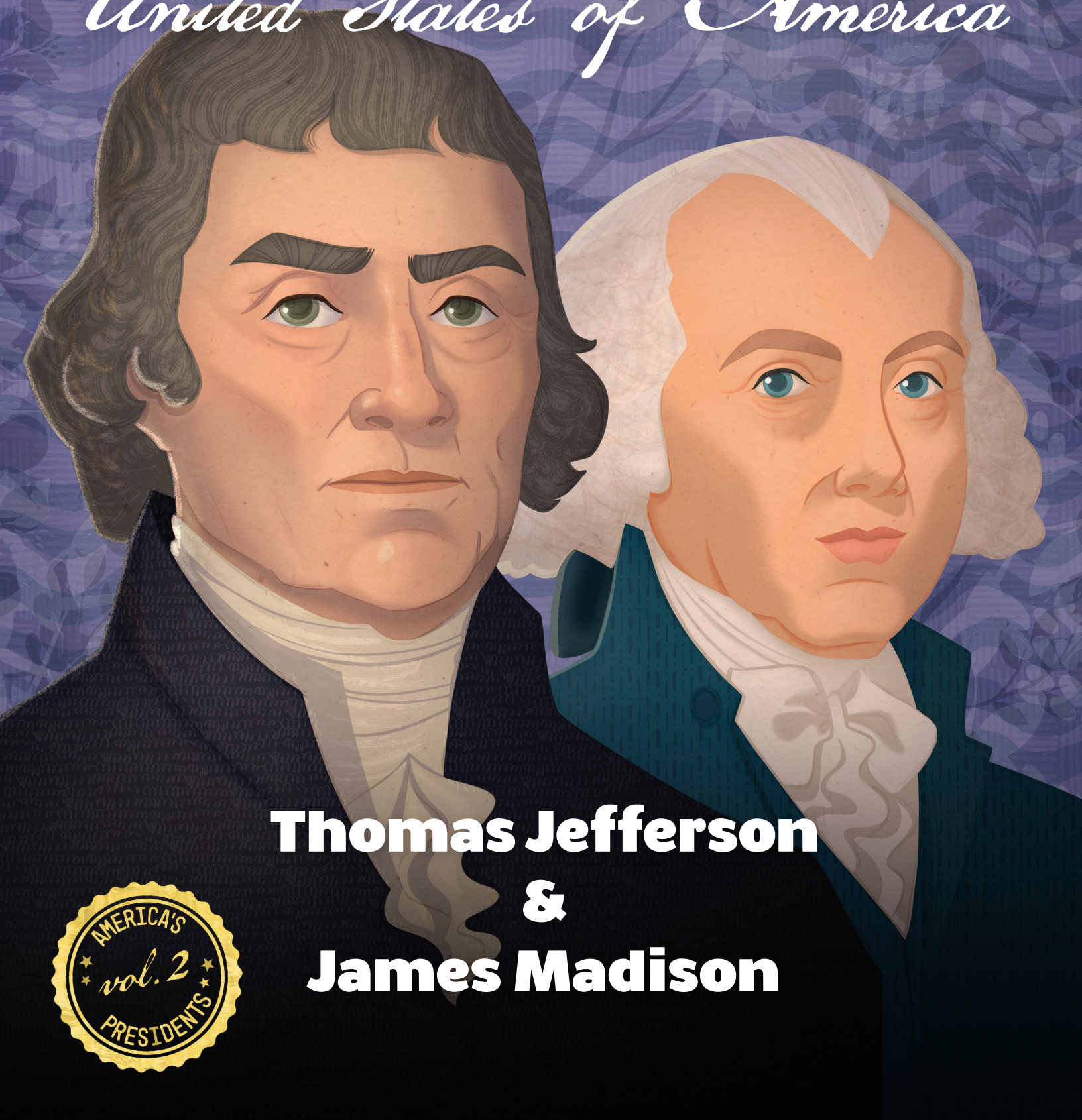


presidents

of the

United States of America



Thomas Jefferson
&
James Madison



PragerU Educational Magazines for Kids

presidents of the *United States of America*

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Thomas Jefferson



"I was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and served as the 3rd President of the United States."





Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

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

In his free time, Jefferson engaged in archaeology and loved studying fossils. In his home, he owned the bones of an extinct animal, and we need to find out 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.

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

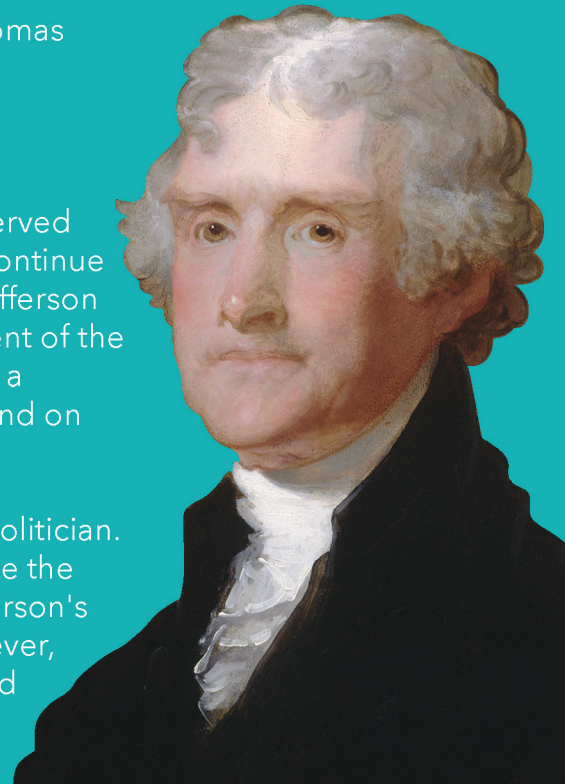
Meet Thomas Jefferson

Words are powerful things. With words, you can inspire people or offend them. You can encourage your close friends or hurt their feelings. The Founding Fathers knew that words mattered. When they decided to break off from Great Britain and start a new country, the Founders knew they had to use the right words to explain their decisions. They hoped that, with the right message, they could motivate people to support their cause.

