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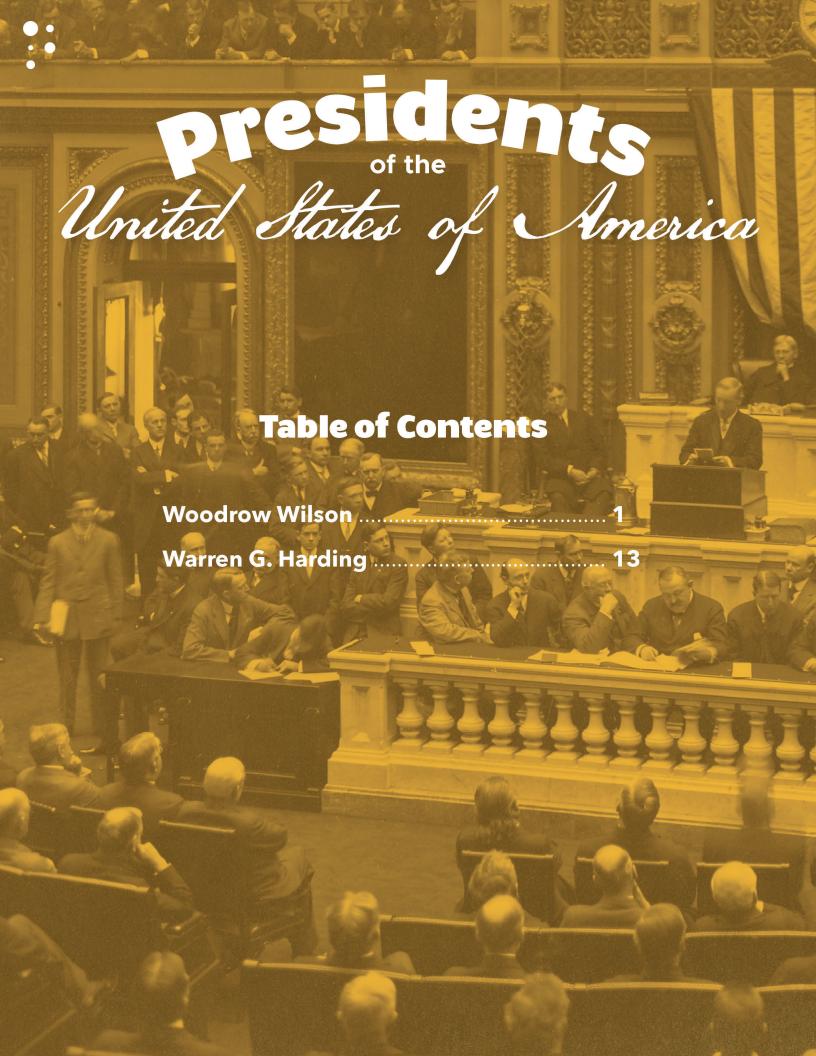
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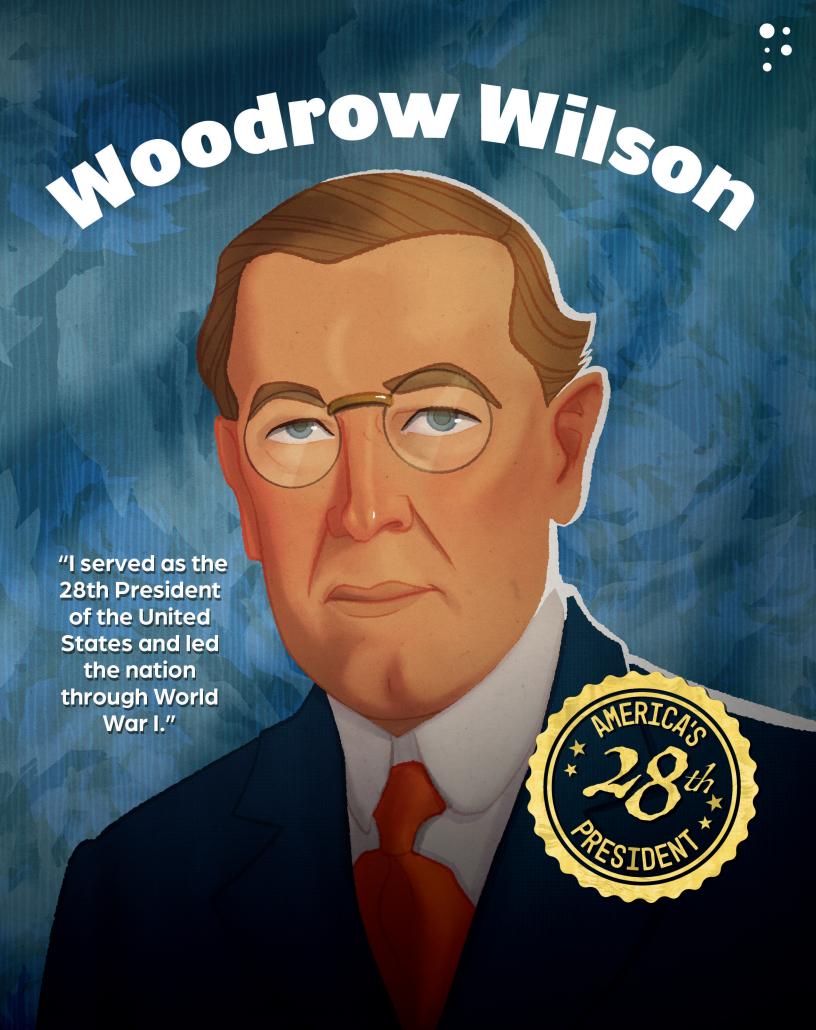
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Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

