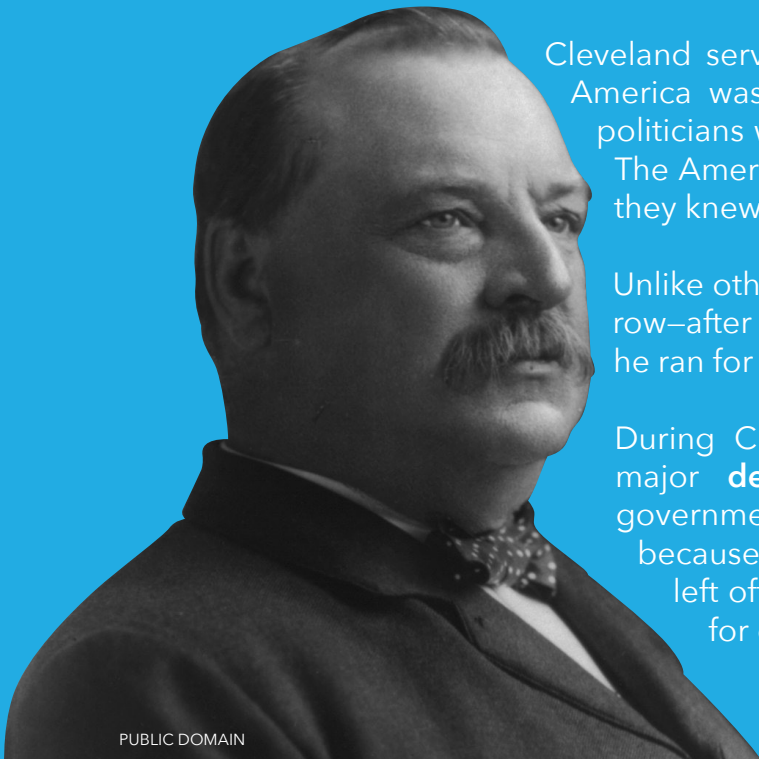
President Cleveland's friends gave him a nickname because he had a big belly, but we need to find out what it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

— — — — — — — — — —

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? It happened often to one of our presidents, Grover Cleveland. People wanted him to make the government more powerful and spend more taxpayer money. Grover Cleveland, however, was a man of character who 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.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Cleveland served as president d**U**ring 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 knew that, unlike other political figures, he was an honest man.

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 **depression**. 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 office as an unpopular president, many still respected him for doing what he felt was right, no matter what others said.

## Young Grover

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.

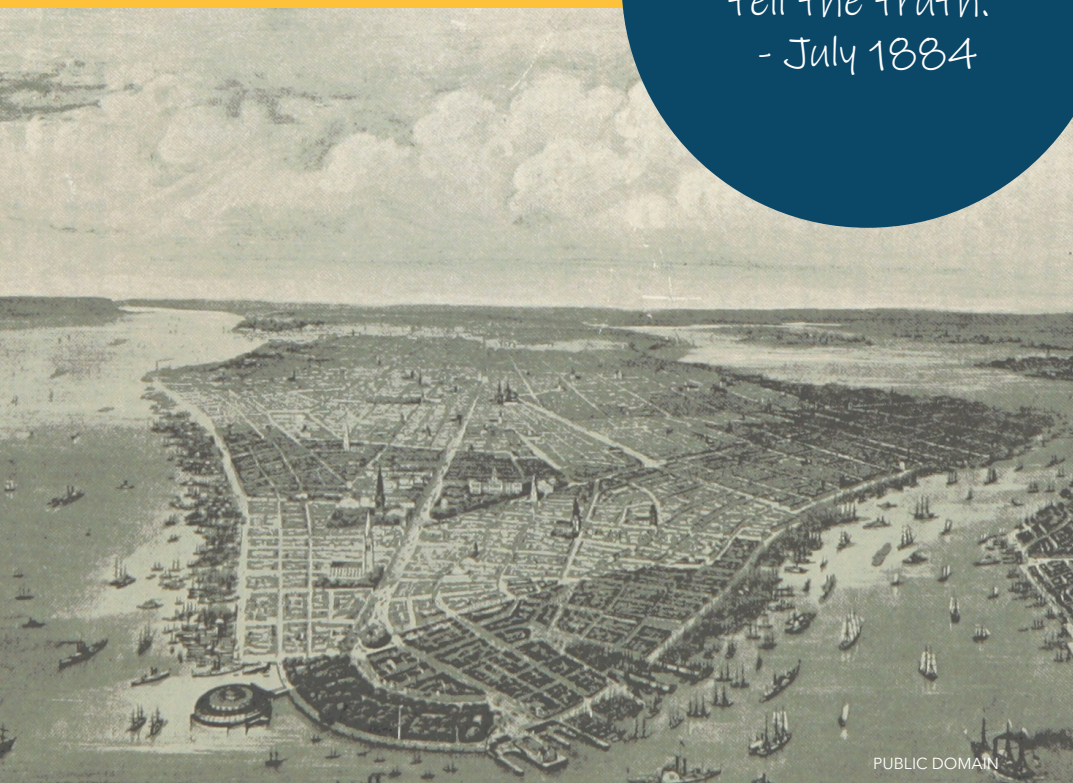
Grover went to school like most kids, but this changed when he was 16. His father died of a stomach ulcer, which meant Grover had to find a job to support his mother and siblings. It was a difficult time for the Cleverlands, but Grover found a job as a teacher at the New York Institute for the Blind 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

- Cleveland was born on March 18, 1837 in Caldwell, New Jersey.
- He was born with the name Stephen Grover Cleveland, but he went by Grover.
- 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 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.
- He died on June 24, 1908 in Princeton, New Jersey.







## Quote

"Officeholders  
are the agents  
of the people, not  
their masters."

- July 1886

## 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~~j~~ect, 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. 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.





## 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 natives 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

PUBLIC DOMAIN



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



## Second Term as President

Frances' 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 he and Frances 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 integrity again.

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 at the age of 71.

## Legacy

Most Americans remember Grover Cleveland as the only president who served two non-consecutive terms. Often forgotten is the fact that the people greatly respected him for

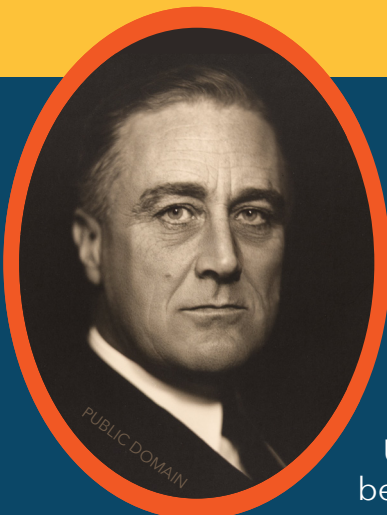
standing up for what he felt was right. They elected him twice as president and he won the most popular votes in all three of his presidential elections.

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.

Although a major depression ruined his second term, Americans knew they could always count on him to follow his conscience.

## 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



A stylized, graphic illustration of Calvin Coolidge. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a blue suit jacket with a white dot pattern, a white shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He has light brown hair, a high forehead, and striking blue eyes. The background is a vibrant red with a pattern of darker red leaves and a white dot pattern. In the top left corner, there are three small white dots arranged in a triangular pattern.

# calvin Coolidge

"I was America's  
30th president and led  
the country during a  
time of great  
prosperity"



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



In this magazine, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Calvin Coolidge's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.  
We need your help to figure it out!

President Coolidge had a pet raccoon, but we need to find out what her name was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are **bolded** letters. Read this magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

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

## Meet Calvin Coolidge

Did you know that Calvin Coolidge served as p**R**esident during one of the most exciting times in American history? For millions of people, it was the first time they got to drive a car, see an airplane fly, or listen to their favorite show on the radio. Many of the things we enjoy today, like electricity in our homes, became commonplace in the 1920s. America was entering the modern world and Coolidge's leadership helped make it happen.



Coolidge strongly believed in America's founding principles—that every citizen should be free to live their lives without the government telling them what to do. When he became the 30th president of the United States in 1923, he worked to reduce the power of the government. As a result, the country enjoyed great **prosperity** throughout the 1920s and millions of Americans' lives improved.

Many people in politics love to be the center of attention, but Coolidge was different. H**E** was a very shy and quiet man. He was even nicknamed "Silent Cal." The voters, however, admired him for his hard work and honesty, so they elected him in many positions in government. He overcame his shyness to become one of the most popular presidents in American history.





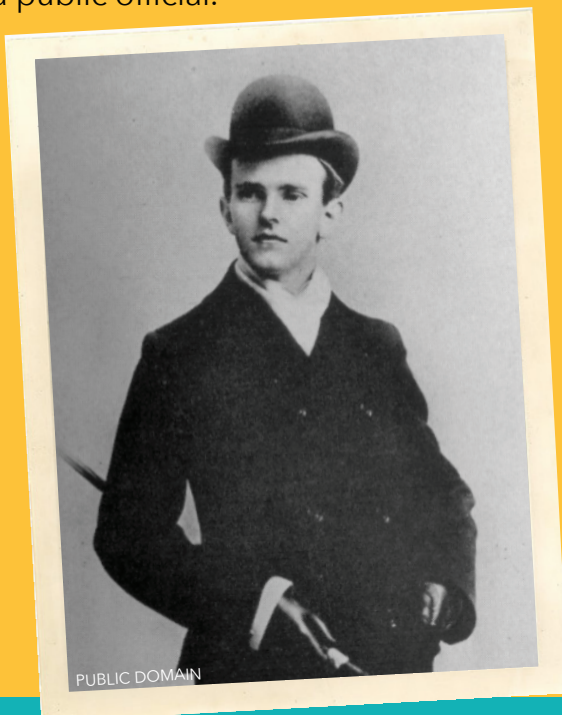
## Young Calvin

Calvin Coolidge was the oldest son of John and Victoria Coolidge. He had a younger sister named Abigail, who he called "Abbie." His father was a hardworking farmer and store owner, and even served in politics for the state of Vermont.