To come up with that message, they turned to one of their own - Thomas Jefferson. The Founders chose him to write the first draft of the most important document they would ever publish: the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson's words, that "all men are created equal," and deserved "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," changed the world and continue to inspire people to this day. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Jefferson served as the Secretary of State, Vice President, and the third President of the United States. For these achievements, Americans honored him with a memorial in Washington, DC and put his face on Mount Rushmore and on currency.

Jefferson **may** have been an eloquent writer, but he was a **shrewd** politician. He created a new party, the **Democratic-Republicans**, which became the main party in early American history. Not everyone agreed with Jefferson's beliefs and, at times, he made controversial decisions. No one, however, can deny his accomplishments. Jefferson was a truly brilliant man and remains one of the most influential figures in history.



Youth and Early Career

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743 in Shadwell, Virginia. He was the oldest son and third child of Peter and Jane Jefferson. His father was a successful planter, and his mother came from a distinguished Virginia family. As a boy, young Thomas spent a lot of time outdoors, playing in the woods. When he wasn't outdoors, he loved reading – a love that would last for a lifetime. He was a top student at the boarding school he attended.

In the midst of this happy childhood, tragedy struck Thomas and his family when he was 14 – his father, Peter, died. It was a devastating loss. He did, however, inherit a large estate and several enslaved people. Thomas emerged from the tragedy determined to succeed in life. He enrolled in the College of William and Mary at the age of 17. Here, he studied even harder, focusing on science, mathematics, rhetoric, philosophy, and literature for up to 15 hours a day. Thomas's professors were so impressed by his intelligence that they invited him to dinners to debate the major issues of the day with them.

After college, Jefferson became a lawyer. He also fell in love with a wealthy widow named Martha Wayles Skelton. They married in 1772 and moved to Jefferson's Virginia plantation, Monticello. They would eventually have six children. Sadly, only two of them would live past childhood.



Interesting Facts

- He was the first Secretary of State, the second Vice President, and the third President of the United States.
- He was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party.
- He had about 6,500 books in his personal library.
- In addition to being a political figure, he also invented several gadgets, studied science, designed many buildings, and loved playing the violin.
- He spoke four languages – English, French, Italian, and Latin – and he could read Greek and Spanish.
- He was the first President to be inaugurated in Washington, DC.
- He helped make macaroni and cheese, french fries, and ice cream popular in the United States.
- He died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Quote

"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time."

- July 1774

The American Revolution

Jefferson entered politics in 1769 when he was elected to **Virginia's House of Burgesses**. During these years, the American colonies were challenging oppressive British taxes. The British had imposed them without allowing the Americans any representation. In 1774, Jefferson wrote a pamphlet titled *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*, where he defended American rights against British oppression. The pamphlet made him famous across the colonies and gave him a reputation as a talented writer.

The following year, the Colony of Virginia sent Jefferson as a delegate to the **Second Continental Congress** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Congress had gathered to figure out what to do about the situation with Britain. Also attending were delegates George Washington of Virginia and John Adams of Massachusetts.

After war between America and Britain broke out in April of 1775, Congress appointed Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Then, John Adams worked hard to convince his fellow delegates to officially break free of Britain

and become an independent nation. The only thing left to do was to officially announce the break. In June of 1776, Congress assigned Jefferson, along with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman to draft the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson ended up writing the first draft which, after a few edits, Congress adopted on July 4, 1776. Jefferson's famous line that "all men are created equal" remained in the final draft. **T**hrough these words, Jefferson ensured that the United States was founded on the principles of equality and freedom. He did all this at the youthful age of 33.

Shortly after, Jefferson returned to Virginia and worked hard to make the ideals of the Declaration a reality. He supported several laws that guaranteed freedom in Virginia, especially the right to practice whatever religion you believed in.

The war was hard on everyone, but Jefferson suffered an especially difficult loss. In September 1782, his beloved wife Martha died of complications during childbirth. Jefferson was truly heartbroken at her death.



Quote

"We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independant, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness."
- First draft of the Declaration of Independence, June 1776



After the War

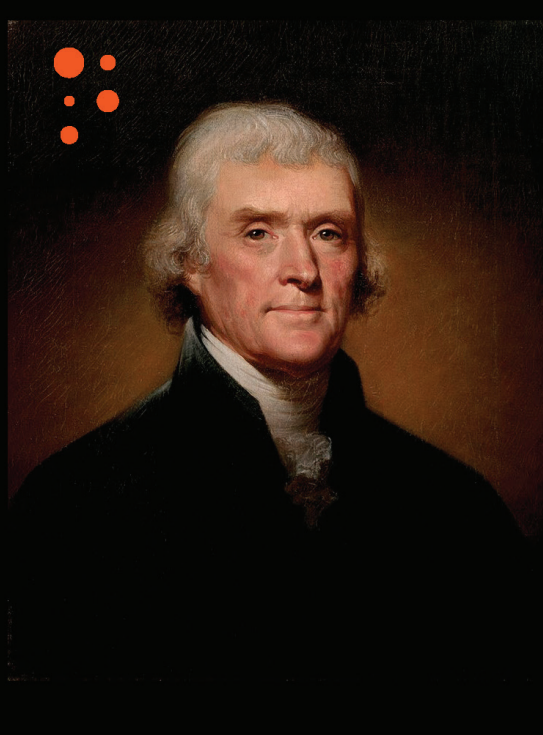
In 1783, the Americans won the war against the British and officially became an independent nation. From 1785 to 1789, Jefferson served as his nation's Minister to France - America's ally during the war. He fell in love with French culture and collected recipes for macaroni, french fries, and ice cream.

After many of the Founders drafted the Constitution in 1787, the country elected the hero of the Revolution, George Washington, as its first President and John Adams as its first Vice President in 1789. Washington then selected Thomas Jefferson to be the first **Secretary of State of the United States** - a very important position in the President's **Cabinet**. When John Adams was elected President in 1796, Jefferson was elected Vice President, the second-highest ranking office in the country.

Jefferson had a hard time during his years as Secretary of State and Vice President. He strongly disagreed with many of Washington's and Adams's policies. His greatest political foe at this time was Washington's Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who believed in strengthening the federal government and having closer ties with Great Britain, America's main trading partner. Jefferson, by contrast, believed in keeping the federal government weak and having closer ties with France. Although Jefferson claimed to be loyal to Washington, he supported newspapers that attacked him, as well as Adams and Hamilton. These attacks left Washington and Adams feeling that Jefferson had betrayed them.