President Wilson had two cats. We need your help to find out what their names were. Your task is to help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

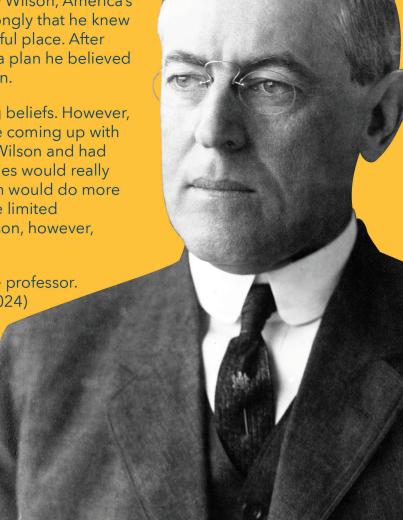
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

Meet Woodrow Wilson

Have you ever met someone who was convinced that they were right about something? That's what Woodrow Wilson, America's 28th President, was like. He believed very strongly that he knew what it would take to make the world a peaceful place. After leading the country into World War I, he had a plan he believed would prevent war from ever happening again.

There isn't anything wrong with having strong beliefs. However, it is important to listen to others when you are coming up with your opinions. Many people disagreed with Wilson and had reasonable concerns about whether his policies would really create a peaceful world. They worried his plan would do more harm than good and take the U.S. far from the limited government the Founders had intended. Wilson, however, refused to listen to them.

Wilson had spent much of his life as a college professor. In fact, he is America's only president (as of 2024) to have had a Ph.D. As president, he signed many laws that empowered the federal government and changed the country. He left an important legacy, but his story shows us that it's important to listen to everyone, even those you disagree with.



Young Thomas

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born on December 28, 1856, in Staunton, Virginia. He was the third child of Joseph and Jessie Wilson. His father, Joseph, was a Presbyterian preacher. Young Thomas learned from him the art of public speaking.

Thomas was four years old when the Civil War began. His first memory was hearing that Abraham Lincoln was elected president and that the war would soon begin. The Wilsons were strong supporters of the **Confederate** cause.

Young Thomas suffered from poor eyesight, and some historians believe he had dyslexia. Still, he was an active youth and loved playing baseball.

In 1875, Thomas began attending the College of New Jersey, which is now known as Princeton University. He also dropped his first name, Thomas, in favor of his middle name, Woodrow.



- He is the only president (as of 2024) to have a Ph.D.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He appointed the first person of the Jewish faith (Louis Brandeis) to the Supreme Court.
- He was the first sitting president to meet with the Pope.
- He was the first sitting president to visit Europe.
- He was the second president to win the Nobel Prize.
- His wife Edith was the first woman to perform the tasks of the president.
- He is the only president (as of 2024) buried in Washington, D.C.
- Wilson's face appeared on the U.S. \$100,000 bill, which is the highest denomination of U.S. currency ever printed.