Young Calvin helped his family out by doing chores. At first, he didn't seem to stand out from his peers. He was very shy and an average student at school. He did, however, love to read and while in high school, developed an interest in public speaking. He was even chosen to give a speech during his high school graduation.

Like many families in the 19th century, the Coolidges experienced their share of tragedies. When Calvin was just 12 years old, his mother died of what some believe was tuberculosis. About five years later, Calvin lost his sister Abbie from what may have been appendicitis. Calvin was very sad about their deaths. While he was away at school in Ludlow, Vermont, he wrote to his father, "it is lonely here without Abbie."

From his upbringing, Calvin learned the importance of working hard and spending money wisely. He believed that one should live within their means and not get into **debt**. He would apply these values when he grew up and became a public official.

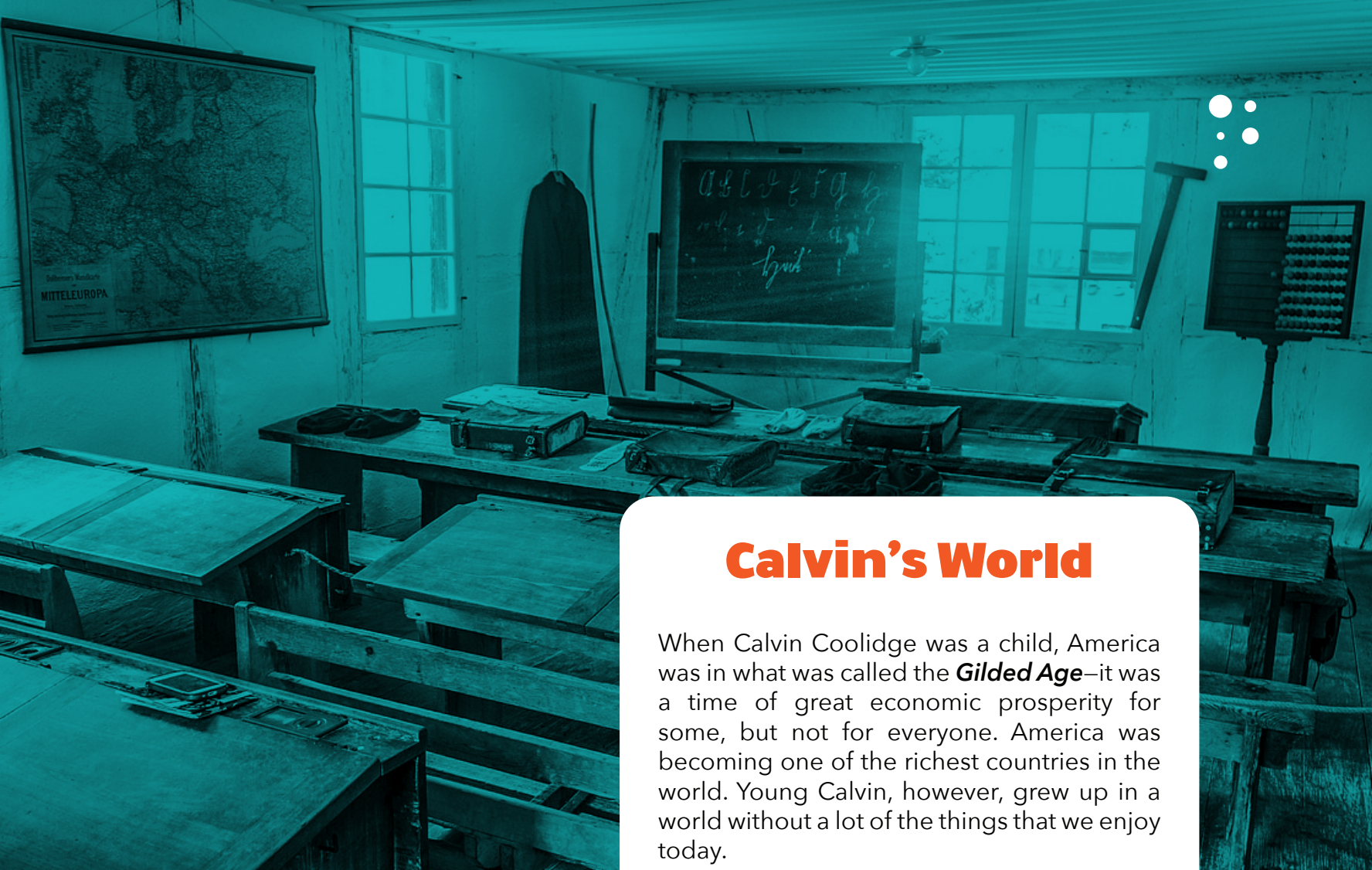


PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Interesting Facts

- He was born on July 4, 1872 in Plymouth Notch, Vermont.
- His full name was John Calvin Coolidge, Jr. but he went by Calvin.
- He is the only president to share a birthday with the United States.
- He is the only president to be sworn into office by his father.
- He had many pets: cats named Climber and Tiger, lion cubs named Budget Bureau and Tax Reduction, and a collie named Rob Roy. Later, he had a pet raccoon! Have you discovered her name?
- He balanced the budget every year he was president.
- He was the first president to visit Cuba while president.
- He granted citizenship to all Native Americans in the United States.
- During his presidency, Calvin Coolidge had his son, Calvin Jr., work at a tobacco farm. One of Calvin Jr.'s coworkers said, "If the president was my father, I wouldn't be working here." Calvin Jr. replied, "If my father were your father, you would."
- He died on January 5, 1933 at the age of 60 in Northampton, MA.





## Calvin's World

When Calvin Coolidge was a child, America was in what was called the **Gilded Age**—it was a time of great economic prosperity for some, but not for everyone. America was becoming one of the richest countries in the world. Young Calvin, however, grew up in a world without a lot of the things that we enjoy today.

People didn't have cell phones or laptops. There was no such thing as the Internet, Instagram, or video games. Many families didn't even have running water or electricity in their homes. They had to use gas or kerosene lamps for lighting. Nowadays, most families have cars. That wasn't the case back then. People had to walk or ride on horses and mules to get to work. Kids who lived on farms often had to walk several miles to school.

Schools sometimes were held in just one room. Kids spent a lot of time not just at school and doing homework, but also helping out on the farm. They would help plow and plant crops, tend the farm animals, help preserve food, churn butter, do the laundry, and help raise young siblings.

## The Bookshelf

In the late 1800s, kids didn't have movies or TV shows to watch, but they enjoyed books like *Gulliver's Travels*, *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Treasure Island*, and *Heidi*.



IMAGES: PUBLIC DOMAIN

# Education, Family, and Early Career

After Calvin graduated from high school, he enrolled in Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1891. At Amherst College, Calvin learned more about politics. His family supported the Republican Party and his studies only confirmed his **conservative** beliefs. Again, he was shy toward his classmates, earned a reputation for being a very good public speaker, and was chosen to speak at the graduation ceremony.

After finishing college, Calvin became a lawyer. In 1903, he met a woman named Grace Goodhue, who was a teacher at a local school for the deaf. They met when they were neighbors and Grace accidentally spotted him through a window at his house while he was shaving. They married in 1905 and would eventually have two children, John and Calvin Jr.



## Quote

*"For almost a quarter of a century she has borne with my infirmities, and I have rejoiced in her graces."*

- Coolidge referring to his wife, Grace Coolidge

## Rise to Power

Eventually, Coolidge entered politics, just like his father. He became the mayor of his hometown, Northampton, MA. As mayor, he focused on cutting spending and went through the city's **budget** line by line to get rid of waste. The people of his city were grateful when he lowered their **taxes**. When he was elected to the Massachusetts state legislature, he supported several pieces of modern legislation, such as giving women the right to vote, but he opposed the **radical** parts of the **progressive** movement. He felt that many labor groups, like the Industrial Workers of the World, were trying to transform America into a **socialist** country.

In 1915, Coolidge became a top leader in Massachusetts when he was elected as the lieutenant governor. He was so popular in the state that three years later, he ran for governor and won.





## National Figure

During Coolidge's time as governor, the United States was going through a lot of problems. Radical progressives were trying to stir up violence and destroy the country. In 1917, radicals called Bolsheviks took over Russia, the biggest country in the world, and turned it into a **communist state**. Some feared that this same thing was happening in America. In 1919, radicals convinced workers

in Seattle to go on strike, which paralyzed the city.

Next, they encouraged Boston police officers to strike; they did in September 1919. This left the city of Boston unprotected against robbers and crooks. Violence broke out and several innocent Bostonians were killed.

As governor, Coolidge remained calm and acted decisively. He wrote a message announcing,

"There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time" and sent in the state militia to restore order. Many Americans were scared by all of the violence, but impressed by Coolidge's leadership.

The Republican Party was also impressed and chose Coolidge to be its vice presidential candidate in 1920, alongside its presidential candidate Warren G. Harding. That November, Harding and Coolidge were elected in a **landslide**.

As vice president, Coolidge was very loyal to President Harding and supported his policies. Unfortunately, Harding died of a heart attack on August 2, 1923.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Civil Rights for All

During Coolidge's presidency, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) grew and even held a march on Washington, D.C. in 1925. Coolidge opposed the racism that the KKK represented and spoke out in favor of civil rights, especially for African-Americans. He praised black servicemembers in World War I, saying, "The black man showed himself the same kind of citizen, moved by the same kind of patriotism, as the white man."

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Quote

"The chief business of the American people is business. They are profoundly concerned with producing, buying, selling, investing, and prospering in the world."