Jefferson teamed up with a brilliant congressman from Virginia, James Madison, to start the **Democratic-Republican Party**, while Hamilton created the **Federalist Party**. Soon, the two parties were strongly criticizing each other in the newspapers.





A Nasty Election

Thomas Jefferson ran for President in 1800 against **incumbent** John Adams. It was a heated campaign and, once again, the newspapers were full of attacks against both candidates. After the people had voted, there was a bit of confusion during the election because Jefferson's **running mate**, Aaron Burr, tied him with the same number of votes in the **Electoral College**. According to the Constitution, the election went to the House of Representatives where, after many votes, they elected Jefferson as the third President of the United States.

Quote

*"I have sworn upon the altar of god eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."
- September 1800*

President

Thomas Jefferson took office in 1801 and delivered a very inspirational inaugural address, calling for both sides to come together as Americans. He then quickly went to work cutting taxes and spending. He wanted Americans to live as free as possible without the government telling them what to do.

Jefferson had several successes as President. In 1802, he founded the U.S. Military Academy, now known as West Point. In 1803, he completed a deal with the French to buy the Louisiana Territory for a mere four cents an acre - an incredible real estate deal that doubled the size of the entire country. Jefferson later sent an expedition led by his secretary Meriwether Lewis and Army Captain William Clark to explore the new territory.

Jefferson also sent a naval expedition to defeat the **Barbary Pirates** in North Africa after they had harassed American ships for years. This victory led other countries to give the United States more respect. Lastly, he cut the national debt from \$80 million to \$57 million. Many of these successes led the American people to re-elect Jefferson in a landslide in 1804.

Despite these triumphs, Jefferson also made major mistakes. He reversed his predecessor, John Adams's policies to build a strong navy and, instead, replaced ships with more ineffective **gunboats**. This left America unprepared for its enemies in a future war. Worst of all, Jefferson signed the **Embargo Act in 1807** to end trade with all of Europe. This was in response to the fact that Britain and France were attacking American ships on the high seas and kidnapping American sailors. Jefferson hoped this would pressure both countries to respect the United States. Instead, the embargo destroyed much of the U.S. economy without really affecting Europe. U.S. exports fell from \$108 million to \$22 million. For much of his career, Jefferson fought to limit the power of the government, but the embargo was a major, and failed, expansion of government power. In the last year of his presidency, Congress reversed Jefferson's mistake and repealed the Embargo Act, allowing trade with European countries other than Britain and France.

Retirement

After serving two terms, Jefferson followed Washington's example and declined to run for a third term in 1808. He was weary from years of public service and was glad to return to Monticello when his presidency ended in 1809. His close friend, and Secretary of State, James Madison succeeded him as President. Jefferson continued to read books and conduct scientific experiments. Always a believer in education, he founded the University of Virginia in 1819, planning its lessons for students and designing its buildings.

Jefferson's political battles left many of his fellow Founders, including John Adams, upset with him. In 1812, however, after both men had left office, they began writing to each other and rekindling their friendship. They debated many of the great political issues of the day, but this time as friends and not as rivals.

Both Adams and Jefferson grew into old age. In an amazing twist of fate, they both died on July 4, 1826 - the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Adams had lived 90 years while Jefferson had lived 83 years. It was fitting that the two men who had the most to do with the Declaration both passed away on the document's 50th anniversary.

Quote

*"Nature intended me for the tranquil pursuits of science, by rendering them my supreme delight."
- March 1809*

Quote

*"A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."
- March 1801*





Legacy

Thomas Jefferson will always be remembered as the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. That achievement alone makes him an important historical figure, but he did so much more. As a public servant – especially as the third President – he helped make America a free and powerful nation, especially through his support for religious freedom and presiding over the Louisiana Purchase.

Jefferson deserves recognition as one of the most brilliant thinkers in American history. Because he was well-spoken and thoughtful, people often believed that Jefferson was a peaceful philosopher who sat at his estate in Monticello thinking about democracy. In reality, Jefferson was a shrewd politician who knew how to obtain power and was willing to scheme

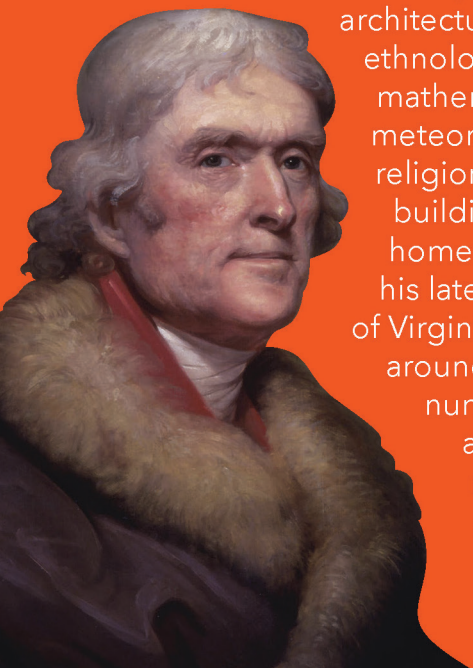
against his friends. He also made his share of mistakes, such as signing the destructive Embargo Act and stripping down America's navy. The gunboat navy Jefferson established failed miserably during the War of 1812 after his presidency and almost allowed Britain to defeat the United States.

Jefferson's political skills, though, did earn him the two terms as President. They also allowed him to create a party, the Democratic-Republicans, which became the dominant party in early American history.

Thomas Jefferson was a complex figure. He was both a thoughtful man and an astute politician. Above all, he was a man of great achievement, supremely dedicated to liberty.

Renaissance Man

Thomas Jefferson loved learning about anything and everything. When he wasn't managing his plantation or serving in government, Jefferson studied agriculture, archaeology, architecture, astronomy, botany, ethnology, geology, mathematics, medicine, meteorology, philosophy, and religion. He designed several buildings, including his home at Monticello and, in his later years, the University of Virginia. He also tinkered around and invented numerous gadgets, such as an iron blow, a pasta roller, a gravity-powered clock, a revolving chair, and an early copy machine.





