

Presidents of the *United States of America*

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



Andrew Jackson



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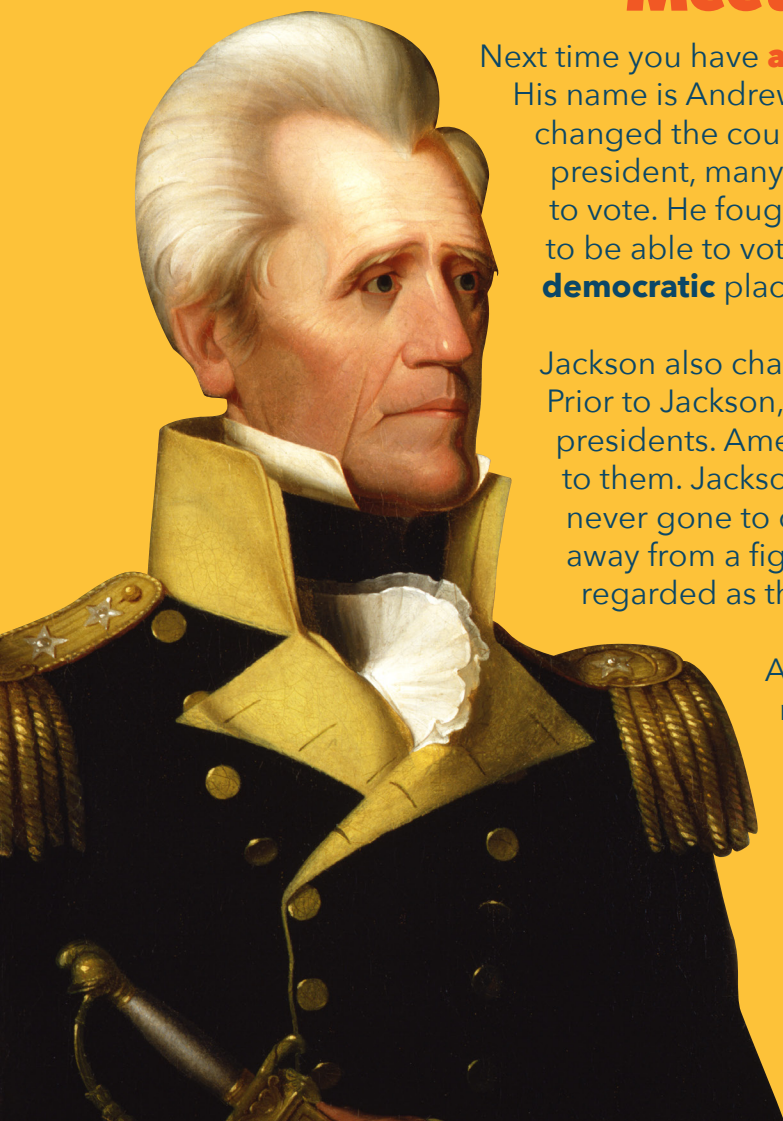
Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

In this book, 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 its name and what kind of animal it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

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

Meet 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 changed the course of American history. Before Jackson served as president, many state laws allowed mostly wealthy landowning men to vote. He fought to allow more people, regardless of their wealth, to be able to vote, thereby making the American republic a more **democratic** place than before.

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 was 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 controversial. 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.



Young Andrew

Andrew Jackson lived a tough life right from birth. He 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. 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.



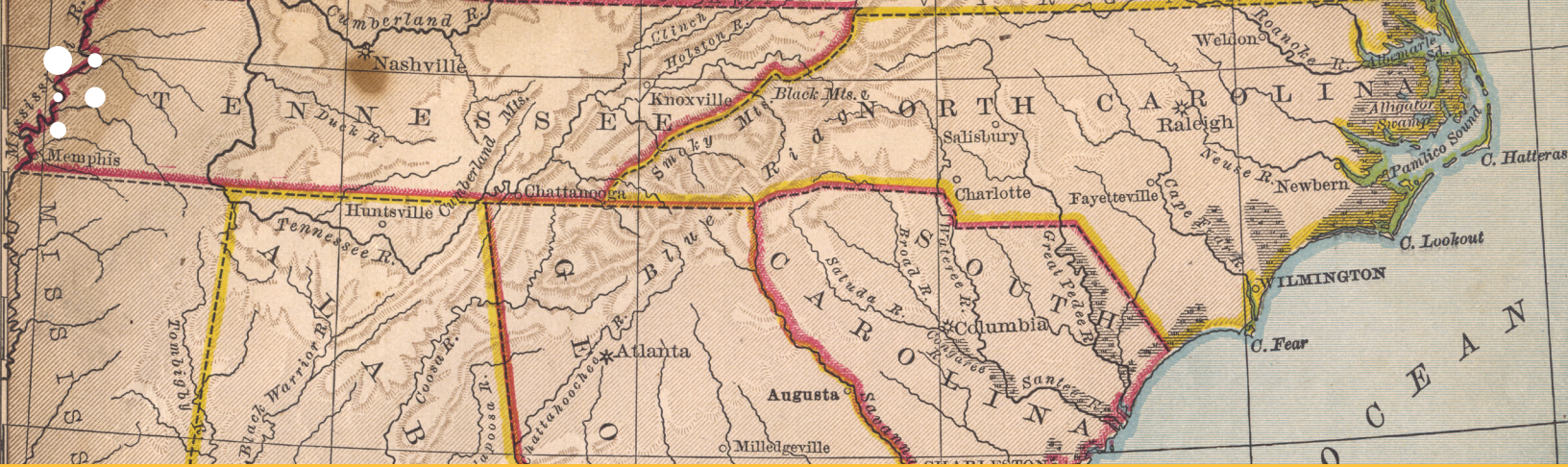
Did You Know?