## President

In 1923, Calvin Coolidge became the president of the United States. He had a lot of problems to solve. President Woodrow Wilson had spent a lot of money during World War I and the country was in massive debt. Coolidge felt it was unfair to build up debt because future generations would have to pay for it.

He and his top budget officer, Herbert Lord, went through the government's budget line by line and cut everything that was wasteful and unnecessary. They found that there was a lot to cut. He even got mad at the White House housekeeper for spending too much money on ham for a formal dinner. It showed that Coolidge was willing to make the same sacrifices in his own home that he asked others to make.

Coolidge also felt the government was taking too much of the people's money in taxes. He cut taxes in 1924 and again in 1926. Since people were able to keep more of the money they worked hard to earn, they were able to buy more things. This meant that people making things had more money, too. Everyone had more money and the economy boomed.

The American people were very happy. They elected Coolidge president in a landslide in 1924. They felt confident about their country. They were proud when a young pilot named Charles Lindbergh amazed the world in 1927 and became the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean by himself. Lindbergh's feat seemed to show that Americans could achieve anything they wanted.

Coolidge was so popular that many people hoped he would run for re-election in 1928, but he shocked everyone when he announced that he would not be a candidate for president again. One of Coolidge's cabinet members, Herbert Hoover, was elected president to replace him. Even though they came from the same party, Coolidge worried Hoover might raise taxes and ruin the strong economy.

Charles Lindbergh, the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.

## Quote

"The appropriation of public money always is perfectly lovely until someone is asked to pay the bill."

## Tragedy in the White House

In 1924, the Coolidges suffered a devastating tragedy when their 16-year-old son, Calvin Jr., died. He suffered blood poisoning after playing tennis at the White House and getting a blister on his foot. President Coolidge later wrote, "When he went, the power and the glory of the Presidency went with him."



PUBLIC DOMAIN



# Retirement

Calvin Coolidge left the presidency in March 1929. His concerns about Hoover became evident after the stock market crashed in October 1929 and Hoover raised taxes and spent a lot of government money. This took money away from the American people. This and several other decisions ended up destroying the economy and causing the **Great Depression**. Millions of Americans lost their jobs and their homes. They remembered the days of Coolidge's presidency when they had great prosperity.

In 1932, the American people rejected Hoover and elected Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. He had promised to cut government spending, but would eventually change his mind. Meanwhile, Coolidge remained active and even wrote articles for a newspaper. He was sad that America had ruined its economy by abandoning his policies. On January 5, 1933, Calvin Coolidge died at the age of 60 at his home in Northampton.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Legacy

Thanks to Calvin Coolidge, America had more economic opportunities than ever before. Millions of Americans had good jobs and could support their families. For the first time, many of them could afford to buy cars and homes. Businessmen and inventors had the freedom to create new products that Americans could enjoy.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Quote

*"To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race."*

A few months after Coolidge retired from the presidency, the **Stock Market** crashed. After that, Americans were in the worst economic depression in their country's history. Some argue that Coolidge's policies led to the Great Depression and that he should have used the government to prevent it. Others point to government actions after Coolidge left office that made the Depression so devastating. Coolidge's defenders say that had his successors followed his example, millions of Americans would not have lost their jobs and suffered through so much.

Even though people have different opinions about Calvin Coolidge, it is clear that he had great faith in the American people to make their own decisions. To this day, millions of Americans celebrate the 1920s as a time of great excitement and opportunity.



## True or False: Circle the Answer

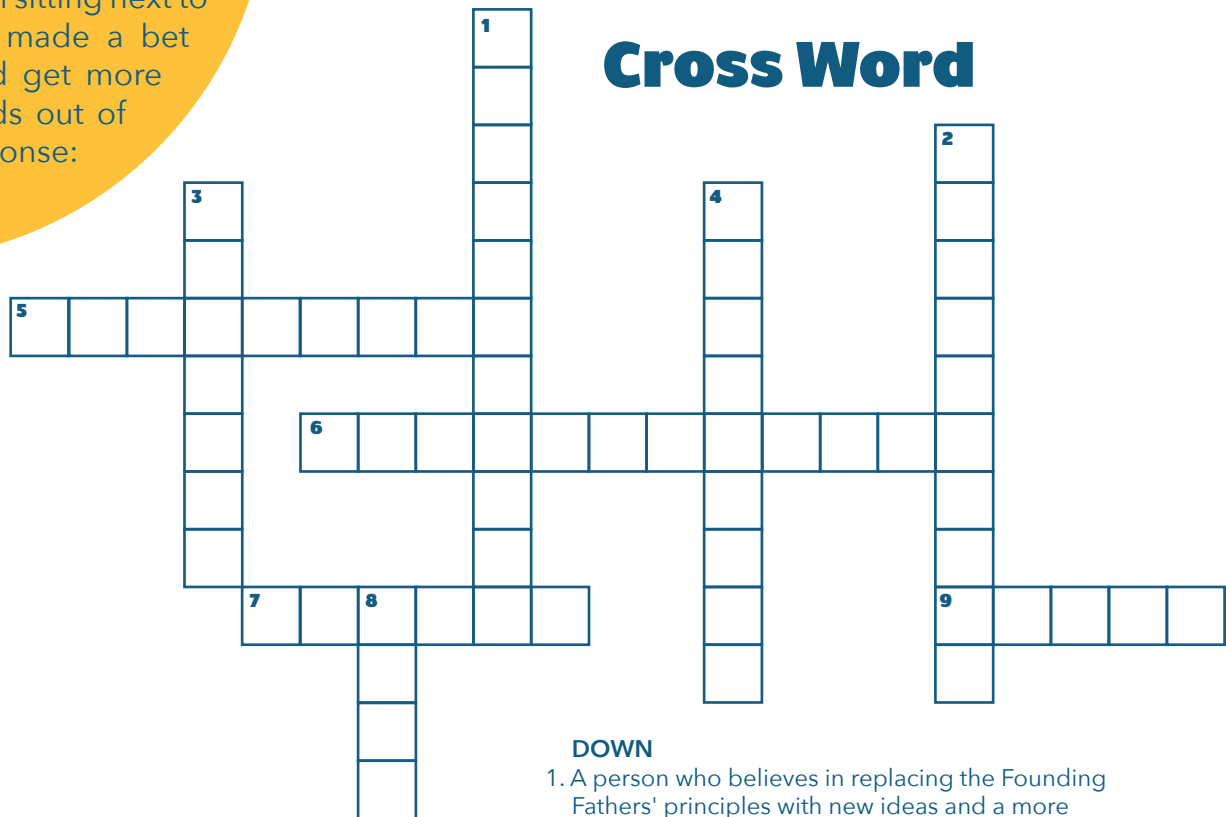
### Silent but Funny

Although Coolidge was known for being a man of few words, he made the most of them. According to a famous anecdote, during a dinner party, a woman sitting next to him said she made a bet that she could get more than two words out of him. His response: "You lose."

- 1 Coolidge was the first president to visit Cuba. **TF**
- 2 Before he became president, Coolidge was a U.S. senator. **TF**
- 3 As a kid, Coolidge was very loud and outgoing. **TF**
- 4 Coolidge balanced the budget every year of his presidency. **TF**
- 5 Coolidge spoke out in favor of civil rights for all Americans. **TF**
- 6 Coolidge was born on December 25. **TF**
- 7 Coolidge lived during World War I and the Great Depression. **TF**
- 8 During Coolidge's presidency, the USA was prosperous. **TF**
- 9 Coolidge had two sons and a daughter. **TF**

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

### Cross Word



#### ACROSS

5. An election where the winner wins by a large number of votes.
6. A person who believes in the Founding Fathers' principles that government should be limited and should focus on protecting citizens' freedoms.
7. The plan or record of the amount of money that a person or organization spends and receives.
9. Money that the government takes from the people so that it can function.

#### DOWN

1. A person who believes in replacing the Founding Fathers' principles with new ideas and a more powerful government.
2. A period of time when the economy is strong and people have a lot of money and good jobs.
3. A person who wants to transform the political, economic, and social system of the country through extreme policies.
4. A person who believes that no one should be able to own anything individually and the government should control the economy.
8. The total amount of money that a person or organization has borrowed from others.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



# Glossary

**Debt:** The total amount of money that a person or organization has borrowed from others.

**Gilded Age:** The time in American history after the Civil War when the nation enjoyed great prosperity; gilded refers to something cheap being covered in a thin gold coating, which some felt was symbolic of America at the time, where great wealth masked many problems.

**Prosperity:** A period of time when the economy is strong and people have a lot of money and good jobs.

**Conservative:** A person who believes in the Founding Fathers' principles that government should be limited and should focus on protecting citizens' freedoms.

**Budget:** The plan or record of the amount of money that a person or organization spends and receives.

**Taxes:** Money that the government takes from the people so that it can function.

**Radical:** A person who wants to transform the political, economic, and social system of the country through extreme policies.

**Progressive:** A person who believes in replacing the Founding Fathers' principles with new ideas and a more powerful government.

**Socialist:** A person who believes that no one should be able to own anything individually and the government should control the economy.

**Communist State:** A country where the government controls every aspect of the people's lives and where individuals cannot own anything by themselves.