Jefferson kept learning for his whole life. He tried to solve hard problems about politics, government, and policies. Try to solve these math problems. The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	x		-		54
÷		x		-	
	-	6	+		3
+		+		-	
	-		+	9	11
5		43		-12	

	-	5	+		5
÷		+		-	
	-	1	-		-7
x		+		+	
	-		-		-3
14		8		3	

ANSWERS ON PG 10

Slavery

Like many other people of his time, Thomas Jefferson had enslaved servants at his estate. Throughout his life, he enslaved and profited from a total of about 600 people. Jefferson repeatedly said throughout his career that **slavery** was evil, calling it a "moral depravity" and a "hideous blot." In 1778, he drafted a Virginia law to ban the importing of enslaved servants, and in 1784, he proposed a measure to ban slavery in America's Northwest territories. Jefferson believed that the best way to get rid of slavery was to pass laws gradually freeing the enslaved over time. He feared that eliminating slavery too quickly would perhaps lead to a violent conflict between black people and white people and destroy the young country.

Many people then and now have criticized Jefferson for owning enslaved servants. While it is true that Jefferson benefited from slavery, he also strongly believed it was immoral. Also, his vision of a society where all men are created equal inspired future generations to fight for a more perfect Union – one where every American enjoyed the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



Quote

Below is a quote from Thomas Jefferson. Can you decode the message? The letters from each cell are below the puzzle. Try to rebuild the original message by choosing the letters for each cell.

C		N	N	O	
		I	V		
	I		H		T
			K		

L T
A T O O S
W B O I E U

ANSWERS ON PG 10

Glossary

Shrewd: Being able to make decisions wisely to achieve a goal.

Democratic-Republican Party: The party that formed in the 1790s in the United States that believed the federal government should remain relatively weak and that states should have more power. It was led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Virginia's House of Burgesses: The legislative body of the Colony of Virginia.

Secretary of State: The government official in charge of the U.S. Department of State who advises the President on foreign policy issues. The Secretary of State is one of the highest ranking officials in the government.

Cabinet of the United States: A senior group of advisors to the President of the United States. Its members include the Vice President of the United States and the top agency and department leaders in the federal government, such as the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, and the Attorney General.

Federalist Party: The party that formed in the 1790s in the United States that believed the federal government needed to be strengthened at the time for the country to prosper. It was led by George Washington, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton.

Incumbent: The person who is currently holding an office or position.

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.

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

Barbary Pirates: Sea-traveling people from North Africa who often attacked and robbed ships.

Gunboats: Small, fast ships with guns that operate mainly near coastlines.

Embargo Act in 1807: A law, signed by President Thomas Jefferson, that ended trade between the United States and all foreign nations. Jefferson signed it in response to British and French attacks on American ships. He hoped that it could convince both nations to respect the United States, but it backfired and damaged the American economy.

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

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Images: Getty Images, WikiCommons

Answers:

EXTINCT ANIMAL JEFFERSON OWNED THE BONES TO:
MASTODON

ALWAYS LEARNING:

8	x	7	-	2	54
+		x		-	
4	-	6	+	5	3
+		+		-	
3	-	1	+	9	11
5		43		-12	

6	-	5	+	4	5
+		+		-	
3	-	1	-	9	-7
x		+		+	
7	-	2	-	8	-3
14		8		3	

QUOTE:

		I		
C	A	N	N	O
L	I	V	E	
W	I	T	H	O
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James Madison



"I was the Father of the Constitution and served as the 4th President of the United States."





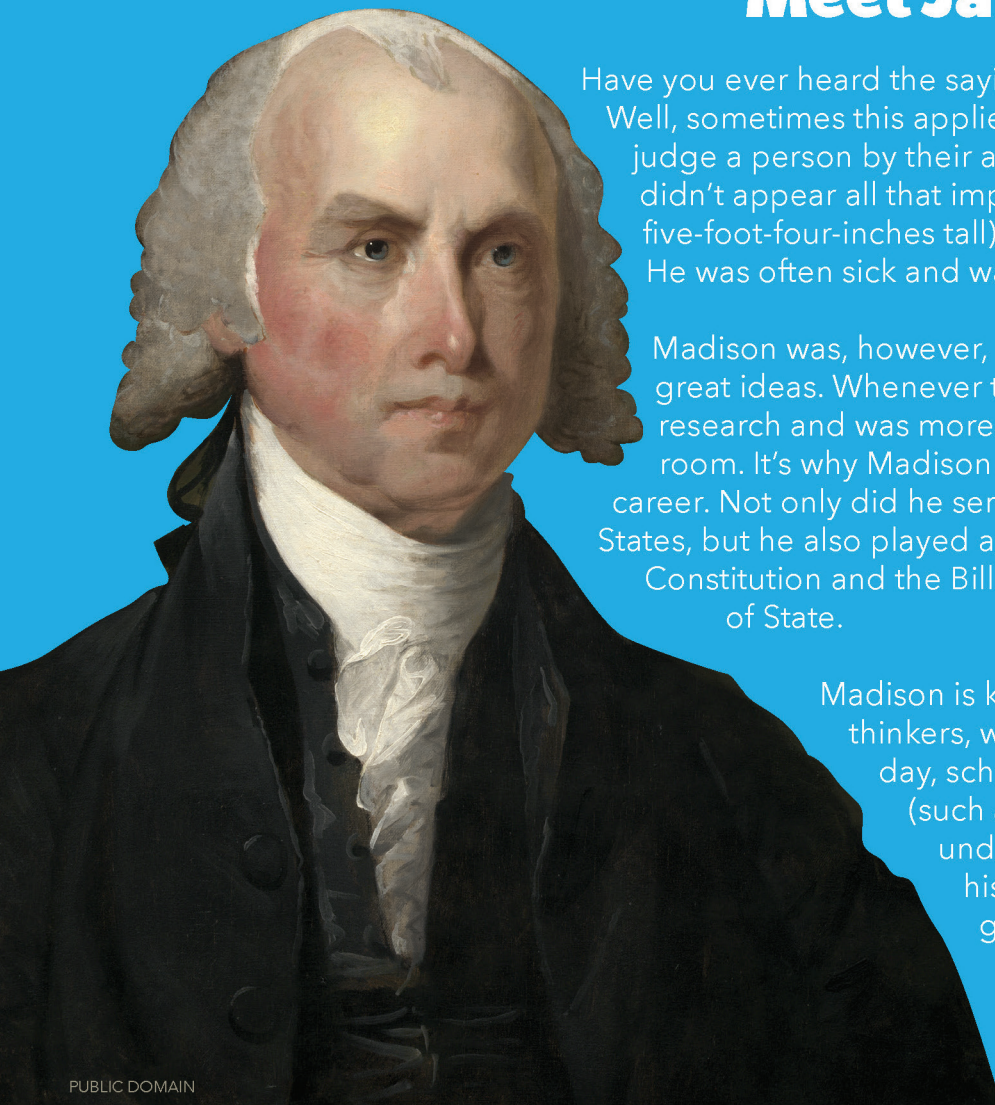
Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