Academic

After graduating, Wilson initially tried being a lawyer. He hated it and went in a completely different direction. He was more interested in studying politics and government. He enrolled at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore to study history and political science. He earned his Ph.D. in 1886.

By then, he had married an attractive woman named Ellen Axson, who had also been raised by a Presbyterian minister. She was a talented artist. They eventually had three children.

Wilson began developing his views on government. In his Ph.D. **dissertation**, titled *Congressional Government*, he criticized America's governing principles. He disliked the Founding Fathers' system of checks and balances and said that it prevented the government from functioning effectively.

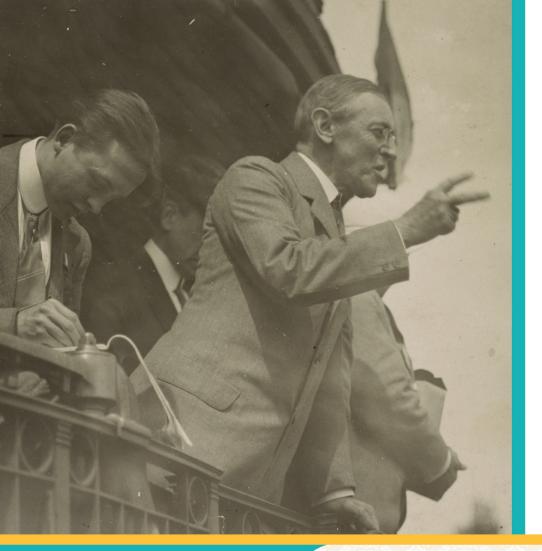
Like many **reformers** during this time, Wilson saw problems in society that he felt had to be addressed. Since America had progressed to a new stage as a world power, he believed that new **progressive** policies were needed.



Princeton University Students with Woodrow Wilson (center)

Princeton

Wilson served as a professor, first at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, then at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and finally at Princeton University. In 1902, he was chosen to be Princeton's president. During his tenure, Wilson made many changes to how the university was run. Not everyone was happy about these changes, and many people on campus opposed him. Still, Wilson's efforts made him one of the most famous academics in the country.



Rise to Power

Even though most professors didn't run for office, the Democratic Party wanted to try something new. It chose Wilson as its candidate for Governor of New Jersey in 1910. Wilson promised he would be an "unconstitutional governor"-one who wouldn't let the law get in the way of reform. That's exactly what he did. He signed into law many progressive reforms, such as requiring candidates for office to run in primaries.

Quote

"It is a fine system where some remote, severe academic schoolmaster may become President of the United States."
- September 1912

The 1912 Presidential Election

Wilson's success as governor caught the eye of progressives across the country. In 1912, the Democrats chose him as their candidate for president. That year, Wilson faced two other candidates: incumbent President William Howard Taft of the Republican Party and former President Theodore Roosevelt of the Progressive Party. Although Roosevelt had been a Republican, he was angered by Taft's policies and ran as a third-party candidate.

Roosevelt's candidacy split the Republican vote, which gave the election to Wilson. In November 1912, Wilson won the election in a landslide, becoming the 28th President of the United States.



President

Now that Wilson was president, he had the opportunity to implement the ideas he had about government while he was a professor. He had an ambitious agenda, which he called the "New Freedom." Wilson signed laws that profoundly changed the country. In 1913, he signed the **Federal Reserve Act**, which created a powerful new system that managed America's money supply and economy. That same year, he signed a law imposing **income taxes** on the American people. The following year, he created a new agency, the Federal Trade Commission, to go after trusts if they acted like **monopolies**. Wilson's successes allowed him to be re-elected as president in 1916.

Since Wilson grew up in a pro-Confederate family, he was prejudiced against black Americans. He segregated blacks and whites in the government, so they couldn't work together. He argued, "**Segregation** is not humiliating but a benefit."