**Landslide:** An election where the winner wins by a large number of votes.

**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.

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

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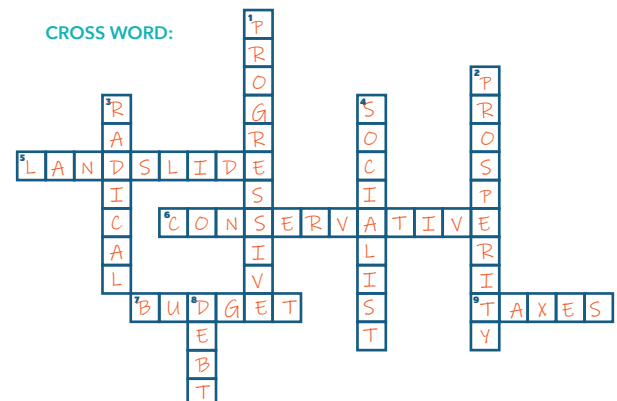
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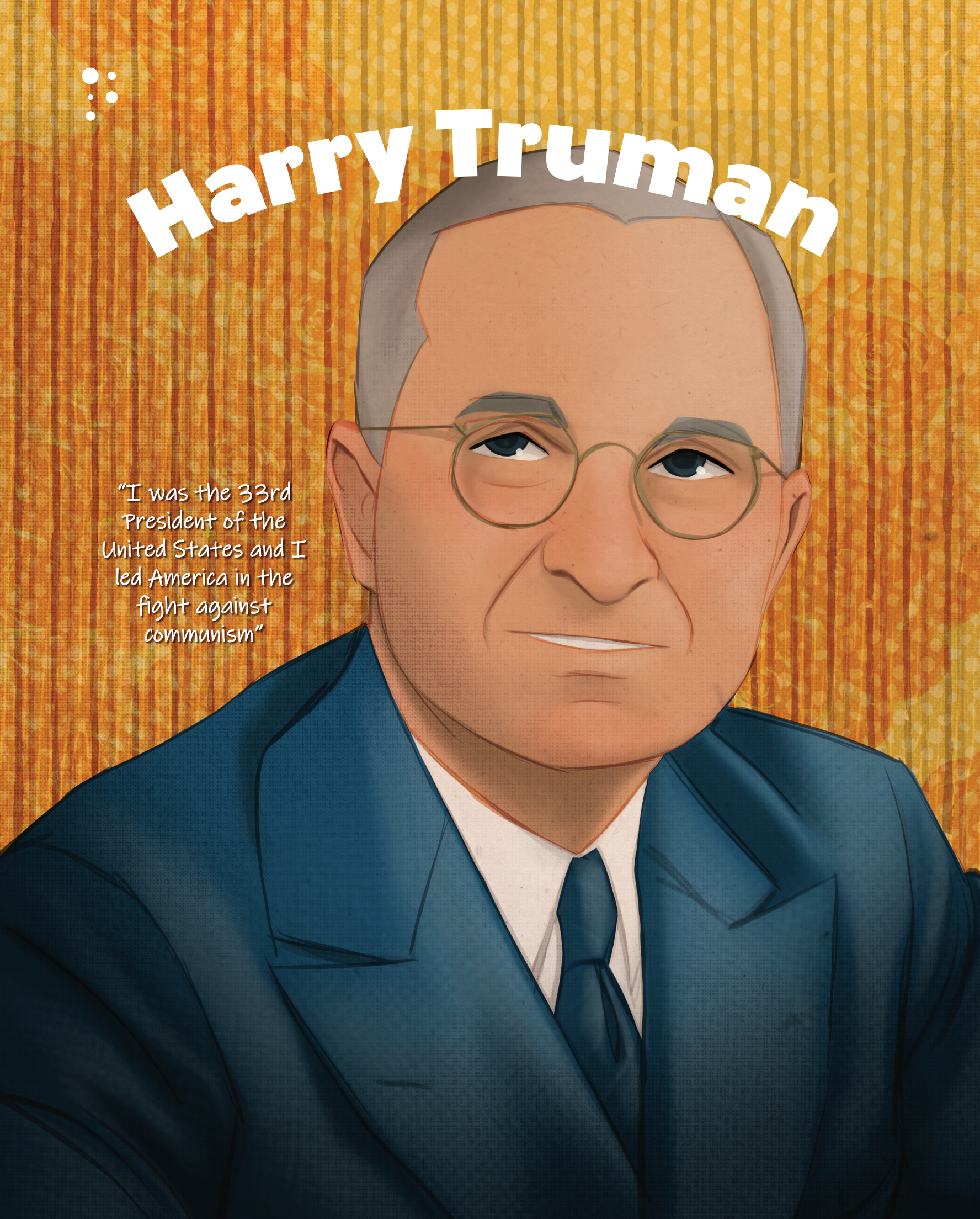
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## Answers

CROSS WORD:







# Harry Truman

"I was the 33rd  
President of the  
United States and I  
led America in the  
fight against  
communism"



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



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

The Secret Service, which protects the president, gave Truman a codename, 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 magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

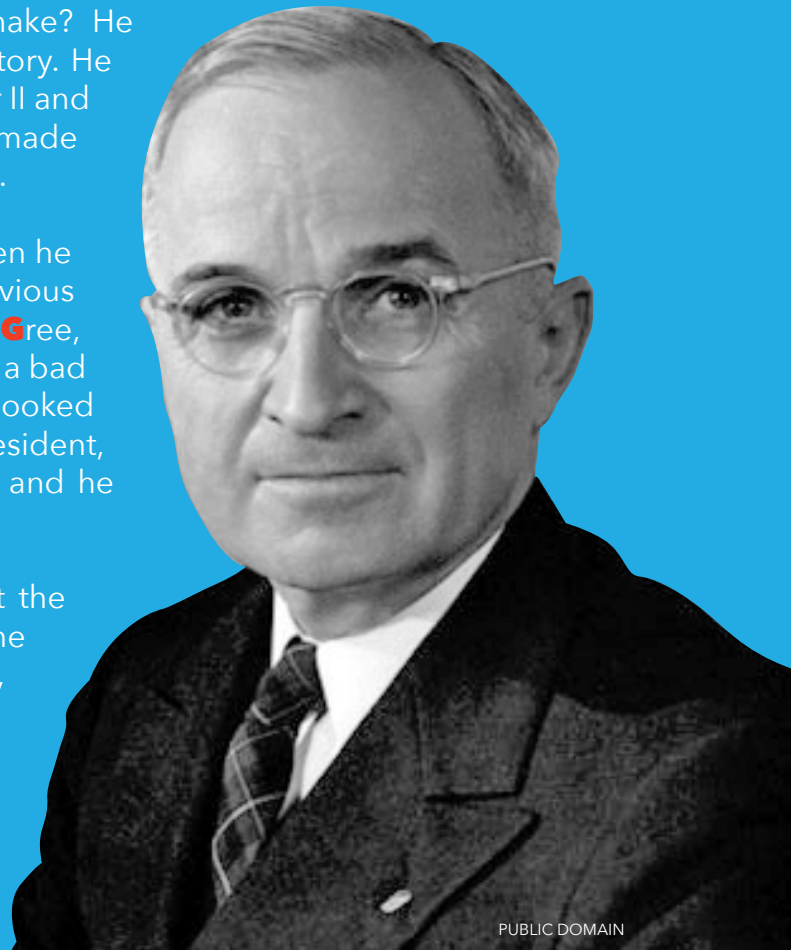
— — — — —  
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a  
true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

## Meet Harry S. Truman

Did you know that Harry S. Truman had to make some of the hardest decisions any president has ever had to make? He became president during a very important time in history. He served in the White House during the end of World War II and the start of the **Cold War**. During these events, Truman made difficult decisions that affected millions of people's lives.

Those who knew Truman personally were surprised when he became president. He was very different from previous presidents—he wasn't wealthy, didn't have a college degree, was very blunt and straightforward, and sometimes had a bad temper. Some people, even his own mother-in-law, looked down at him for seeming so ordinary. When he was president, many disagreed strongly with the decisions he made, and he became unpopular.

It wasn't until years after he left the White House that the American people began to respect him for those same qualities. If they didn't always agree with his decisions, they appreciated that he wasn't afraid to face reality and make hard choices. They also admired how he overcame his humble beginnings to become the leader of his country. For millions of Americans, Truman became a hero and proof that, in America, anyone can become president.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Young Harry

Harry S. Truman was the oldest child of John and Martha Truman. Young Harry had a younger brother, John, and younger sister, Mary Jane. He spent much of his childhood working hard on his family's farm. Like many of his friends, he wanted to play sports, but he couldn't because he had very poor eyesight. Instead, he focused on doing his chores on the farm and playing the piano. He did find a new hobby: reading. He realized that he loved reading and read as many books as he could, whether it was the Bible or plays written by William Shakespeare. Soon, his bookshelves were filled up with biographies of ancient generals and American presidents.

Harry graduated high school in 1901 and wanted to go to college, but his family couldn't afford it. He focused instead on working.

Harry worked hard at whatever job he could find. For a while, he was a timekeeper at a railway and, during that time, sometimes slept in camps for homeless people. He also worked in the mailroom of a newspaper and as a bank clerk.



PUBLIC DOMAIN: Kbh3rd

## Interesting Facts

- He was born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri.
- His middle initial "S" doesn't stand for anything. His parents couldn't decide whether to give him the middle name "Shipp" or "Solomon" (his grandfathers' names) so they just gave him the initial.
- There was a famous phrase during Truman's lifetime called "passing the buck," which referred to giving someone else the responsibility of making a decision. As president, Truman had a famous sign on his desk that read "The Buck Stops Here," which was his way of saying that the president should always be willing to make hard decisions.
- Truman's inauguration in 1949 was the first to appear on television.
- In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to assassinate Truman near the White House. The attackers failed to kill Truman, but did kill a White House police officer.
- Bess Truman, who died in 1982, lived the longest life (as of 2022) of any First Lady - 97 years.
- Truman's daughter, Margaret, became a famous singer and author. She wrote several bestselling murder mystery novels.