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

Madison attended the College of New Jersey, but it was renamed many years later. What is its current name? 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 Madison



Have you ever heard the saying "don't judge a book by its cover"? Well, sometimes this applies to people - sometimes, you can't judge a person by their appearance. For many, James Madison didn't appear all that impressive. He was short (just five-foot-four-inches tall) and weighed just about 100 pounds. He was often sick and wasn't known as a great speaker.

Madison was, however, a brilliant man, full of knowledge and great ideas. Whenever there was a major debate, he did more research and was more prepared than anyone else in the room. It's why Madison was so successful throughout his career. Not only did he serve as the fourth President of the United States, but he also played a major role in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and served as the Secretary of State.

Madison is known as one of America's great thinkers, when it came to political issues. To this day, scholars and lawyers study his writings (such as the *Federalist Papers*) to better understand the Constitution. As a result of his critical role in creating our system of government, Americans remember Madison today as the "Father of the Constitution."

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Interesting Facts

- He wrote 29 of the 85 *Federalist Papers* essays.
- He was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party.
- Although Madison initially opposed the Bill of Rights, he supported it, wrote it, and fought successfully to ratify it.
- Five-foot-four inches tall, he is the shortest President in American history. He also weighed about 100 pounds.
- He is the first President to ask Congress for a declaration of war.
- He and his wife Dolley often served ice cream to guests during White House events.
- His face briefly appeared on rare \$5,000 bills.

Young Jemmy

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia. He was the oldest son of James Madison Sr. and Nelly Conway. His father was a Virginia planter and his mother was the daughter of a wealthy tobacco merchant. James would eventually have 11 younger siblings, although five of them would die before reaching adulthood. Their family owned thousands of acres and dozens of enslaved servants.

James Sr. and Nelly gave young James the nickname "Jemmy." Unfortunately, young Jemmy was often sick, suffering from **seizures** throughout his childhood. That, however, didn't stop him from spending a lot of time playing with his brothers and sisters in the outdoors. They rode horses and played in the fields and forests of the family plantation.

Jemmy also loved to read and learn about the world. At a local boarding school, he studied math, geography, and philosophy, while picking up Latin, Greek, and French. It was clear to everyone that he was very smart, and when it came time to go to college in 1769, Jemmy decided to leave Virginia and enroll at the College of New Jersey. He finished all of his coursework in just two years, graduating in 1771.





Early Career

Madison considered becoming a lawyer, but he wasn't really excited about it. His mind was elsewhere. At the time, the American colonists were protesting against unjust taxes imposed by the British government. In April 1775, war broke out between the Americans and the British. One year later, on July 4, 1776, the representatives in the Continental Congress published the Declaration of Independence, announcing that the United States was a new, free nation. Madison hoped to play an important role in these earth-shaking events.

He didn't have to wait long. From 1774 on, Madison served in several positions in the Virginian government, where he helped draft the state's constitution and fought for the right of every American to practice the religion they believed in.

During this time, Madison became close friends with the Governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson - the man who was famous for drafting the Declaration of Independence.

From then on, Madison would be Jefferson's closest advisor.

In 1780, Virginia chose Madison to be a delegate to the Continental Congress, the highest legislature in the United States. Madison was, at the age of 29, the youngest delegate in the Congress. It was here where Madison learned the art of politics - especially how to persuade his colleagues to support certain laws. He also gained a reputation for being very well informed and well prepared for debates, emerging as a major leader in Congress. He left the Continental Congress in 1783. That same year, the British officially gave up, ending the war and leaving the United States an independent nation.

After the war, Madison served in the Virginia House of Delegates, where he continued to support religious freedom. He led the fight against laws that favored any religion or church.

Father of the Constitution

Throughout the War for Independence, James Madison saw how the weak federal government failed to perform its basic functions, such as raising money to support the Continental Army. At the time, the states were governed by the **Articles of Confederation**. Madison believed that the Articles allowed the states to have too much power, which they used to act in ways that benefited them, rather than the country as a whole. Also, Congress couldn't pass any laws without the support of nine out of 13 states, which made it very difficult to get anything done. Madison felt that, had the federal government been more effective, it could have

coordinated the country's resources better, supplied the army, and won the war sooner. This also meant less American soldiers would have died in the war.

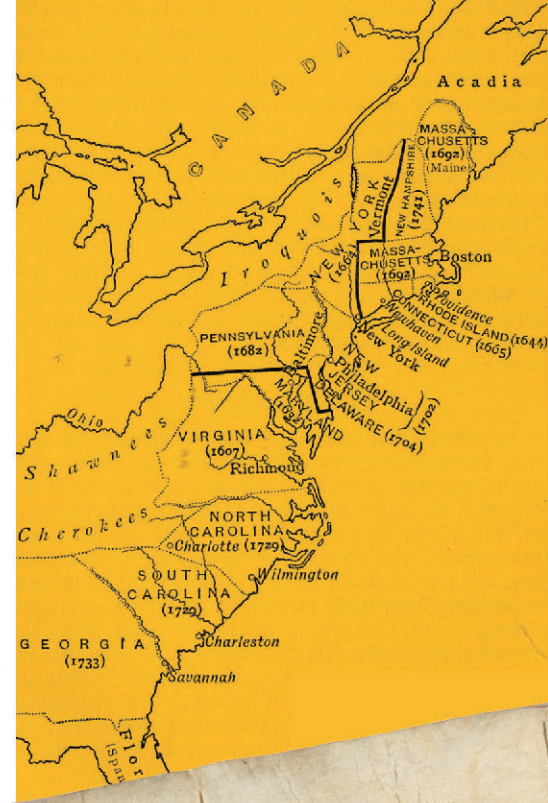
Even after the war, the United States faced many economic and political problems, such as inflation and massive debt. Also, it couldn't enforce any of its laws or raise money. When an uprising broke out in Massachusetts in August 1786 led by Daniel Shays, the federal government stood powerless to enforce law and order. Many feared the new nation would collapse into 13 separate states, vulnerable to its enemies.