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



Interesting Facts

- He is considered the first "common man" president.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He was the only president to be held as a **prisoner-of-war**.
- He was the first president to ride a train.
- He was the first president to be the target of an assassination attempt.
- He is the only president (as of 2024) to pay off the entire national debt.
- He was the first president to install indoor toilets at the White House.



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 1832

4

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 enslaved servants. 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 enslaved servants, 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.



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 pioneers wanted to settle on those 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 Native Americans to move them.

He felt that removing them was the most humane option available because they would be protected from the settlers, but many Native Americans 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 now refer to the trip as the "Trail of Tears."

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.

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 1832*

Cheese at the White House

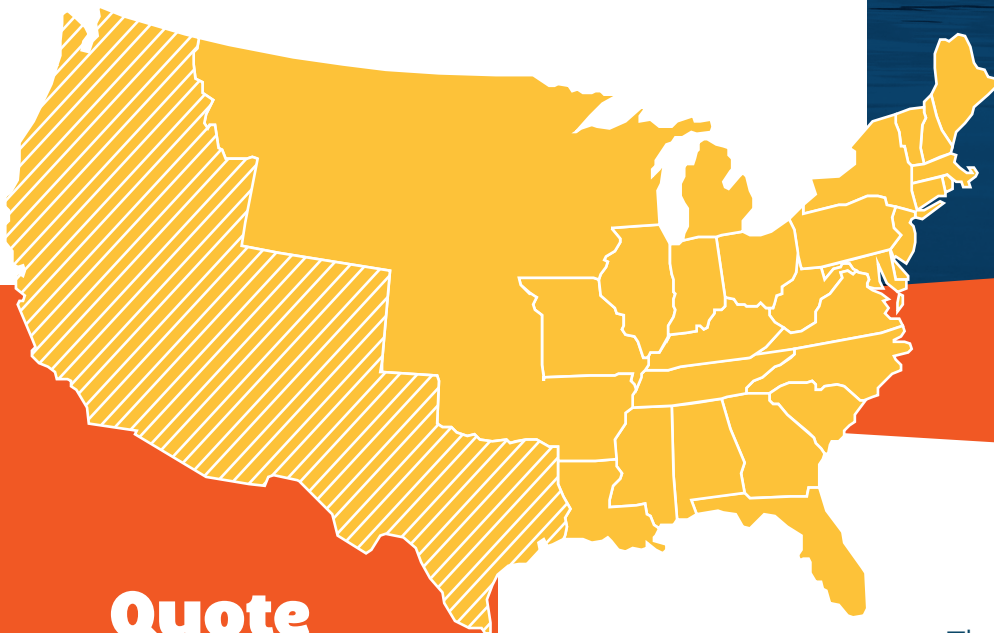
A dairy farmer in New York gave President Jackson a giant, 1,400-pound cheese. Jackson let it age at the White House for two years and then invited the public to eat it in 1837. It was gone in two hours, but the smell of cheese remained in the White House for a long time.



Presidential Leadership

Jackson believed that every state had to respect federal law, or laws set by the national government in Washington, D.C. 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 **disagreements** 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 **replace** him.



Quote

"Our Federal Union! It must be preserved!"
- April 1830

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

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 near Nashville, Tennessee.



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 1837*

Legacy

From the 19th to the early 20th centuries, Andrew Jackson was widely admired as an American hero. He was praised as a true man of the people—whose life story proved that anyone could succeed in the United States. From the 1960s on, Jackson has been criticized for treating Native Americans harshly and for being a Southern slaveholder. During his lifetime and even today, he is sometimes criticized for expanding the power of the presidency beyond what the Founding Fathers envisioned.

While there is fair criticism for these decisions, Jackson made major contributions to the United States. His victory at the Battle of New Orleans kept America safe from the British. He fought to allow more people to participate in the political system, which ensured their rights would be protected. Lastly, he rejected South Carolina's claim that it could ignore federal law. In doing so, he prevented other states from doing the same, which would have caused the nation to split up. This decision later helped President Abraham Lincoln justify his efforts to preserve the Union during the Civil War. Some love Jackson and some hate him, but it's clear that he changed the course of American history.





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

Glossary

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

Common Man: An ordinary man without high social status or significant wealth; usually comprising the majority of a country's population.

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

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

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

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.

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

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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 C 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 Q 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

JACKSON'S PET:
A PARROT NAMED
POLL

**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

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