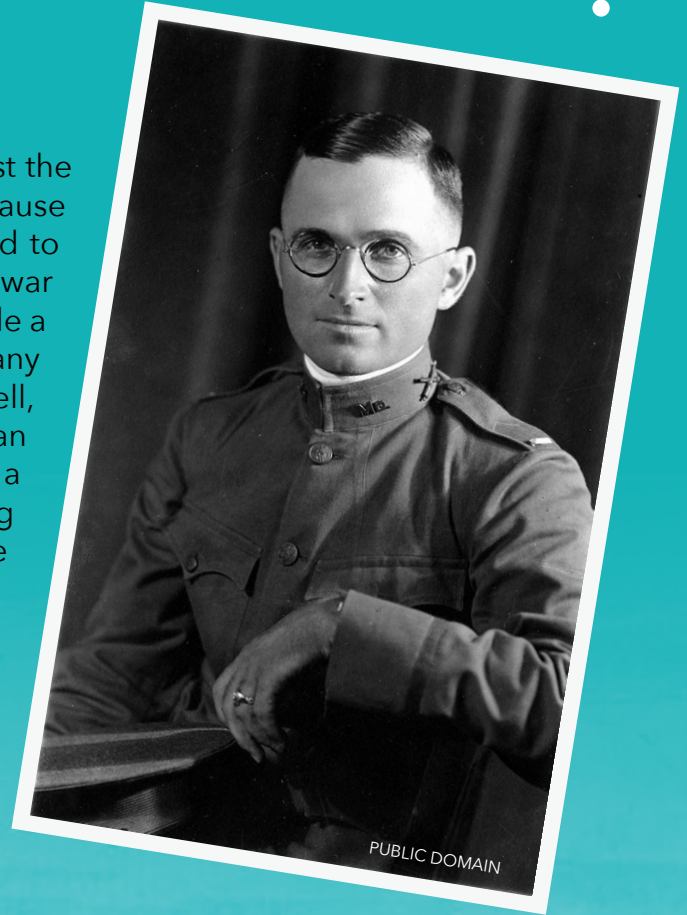


# World War I

In 1917, the United States entered World War I against the Germans. Truman could have avoided the fighting because some people with farming backgrounds were allowed to stay home, but he was a true **patriot**. He joined in the war effort and went to Europe in 1918 to fight. He was made a captain and courageously led his men on many dangerous missions. When they weren't performing well, he yelled at them to motivate them to fight. Truman earned the admiration of his fellow soldiers for being a tough and fair leader. He realized he had strong leadership capabilities and he became more confident in himself.

## Quote

*"America has become one of the most powerful forces for good on earth. We must keep it so."  
- April 1945*



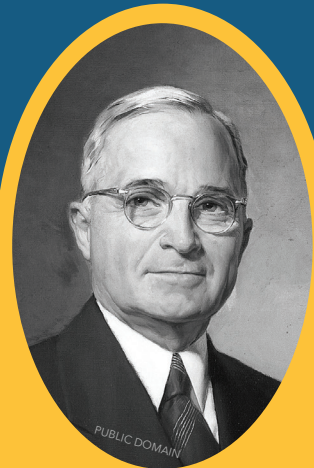




## Rise to Power

During the war, Truman wrote letters to a woman he had known since he was a child: Bess Wallace. He had proposed marriage to her in 1911, but she turned him down. He was persistent and proposed again when he returned from the war. This time, she accepted and they were married in 1919. They eventually had a daughter named Margaret.

Truman decided to earn a living as a small business owner. He opened up a **haberdashery**. Unfortunately, it failed and he was left bankrupt. Despite this, a local **party boss** named Tom Pendergast thought he might make a good candidate for political office because he had a reputation for honesty. He got Truman elected Eastern Jackson County judge in 1922 and U.S. senator in 1934.



### Quote

"It is not enough to  
yearn for peace. We must  
work, and if necessary,  
fight for it."  
- April 1945

At the time, Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the United States and was battling the Great Depression. Senator Truman, a Democrat, loyally supported Roosevelt's policies.

In 1941, the United States entered World War II. It became **allies** with the United Kingdom and the **Soviet Union** and fought against Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan. Truman worked hard as a senator to make sure that the government ran the war effort smoothly and obeyed the law.

The Democrats were so impressed by Truman's work that they chose him to be the vice presidential candidate in the 1944 presidential election. That year, Roosevelt won his fourth term as president and Truman was elected vice president (now, presidents are only allowed to serve two terms, but at the time they were allowed to run as many times as they wanted). In January 1945, Truman took the oath of office as vice president, but in April, Roosevelt died of a stroke.



# President

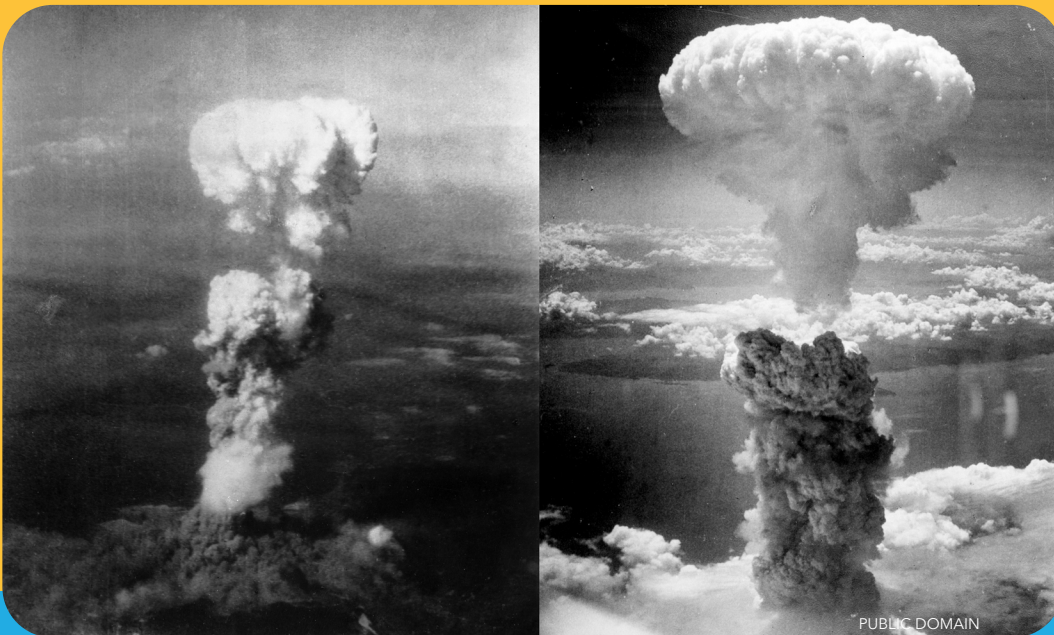


Harry Truman was now the 33rd President of the United States. He immediately had to make many difficult decisions. At first, he felt overwhelmed by his new job and wondered if he could succeed. He said, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

In September 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies. In May 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered as well, but the war continued against Japan. Truman learned that America had a new weapon that it could use to defeat Japan: the atomic bomb. It was the most powerful weapon ever invented and could destroy an entire city.

Some people believed that using the atomic bomb to do so much damage was wrong, but Harry Truman and many of his advisors felt that it was the best option to end the war. Victory over Japan required their surrender, and his other options involved using American troops to invade. Truman remembered what it was like to fight in World War I and he worried that more people would suffer if the Allies invaded Japan.

With Truman's permission, the U.S. military dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August 1945. Both cities were instantly destroyed. Finally, the Japanese government realized they had to **surrender**, which they did on September 2. The world celebrated that one of the most difficult and painful wars in history was over.



## Marshall Plan

One of Truman's top advisors was his Secretary of State, George Marshall. Marshall came up with a plan to invest money in European countries, which had been destroyed during World War II. This would help them rebuild their economies and stand up to the Soviet Union. It was a great success and helped strengthen America's alliances in Europe. It also demonstrated to the world that the American way was superior to communism.



## Quote

"When you get to be President, there are all those things, the honors, the twenty-one gun salutes, all those things. You have to remember it isn't for you. It's for the Presidency."  
- *Plain Speaking*, 1973

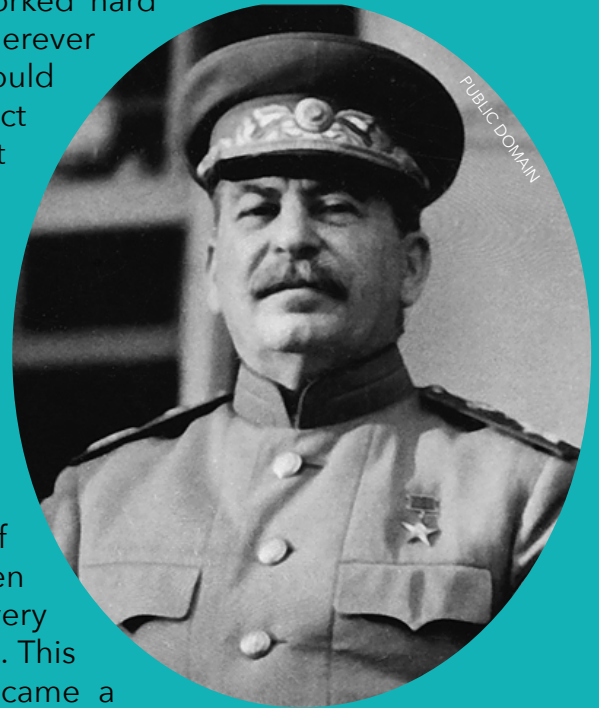
President Truman hoped he could lead the country into a new era of peace, but already, a new enemy was emerging. Even though the Soviet Union was America's ally during World War II, it was similar to Nazi Germany because it was a **dictatorship** that controlled the lives of its citizens. The Soviet Union, led by dictator Joseph Stalin, wanted to spread **communism** around the world and destroy the American system of **freedom**. As president, Truman worked hard to stop communism wherever it spread so that people could be free. This new conflict between America and the Soviet Union was called the Cold War.