James Madison believed that the solution was to make changes to the Articles of Confederation - maybe even get rid of it and create a new constitution. He had a powerful ally: the hero of the Revolution, George Washington. He, like Madison, believed that a more effective federal government was needed to address the nation's problems. They, and other national leaders, worked together to convene the **Constitutional Convention** in Philadelphia from May to September 1787. Their goal was to get rid of the Articles and create a new system of government.

Soon after the Convention began, the delegates elected George Washington as its presiding officer. Many other famous leaders attended, such as Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton. Prior to the Convention, Madison had spent months in his library studying different systems of government throughout world history to come up with the best system for the United States. He proposed a new constitution that included a federal government with three branches that would check and balance each other so none of them would become too powerful. Historians would later call Madison's proposal the **Virginia Plan**.

From then on, the delegates debated Madison's proposal and considered others as well. Madison emerged as a major leader at the Convention in favor of giving the federal government enough powers to be more effective. He also took notes of what many of the delegates said, so that future generations would know what happened. Everyone had a different opinion, and it wasn't clear whether they could come to an agreement. They realized, however, that for the good of the country, they had to compromise. The final draft of the Constitution wasn't exactly like Madison's Virginia Plan, but it had many of the same features, such as the three branches of government and the system of **checks and balances**. On September 17, 1787, the delegates signed the new **Constitution of the United States**.

Since Madison played such an important role in its drafting, Americans remember him as the "Father of the Constitution." Still, there was much work left to do. The Constitution's supporters still needed to convince the states to ratify the document, so it could be made the law of the land. Madison collaborated with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay to write several essays, now known as the **Federalist Papers**, to convince the American people to support ratification. To this day, historians consider the *Federalist Papers* to be one of the greatest political documents in American history. Thanks, in large part to their efforts, the states ratified the Constitution, officially making it law in June of 1788.



Quote

"The people are the only legitimate fountain of power."
- February 1788



The New Government

The new Constitution created a new government, establishing the offices of President and Vice President, Congress, and the Supreme Court. From 1788 to 1789, the voters elected George Washington and John Adams as the new President and Vice President. Madison was elected as a congressman from Virginia. When Washington appointed advisors for his administration, he chose Madison's friend Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State and Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of Treasury.

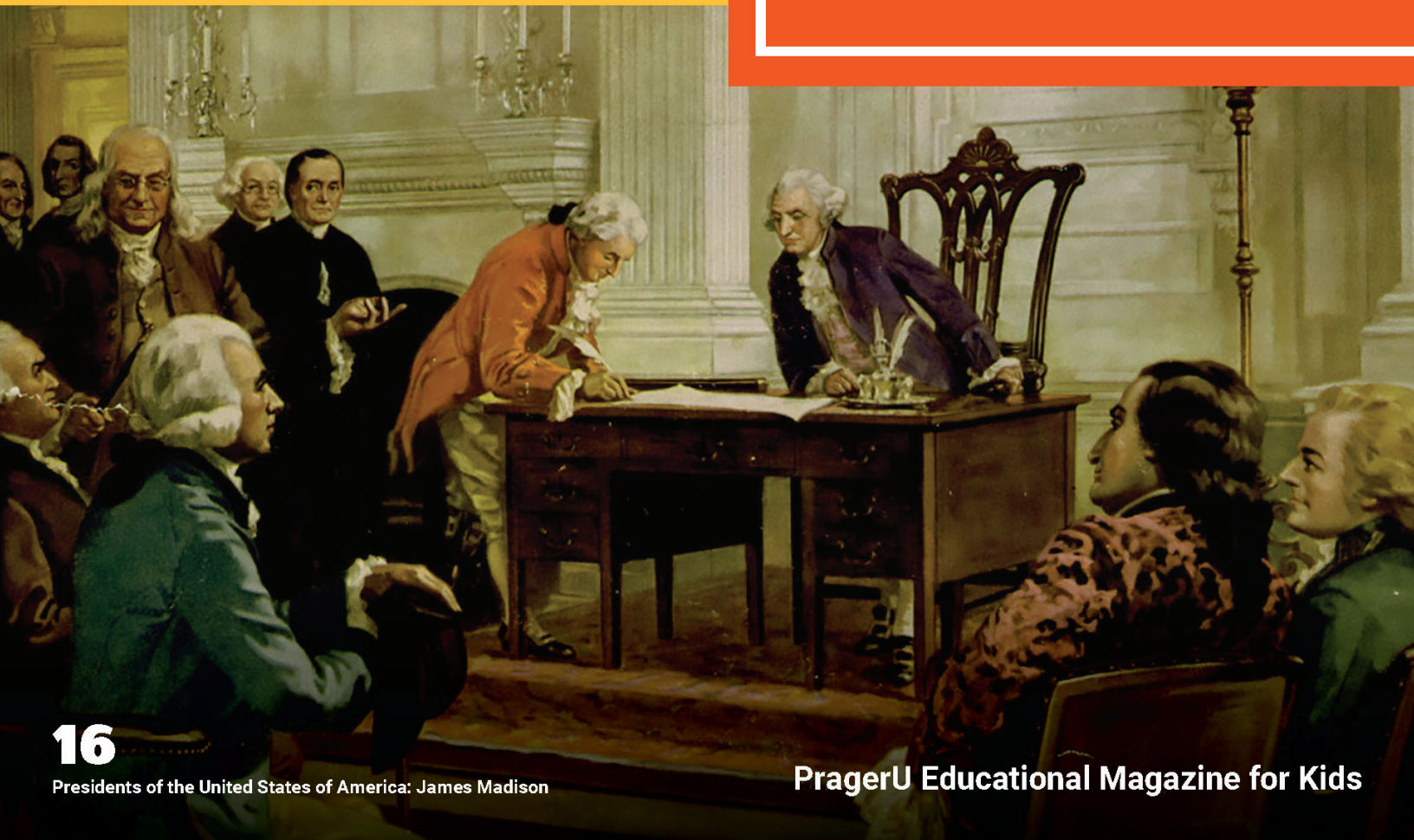
As a congressman, Madison worked hard to pass the **Bill of Rights**, which protected Americans' fundamental rights, such as freedom of speech and worship, from the federal government. It is one of his most important legacies.