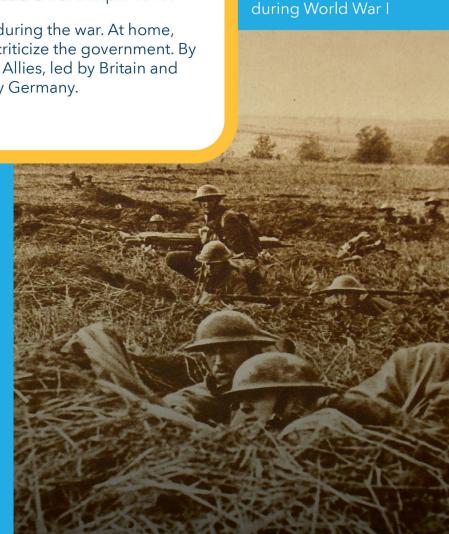
Although his New Freedom laws had a major impact on the country, Wilson made an even bigger impact with his foreign policy. When **World War I** broke out in Europe in 1914, he tried to keep the United States out of the conflict, but when Germany attacked American ships, he asked Congress to declare war in April 1917.

Millions of Americans fought in Europe during the war. At home, Wilson signed a law making it illegal to criticize the government. By 1918, American soldiers had helped the Allies, led by Britain and France, defeat the Central Powers, led by Germany.



"We have been proud of our industrial achievements, but we have not hitherto stopped thoughtfully enough to count the human cost."

- Warch 1913



American soldiers



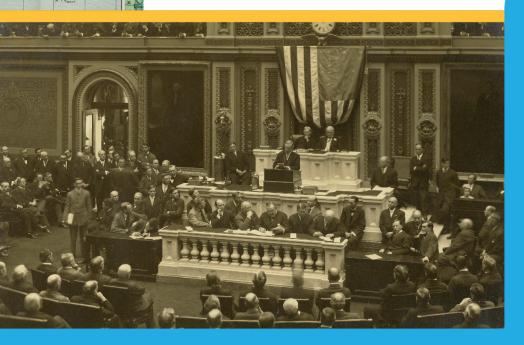


After the carnage of the war, Wilson wanted to make sure that no future wars would ever happen again. He gave a speech in January 1918 where he announced his "Fourteen Points," or ideas, that he felt would prevent wars. His plan involved respecting the rights of all countries to exist. It also called for a world government, called the League of Nations, to keep the peace. Many people around the world hoped his vision would become a reality, although many others felt it was impractical and utopian.

From 1918 to 1919, Wilson was in Europe personally negotiating the treaty to end the war and to create the League. The leaders of Europe, however, felt Wilson was arrogant and resented him for trying to control the outcome of the treaty. They were more focused on punishing Germany.

Despite this, Wilson and the European leaders were able to sign the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919. The treaty did include plans to create the League. Wilson now had to go home and get the Senate to approve the treaty. Many Americans, especially Republicans, had concerns about parts of the treaty. They were concerned because it might require America to participate in foreign conflicts even if those conflicts didn't really affect the country.

Wilson refused to cooperate with those who disagreed with him. Instead, he sought to rally the American people behind the treaty, so he went on an exhausting trip across the country to give speeches about the League. In September of 1919, he collapsed while on the road. Soon after, he suffered a devastating heart attack, leaving him partially paralyzed.



Quote

"The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty." - April 1917



The First Woman President?

For the last year and a half of his presidency, Wilson was incapacitated. By this time, his first wife, Ellen, had died, and he had remarried a woman named Edith Galt. Edith had often assisted him during his second term. When Wilson became paralyzed, Edith sought to hide his condition from his advisors and the public. She secretly took up many of his tasks. In doing so, she became the first woman to exercise the powers of the presidency. Some have even called her America's first woman president.