Truman knew that he needed help from other countries to stop the spread of communism, so he developed strong **alliances** all over the world. When Israel became a country in 1948, Truman established a relationship with them so that America could have another partner against the Soviet Union. When the communists tried to take over all of Korea in 1950, Truman sent troops under General Douglas MacArthur to stop them. He was able to save the southern half of Korea, which is why millions of people in South Korea are free from the communists today. Even though General MacArthur had success in Korea and was very popular, he began to disagree with Truman's policies in public. This led Truman to fire MacArthur. The war in Korea quickly became a

**stalemate**, and the

American people were mad at Truman for firing MacArthur and for the loss of Americans as a result of the fighting.

Back in 1948, Truman ran for his own term as president. No one thought he would win and one newspaper even announced he had lost, but Truman surprised everyone when he emerged victorious. By 1952, however, voters were tired of the Korean War and Truman knew he couldn't win again. He decided to retire from the presidency. That November, the American people elected World War II general Dwight D. Eisenhower to replace him.





# Retirement



Harry and Bess Truman moved back to Missouri in 1953 as private citizens. Even though he left office as an unpopular president, the American people began to see him in a new light. At first they were upset about the Korean War, but they began to realize that fighting the communists there helped give freedom to millions of people. They appreciated that he was willing to stand up to the Soviet Union and stop them from spreading communism around the world. While some today still debate whether dropping the atomic bombs on Japan was the right decision, many believe that it was the best way to end the war.

America's World War II ally and British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, later told Truman that when he became president, he held him "in very low regard" but admitted, "I misjudged you badly... You... have saved Western civilization." This time, the American people agreed.

Truman lived for almost twenty years after he left office. He died on December 26, 1972 at the age of 88.



## Legacy

Throughout Truman's life, many people underestimated him because he seemed like such an ordinary person. When he took over as president, they wondered if he was strong enough to continue the fight during World War II. When he ran for his own term as president in 1948, they felt he would lose. Even after he left the presidency, they felt he had failed in his job. Each time, however, he proved his critics wrong and he is now much more respected.

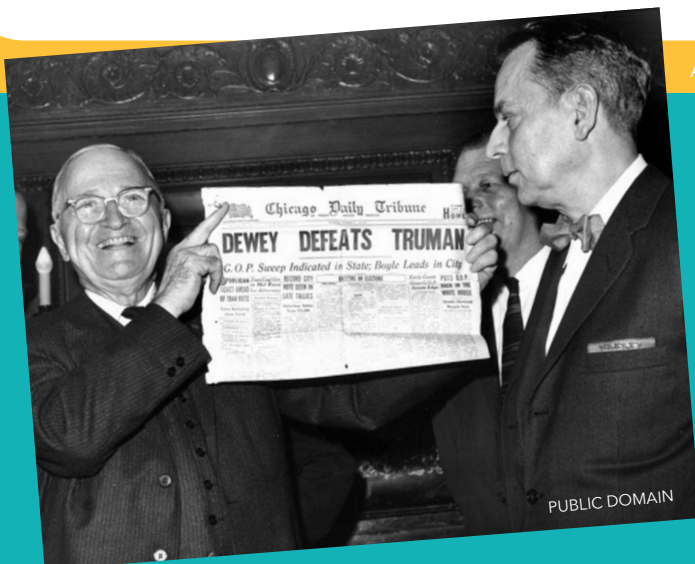
The humble haberdasher from Missouri left an important legacy, helping to end World War II and stand up against communism. His story teaches us to never underestimate those who seem like the most ordinary of men.



## Word Search

W E B Q I G Y T S I G S Y B L  
R A W D L O C E O C F K R P R  
Q G Z R L M I C O I M P E G D  
W U M M R L X M X R R F H U I  
F F R F L X M P B C B T S N C  
S B K A U U I Q R U U Y A H T  
E E S S N M O D E E R F D P A  
T I C I U J V C G R I X R P T  
A K S N T R U M A N M N E X O  
M M E K A D R H S N K L B V R  
E F Z I O I R E H C E G A J S  
L B V N Q P L T N T Z I H D H  
A O D V E R Q L Q D E L D A I  
T Q O W C X A V A I E F L Z P  
S O V I E T U N I O N R I N M

Cold War  
Patriot  
Haberdashery  
Allies  
Soviet Union  
Surrender  
Dictatorship  
Communism  
Freedom  
Alliances  
Stalemate  
Harry  
Truman



ANSWERS ON PAGE 60

## Dewey Defeats Truman

One of the most iconic images of Truman's presidency comes from the 1948 presidential election. Almost everyone thought Truman would lose to his opponent, Thomas Dewey. The Chicago Tribune famously ran a headline announcing Dewey's victory. Truman proudly displayed it after election night so everyone would know that the Tribune was wrong.



# Glossary

**Cold War:** The conflict between America, which was free, and the Soviet Union, which was a communist dictatorship, that lasted from the 1940s to the 1980s.

**Patriot:** A person who loves and appreciates their country.

**Haberdashery:** A store where men buy clothes and other items like hats, buttons, and zippers.

**Party boss:** A person who has gained political power through corrupt activities, such as stealing government money or bribing politicians to vote a certain way.

**Allies:** Countries that become partners and pursue the same goals.

**Soviet Union:** A country that existed from 1917 to 1991 where people didn't have freedom and tried to spread its communist system around the world.

**Surrender:** When a person or country gives up fighting in a war and accepts defeat.

**Dictatorship:** A system of government where the people have no rights and those in charge tell them what to do.

**Communism:** A dictatorship where the government controls every aspect of the people's lives and where individuals cannot own anything by themselves.

**Freedom:** The ability to believe, say, and do what you want without the government controlling you.

**Alliances:** Agreements between countries to be partners and pursue the same goals.

**Stalemate:** A war that continues for a long time with neither side winning.

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Images: WikiCommons

## Answers

### WORD SEARCH:



TRUMAN'S CODENAME:  
GENERAL



A stylized, cartoon-like illustration of George H.W. Bush. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a light grey shirt, and a red tie. He has short brown hair, blue eyes, and a friendly smile. The background is a vibrant blue with vertical white dashed lines and faint, darker blue circular patterns. In the top left corner, there are three small white dots arranged vertically.

# George H.W. Bush

"I was the 41st  
President of the  
United States and I  
led America during the  
end of the Cold War"



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle



In this magazine, you'll learn all sorts of facts about George H.W. Bush's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

President Bush disliked a vegetable so much that he banned it from being served at the White House and on Air Force One, and we need to find out what it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine 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!

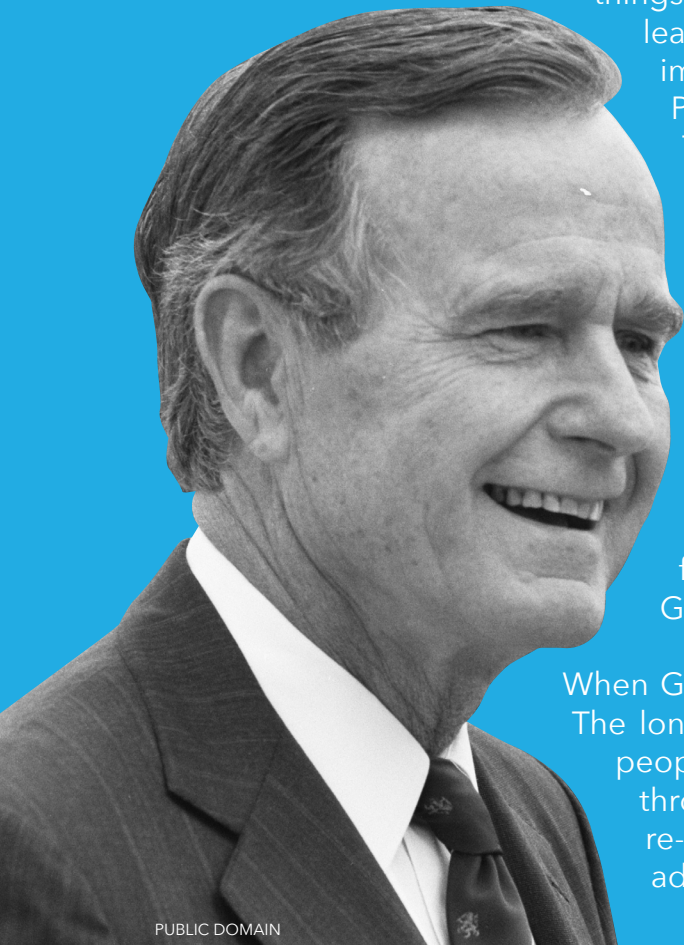
## Meet George H.W. Bush

Serving as President of the United States was just one of many interesting things that George H.W. Bush accomplished in his life. Few American leaders have had a more impressive resume. He held many important positions in government, such as **ambassador** and Vice President of the United States, before moving into the White House. Throughout his career, he was respected for his honor and integrity.

Bush came from an important and wealthy family that strongly believed in serving others. He believed in this so much that he fought for his country in World War II as a pilot for the Navy. Bush became a war hero when he survived getting shot down by the enemy.

After the war, he became a successful businessman and eventually entered politics. His top priority, however, was his family. He and his wife **B**arbara had six children. Their oldest son, George W. Bush, would also become President of the United States.

When George H.W. Bush was president, the world changed dramatically. The long Cold War between America and the Soviet Union ended and people looked forward to an era of peace. Bush led the country through several new, unexpected challenges. Although Bush was not re-elected by the American people as president, they continued to admire him for being a man of character and wisdom.



PUBLIC DOMAIN



## Young George

George Herbert Walker Bush came from a hardworking, successful family. Both of his grandfathers were wealthy businessmen and his father, Prescott, was a well-known U.S. senator from Connecticut. George had four siblings and he was the second oldest.