Also around this time, Madison met a lovely, charming woman named Dolley Payne Todd who had recently been widowed. Although he was 17 years older than her, they married on September 15, 1794.

Even though they had worked closely with Hamilton for several years, Jefferson and Madison began disagreeing with him on many issues. Hamilton had worked to establish a national bank, which Jefferson and Madison felt expanded the power of the federal government too much. They also disagreed on many foreign policy issues. Both groups began supporting newspapers to attack the other side. Soon, they created political parties in support of their policies - Jefferson and Madison created the Democratic-Republican Party and Hamilton created the Federalist Party.

Quote

*"Wherever the real power in a Government lies, there is the danger of oppression."
- October 1788*



George Washington hoped to keep the country unified, but it was too late - America's political system was now a two-party system.

This division continued when Washington retired after two terms in 1797 and John Adams became President. Adams, like Hamilton, was a Federalist, and Jefferson and Madison worked to oppose his policies. In 1800, Jefferson ran for President and defeated Adams in the election. He then appointed James Madison as Secretary of State, the most important Cabinet position. Now Jefferson and Madison were the two most powerful Americans in the country.

Together, President Jefferson and Secretary Madison worked hard to strengthen the United States. Madison helped the President complete the Louisiana Purchase from France, which allowed the United States to acquire a large amount of territory that doubled its size. It was Jefferson's greatest achievement as President.

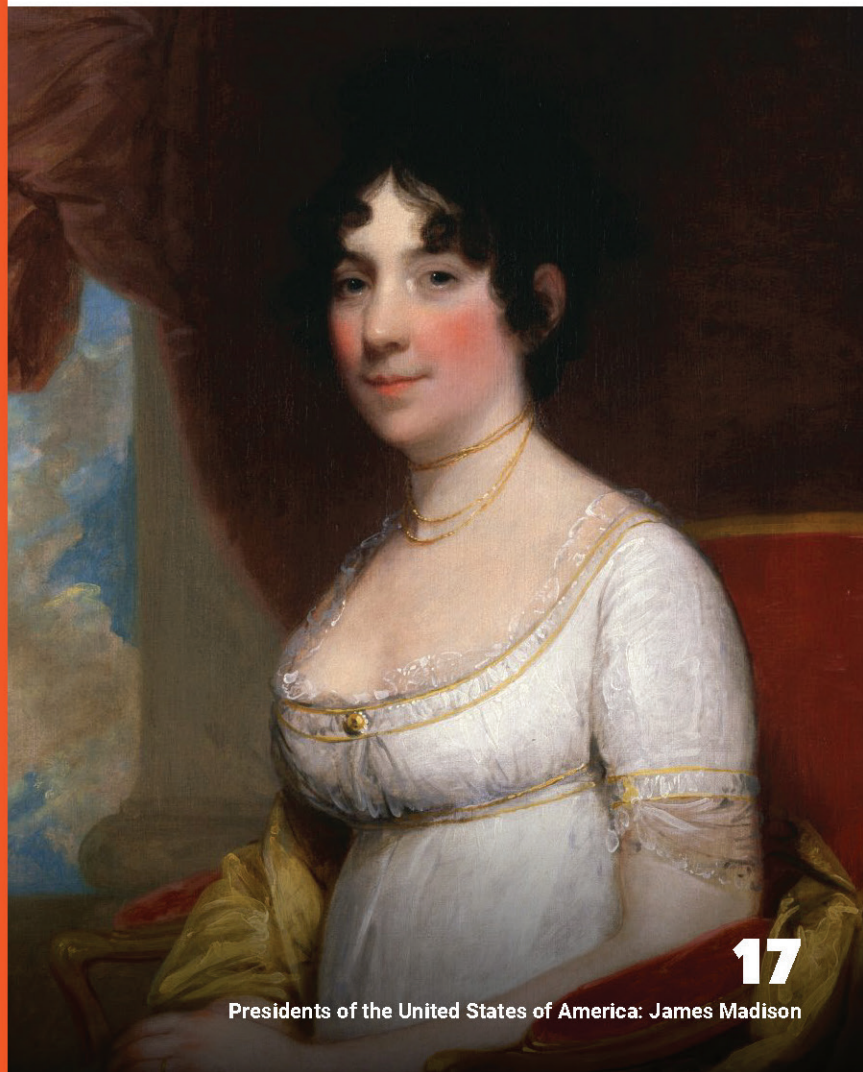
Unfortunately, they also took actions that left America weaker. When Britain and France went to war, the Jefferson Administration imposed an embargo, making it illegal for Americans to trade with either country. Although this was meant to weaken Britain and France, it hurt America's economy even more. Also, they tried to save money by getting rid of America's naval ships and replacing them with weaker **gunboats**. These issues would come back to haunt Madison later on.

Following Washington's example, President Jefferson served two terms as President and decided to retire. In 1808, Madison ran for President and defeated his opponent, Federalist Charles Cotesworth Pinckney with 122 electoral votes to 44. James Madison was now the fourth President of the United States.

Dolley

With his light build, James Madison was easy to overlook, but no one could ever forget his wife Dolley. She was three inches taller than he was and, unlike him, she was lively and **vivacious**. During their marriage, Dolley hosted lavish parties with some of the most important officials in the country. She befriended the wives of important American politicians and foreign diplomats. As a result, she became the country's top **socialite** and had a lot of influence over very powerful people.

Her most famous moment occurred during the War of 1812. When the British attacked Washington, DC and burned down the White House in 1814, Dolley instructed her enslaved servant Paul Jennings to save a large and famous portrait of George Washington from destruction. Thanks to her and Jennings, the portrait was spared and hangs in the White House today.