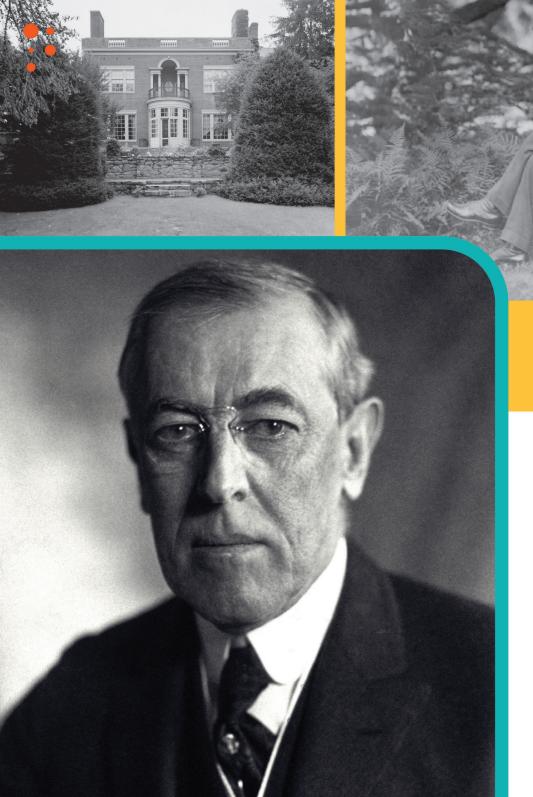
She was, however, unable to convince her husband to listen to the Republicans' concerns. As a result, in November of 1919, the Senate rejected the treaty. Although the League of Nations was formed, the United States didn't join it. Without American participation, Wilson believed his dream of a new world was dashed.

During the 1920 presidential election, the Republican Party's candidate, Warren G. Harding, defeated the Democratic Party's candidate, James Cox, in a landslide. Cox had supported America joining the League, so his defeat showed the American people had completely rejected Wilson.



Writing Activity

Brainstorm some ideas of what you think would make the world a more peaceful place or write
about a time when someone disagreed with your ideas or opinions–how did you respond?



Above left: Wilson's home in New Jersey **Above right:** Wilson at

his home

Retirement

Woodrow and Edith Wilson retired from the presidency in March 1921. They moved to a home in Washington, D.C., not too far from the White House. Wilson spent the rest of his retirement a broken and bitter man. In November of 1923, he scolded the American people in a speech, saying, "we turned our backs" on our allies. He added that he believed that those he disagreed with would suffer "utter destruction and contempt."

Wilson died on February 3, 1924, at the age of 67.



The Founding Fathers wanted Americans to be free, so they limited the power of the

government. That way, the government wouldn't be able to oppress the people. Progressives in the late 19th and early 20th century, however, believed that the government needed more power to achieve certain goals, even at the expense of people's

freedom.

As president, Woodrow Wilson gave the federal government new, unprecedented powers. He didn't realize, however, that these powers threatened the freedom of the American people. He created new laws and agencies to control what people said and did.

He imposed taxes on the American people, taking away their hard-earned money.

Wilson believed he could end all wars through his Fourteen Points and his League of Nations. This was a very unrealistic goal. To do this, he was willing to create a massive world government that could control what whole countries did. When his opponents raised their concerns, Wilson refused to listen. He also refused to listen to black Americans who suffered under his policies of segregation. Woodrow Wilson certainly had a major legacy. That legacy, however, transformed America into something different from what the Founders envisioned.





Glossary

Confederate: Relating to the Confederate States of America, the country created by the 11 Southern states when they seceded from the United States from 1860 to 1861.

Dissertation: A long essay on a particular subject, usually written as a requirement to obtain a Ph.D.

Reformer: Someone who plans or supports changes to a system, law, or organization to make it, as they see it, more modern or effective.

Progressive: A person who believes in achieving social, political, and economic reform by replacing the Founding Fathers' principles with new ideas and a more powerful government.

Primary: Elections that political parties use to select candidates for a general election.

Federal Reserve Act: A law, signed in 1913 that established the Federal Reserve System as the central bank of the United States. It gave the federal government the power to regulate how much money is in the economy as well as interest rates.

Income Tax: Taxes collected by the government on the money individuals and businesses make from their jobs.

Monopoly: A situation where there is a single seller with no competition in the market. Many people

believe this is harmful because the single seller can charge high prices on consumers and unfairly prevent other companies from competing.

Segregation: The institutional separation of people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, especially as a form of discrimination.

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

Fourteen Points: President Woodrow Wilson's plan, announced in January 1918, to end future wars and create a peaceful world. His plan included respecting the rights of nations to govern themselves and trade peacefully with each other. It also included his plan for a League of Nations.

League of Nations: The first worldwide organization whose main goal was to maintain world peace. The idea of the League originated with President Woodrow Wilson. It functioned from 1920 to 1946, but it was proven to be ineffective when World War II broke out in 1939.

Utopian: Aiming for a perfect society; usually considered unrealistic and often harmful to society.

Incapacitated: Unable to work or do things normally.