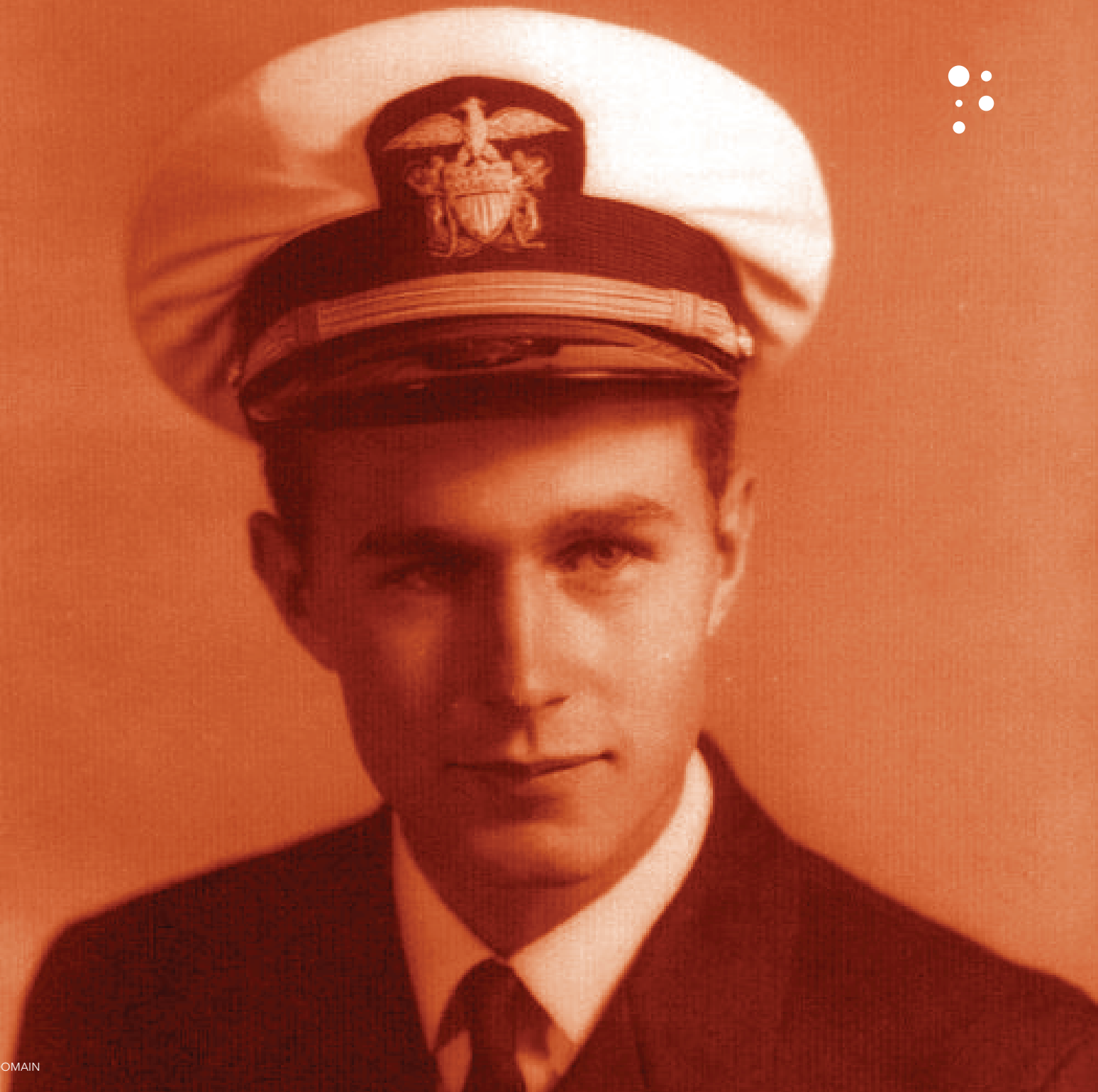
George was a very good athlete and student in school. He played baseball, basketball, and soccer, and his fellow students elected him senior class president.



## Interesting Facts

- George H.W. Bush was born on June 12, 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts.
- He lived for 94 years, the second longest lifespan of any president in American history as of 2022.
- He and Barbara had six children and 17 grandchildren.
- He and Barbara were married for 73 years, the second longest of any presidential couple as of 2022.
- Bush is just one of two presidents to see his son also become president (the other being John Adams).
- In 1989, he "pardoned" a turkey so it wouldn't be slaughtered for Thanksgiving, starting the annual National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation at the White House.
- After he left the presidency, he sometimes celebrated his birthday by going skydiving.
- Bush died on November 30, 2018 at the age of 94 in Houston, Texas.





PUBLIC DOMAIN

## War Hero

When America entered World War II, George joined the military at the age of 18, becoming the youngest pilot in the U.S. Navy. He flew 58 missions in the Pacific as a torpedo bomber. The flights were often dangerous and during one mission in 1944, the enemy shot down his plane, killing two of his crewmates. George parachuted out of the plane into the ocean and was rescued by an American submarine. The military later awarded him several medals for bravery. Afterwards, George thought more about his relationship with God and often wondered, "Why had I been spared and what did God have for me?"

**64**

Presidents of the United States of America: George H.W. Bush



PUBLIC DOMAIN

## A Long Rise to Power



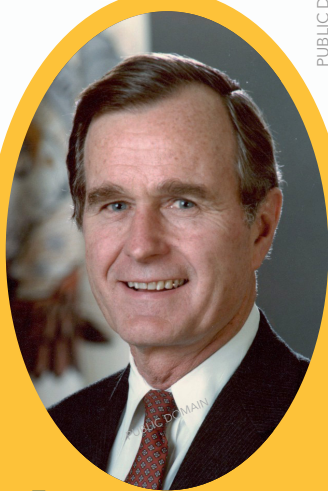
In 1945, not long after he returned home, he married a woman named Barbara Pierce. They would eventually have six children, George W., Robin, John (nicknamed Jeb), Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. Sadly, Robin died of leukemia when she was just three years old. George and Barbara were both heartbroken but gave each other support after she died.

George enrolled in Yale, the same university his father attended, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1948. Just like before, George was an excellent athlete at Yale. He was captain and the first baseman of the baseball team and even played in two College World Series. He also got to meet Babe Ruth, one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

Bush and his family moved to Texas, where he became a businessman in the oil **industry**. After his father became a U.S. senator from Connecticut, Bush decided to follow his footsteps and enter politics. He, like his father, was a Republican, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966.

During the 1970s, presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford recognized his abilities and appointed him to several positions in their administration, such as Ambassador to the United Nations, chief **diplomat** to China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. These positions gave Bush a lot of knowledge about America's **foreign policy**.

Bush felt that, with all of this experience, he might be a good president, so he ran in the 1980 presidential election. He first had to win the Republican Party's nomination to be their **candidate** for president, but he lost to California Governor Ronald Reagan. Although Bush lost, Reagan chose him to be his vice presidential **running mate**. In November 1980, the American people elected Reagan and Bush in a landslide.



### Quote

*"A new breeze is blowing,  
and a nation refreshed by  
freedom stands ready to  
push on."*

- Inaugural Address,  
January 1989



# Vice President



George H.W. Bush was now vice president of the United States. He worked well with President Reagan and was very **loyal** to him. The country enjoyed great **prosperity** under their leadership. For many years, America had been fighting a **Cold War** against the **Soviet Union**, which was a **dictatorship**. Reagan and Bush fought hard to stop it from spreading **communism** around the world. Thanks to their efforts, Soviet leaders began to abandon communism and allow freedom for their people.

By 1988, Reagan was planning to leave the White House. Bush ran for president promising to **Continue** Reagan's **policies**. The American people were happy with the way things were going, so they elected Bush.

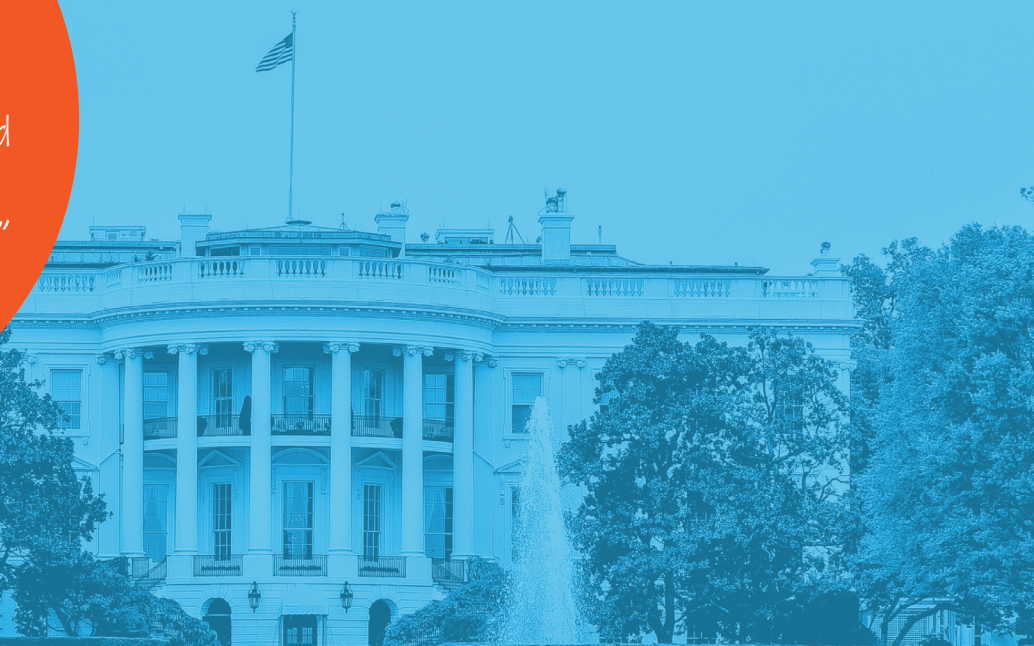


PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Quote

*"There is nothing more fulfilling than to serve your country and your fellow citizens and to do it well. And that's what our system of self-government depends on."  
- January 1989*

PUBLIC DOMAIN







# President

During Bush's presidency, the Soviet Union collapsed and changed back to its previous name, Russia. Freedom was spreading there and to many other countries. People hoped this would make the world more peaceful. Bush helped the leaders of Russia adjust to all of the new changes.