President

When he took office, President Madison immediately faced the same issue his predecessors faced: staying out of the war between Britain and France. Like them, he found this difficult to do. For years, Napoleon was in charge of France and had conquered much of Europe. Both Britain and France attacked American ships on the high seas to prevent them from trading with the other side. Even worse, British naval officers would take over American ships and force their sailors to serve in the British Navy – a practice called impressment.

By 1812, Americans had had enough. **T**hey felt disrespected and Madison decided it was time to defend the country's honor. In June of 1812, he got Congress to declare war on Great Britain. The War of 1812 had begun and James Madison was America's first official wartime President.

Unfortunately, Madison's support for Jefferson's weak gunboat navy left the nation's coastline vulnerable to attack.

Madison won re-election in the fall of 1812, but America suffered defeat after defeat, losing much of its western territories (acquired from the Louisiana Purchase). Even worse, in August of 1814, the British arrived in America's capital, Washington, DC, and burned down the Capitol building and the White House. The Madisons fled in humiliation.

Still, the Americans found a way to win a few miraculous victories in Lake Erie, on the Thames River, and in New Orleans. Through these victories, Generals Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison became national heroes. Patriotism and pride swelled across the country and many considered this war America's "Second War of Independence."

By the fall of 1814, both sides realized that more fighting wouldn't solve everything, so they negotiated to end the war. They signed a treaty ending the conflict in December of 1814. Madison completed his second term and retired in March 1817. The American people had elected Secretary of State James Monroe to succeed him.



Quote

"The advice nearest to my heart and deepest in my convictions is that the Union of the States be cherished and perpetuated."

- December 1830



Retirement

The Madisons moved back to their home in Montpelier, Virginia. He spent most of his time managing his plantation and enslaved servants. He also served causes that he believed in, such as helping his friend Thomas Jefferson set up the University of Virginia and helping to found the American Colonization Society. Through the Society, Madison hoped that America would abolish slavery over time. He also felt that both black people and white people would be better off living separately and supported resettling black people in Africa. This, he believed, would be the best result for both black people and white people.



Madison lived to 85 years old, eventually suffering from **rheumatism** and liver failure. He died on June 28, 1836 at his home in Montpelier, Virginia.

Quote

*"If men were angels, no government would be necessary."
- February 1788*

Legacy

When it comes to the Founding Fathers, most Americans remember George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. James Madison might not be as famous as them, but he has left a major legacy for the United States. He was one of the most important leaders during the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Through this role, he had a great deal of influence in creating the system of government we have today. As Secretary of State, he helped President Thomas Jefferson double the size of the United States by completing the Louisiana Purchase. He led the United States for two terms as its fourth President.

Madison was America's first wartime President. Although he was always well prepared for legal and constitutional debates, he was less prepared as commander-in-chief during the War of 1812. The war was a disaster and almost cost the United States its independence. It took several miraculous victories by leaders like Andrew Jackson to save the country.

Despite this, James Madison's overall contributions make him one of America's greatest and most important Founders. He helped create a government strong enough to be effective while also respecting the rights of its citizens – one that allowed America to prosper and become the freest, most powerful nation in the world.

Glossary

Seizure: Brain activity that often causes the body to shake uncontrollably.

Articles of Confederation: An agreement between the original 13 United States that created an early system of government for the new nation. It was drafted in 1777 and came into effect in 1781. Since it created an ineffective government, the Founders drafted and adopted a new constitution to replace it.

Constitutional Convention: A meeting that took place from May to September 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where many of the Founding Fathers debated and drafted the Constitution of the United States. During the Convention, James Madison emerged as a major leader in determining what system of government was created.

Virginia Plan: James Madison's initial proposal for a constitution during the Constitutional Convention. His plan called for making the federal government more effective and giving it three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Madison had to compromise with other delegates, and there were major differences between his plan and the final Constitution. Still, Madison's proposal was a major influence at the Convention.

Checks and Balances: A system in which different branches of government share power and can prevent each other from taking certain actions. This system is designed to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

Constitution of the United States: A document that has been the supreme law of the United States since 1788. It established a federal government with three branches under the principle of checks and balances. James Madison played such an important role during its drafting and ratification that he is known as the "Father of the Constitution."

Federalist Papers: A series of 85 articles and essays published from 1787 to 1788 that argued in favor of ratifying the U.S. Constitution. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the essays. Historians consider them very important documents that help explain details about the Constitution.

Bill of Rights: The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which were ratified in 1791. They are often considered the most important amendments and protect the basic rights of American citizens, such as freedom of speech and worship and the right to bear arms and to be tried by jury. Madison played a key role in drafting and ratifying it.

Gunboats: Small, fast ships with guns that operate mainly near coastlines.

Vivacious: Charming, attractive, and full of life.

Socialite: A person who is well known in society and fond of social activities and entertainment.

Rheumatism: A disease that involves pain in the joints and muscles.

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Answers:

CURRENT NAME OF COLLEGE
MADISON ATTENDED:
PRINCETON

PragerU KIDS



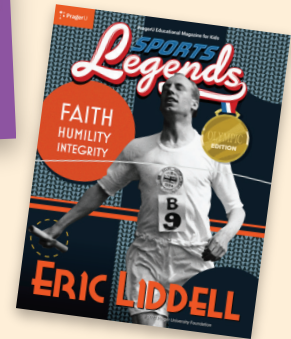
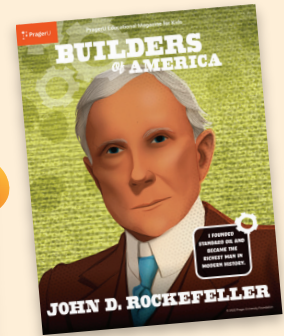
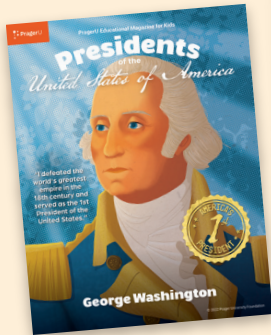
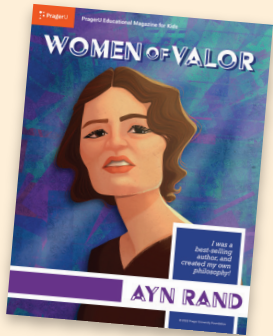
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