Although many people were happy that there was more freedom, some countries still misbehaved by breaking international laws and ruling as dictators. President Bush acted decisively to stop them and help their victims. In August 1990, the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, invaded the small country of Kuwait to take over their oil supply. In January 1991, Bush sent the U.S. military to free Kuwait from Hussein in what was called the Persian Gulf War. When the war ended, it was clear Bush had led America to a great victory.

## Quote

*"This will not stand,  
this aggression  
against Kuwait."  
- August 1990*



Although Bush was very popular after the war, the economy wasn't as prosperous as before. The American people wanted a change so, when Bush ran for re-election in 1992, he lost to the Democratic Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

In 1990, President Bush signed a major civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, that prohibited discrimination based on disability. The law enabled millions of Americans with disabilities to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else.

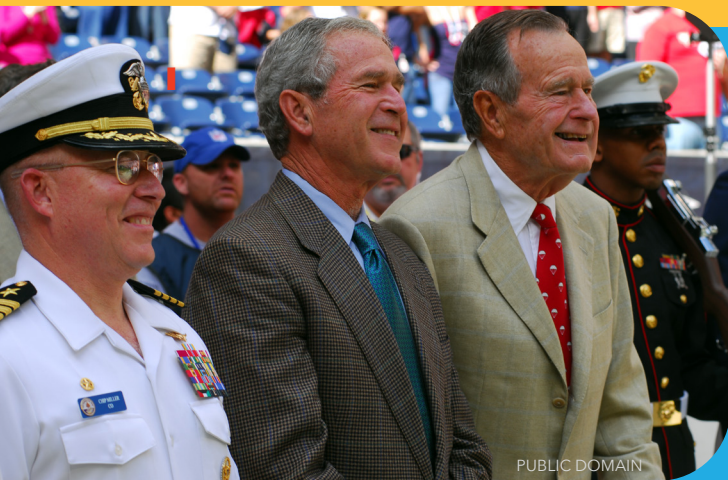




# Retirement



Even though he was disappointed about losing, many Americans still appreciated Bush for his leadership during the war. In his retirement, Bush was able to enjoy spending time with his family, especially his 17 grandchildren. His sons continued the Bush family tradition of public service. Their oldest son, George W., was elected governor of Texas in 1994 and President of the United States in 2000. The second son, Jeb, was elected governor of Florida in 1998. He and Barbara were proud of their sons' accomplishments. In April 2018, Barbara died at the age of 92. A few months later, in November, George H.W. Bush died at the age of 94.



## Legacy

Many of America's most famous presidents served two terms, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt (who was elected to four terms!). George H.W. Bush, on the other hand, served just one term because he lost his re-election bid in 1992. Americans often overlook their single-term presidents, believing that they weren't that important.

It is easy to overlook George H.W. Bush. He wasn't as charismatic or popular as other presidents, such as John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. He did, however, serve the United States for a longer period of time than most other presidents, a time span that began in World War II and concluded with the end of the Cold War. During his one term as president, he led the country through very significant events, such as the fall of the Soviet Union and the Persian Gulf War.

Many people who serve in government for a long time end up becoming corrupt. Bush, however, maintained his reputation for integrity throughout his career. Whatever his shortcomings, he always did his best to serve the nation he loved.

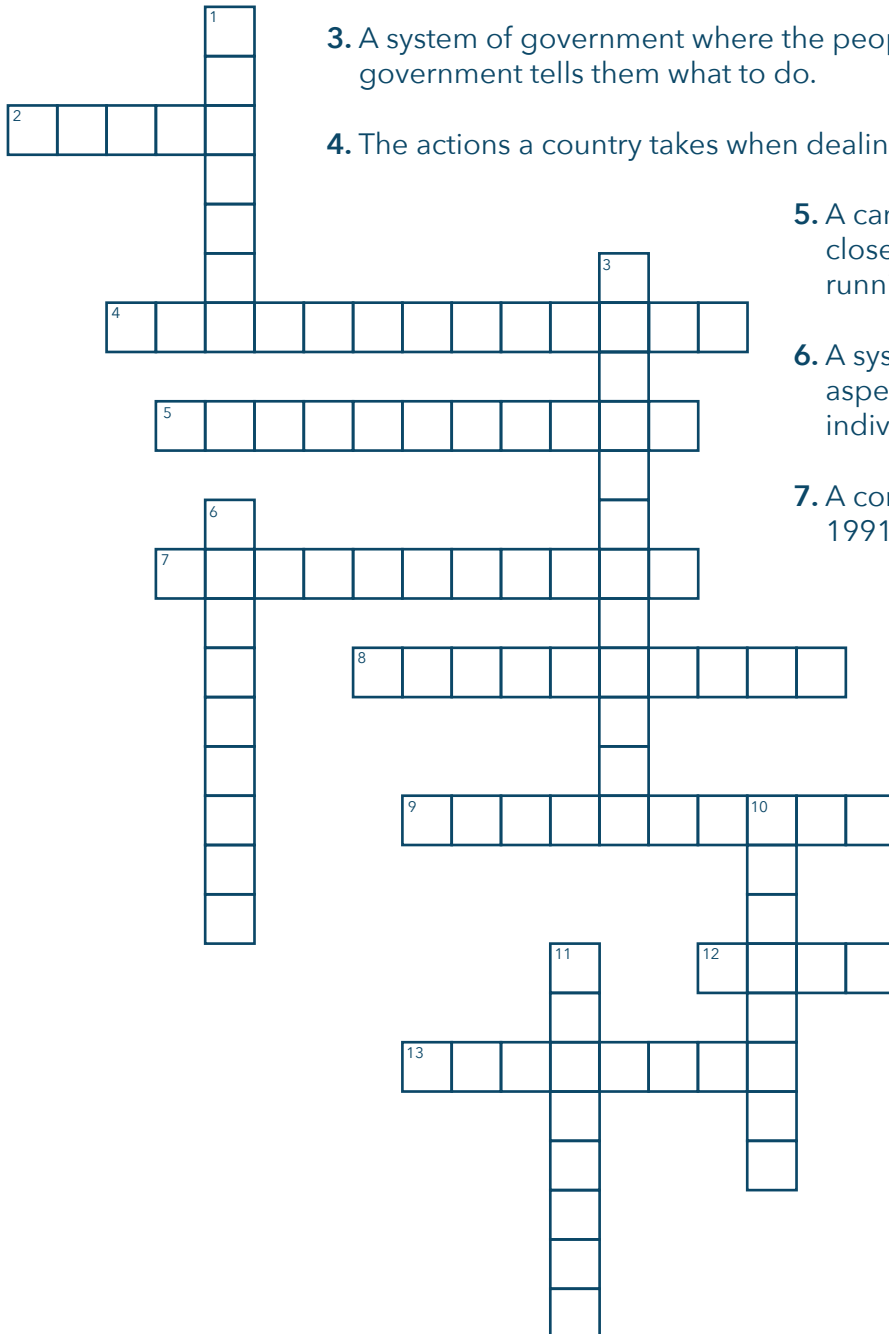
## Skydiving

George H.W. Bush was no stranger to flying. He served in World War II as a pilot. His days in the air didn't end when he returned home. In fact, after he left the presidency, he went skydiving several times, including on his 90th birthday.





# Cross Word



1. The conflict between America, which was free, and the Soviet Union, which was a communist dictatorship, that lasted from the 1940s to the 1980s.
2. Being someone that a person can count on for support at all times.
3. A system of government where the people do not have freedom and the government tells them what to do.
4. The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.
5. A candidate for a political position who runs closely with another candidate who is also running for a similar or related political position.
6. A system where the government controls every aspect of the people's lives and where individuals cannot own anything by themselves.
7. A communist country that existed from 1917 to 1991.
8. A person chosen by his or her country to be its sole representative to another country or an international organization.
9. A period of time when the economy is strong and people have a lot of money and good jobs.
10. A specific part of the economy, such as manufacturing, defense, or computers.
11. The actions or laws of a government or political leader.
12. The 41st president of the United States of America.
13. A person who represents his or her country in other countries or in international organizations.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 70



# Glossary

**Ambassador:** A person chosen by his or her country to be its sole representative to another country or an international organization.

**Industry:** A specific part of the economy, such as manufacturing, defense, or computers.

**Diplomat:** A person who represents his or her country in other countries or in international organizations.

**Foreign policy:** The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.

**Running mate:** A candidate for a political position who runs closely with another candidate who is also running for a similar or related political position.

**Loyal:** Being someone that a person can count on for support at all times.

**Prosperity:** A period of time when the economy is strong and people have a lot of money and good jobs.

**Cold War:** The conflict between America, which was free, and the Soviet Union, which was a communist dictatorship, that lasted from the 1940s to the 1980s.

**Soviet Union:** A country that existed from 1917 to 1991 where people didn't have freedom and tried to spread its communist system around the world.

**Dictatorship:** A system of government where the people do not have freedom and the government tells them what to do.

**Communism:** A system where the government controls every aspect of the people's lives and where individuals cannot own anything by themselves.

**Policies:** The actions or laws of a government or political leader.

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**Images:** WikiCommons