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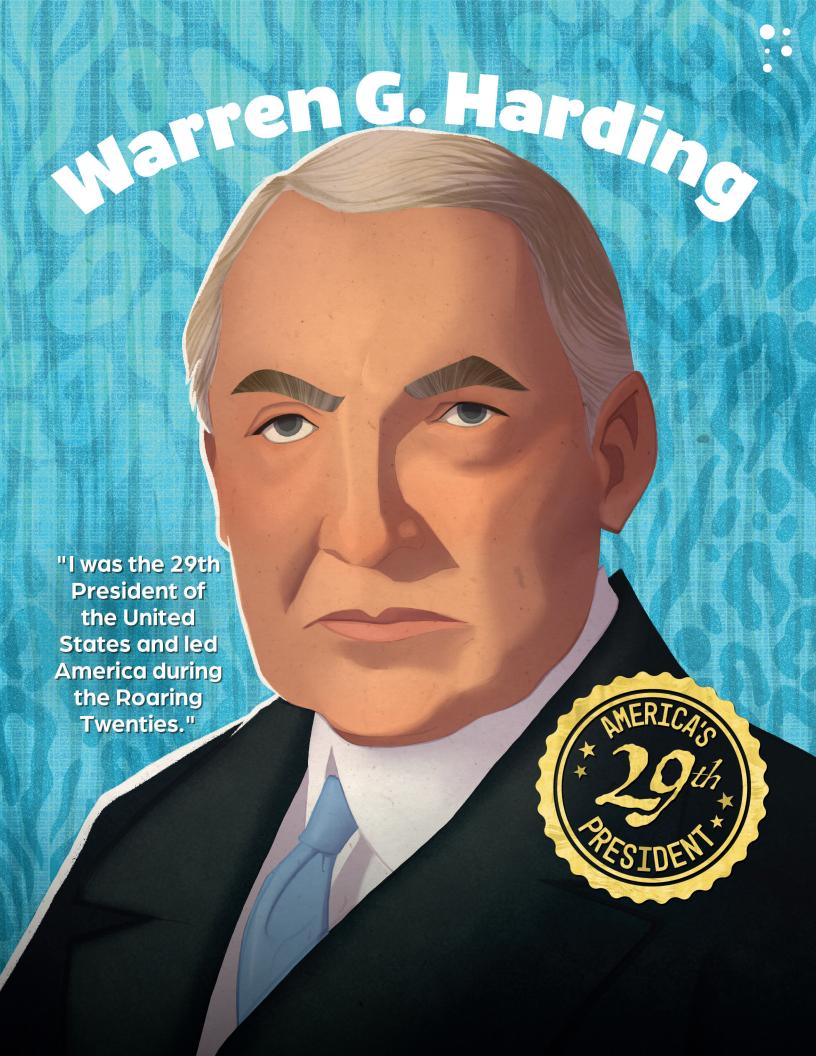
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Answers

NAMES OF WILSON'S CATS: MITTENS AND PUFFINS





Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

President Harding had a dog, but your task is to find out what his name 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 Warren G. Harding

Did you know that Warren G. Harding was one of America's most be oved presidents? He was tall and considered quite handsome and **charismatic**. Wherever he went, people loved him. In 1920, the American people overwhelmingly elected him to the White House in one of the biggest landslide victories in U.S. history. As president, he cut taxes for the American people and reduced government spending, which helped spark the great prosperity of the 1920s, a decade known as the Roaring Twenties.

When he died in office in 1923, millions of Americans mourned his

passing.

During his presidency, Harding appointed many of his friends to important positions in the government. Unfortunately, several of these friends tried to use their positions to make money illegally. After Harding died, Americans learned about these scandals, and they were disappointed that he didn't do more to stop his corrupt friends. Their warm feelings about President Harding changed quickly.

Although the scandals damaged Harding's reputation, he still accomplished many things in his life and made several good decisions as president. Before his terms in the White House, he was a successful newspaper editor and politician in Ohio. As president, Harding helped pull the country out of a major depression. This enabled millions of Americans to enjoy more economic opportunities than ever before and improve their lives.



Young Warren

Warren G. Harding was born on November 2, 1865, months after the end of the American Civil War. He was the oldest of George and Phoebe's eight children. Warren's father, George, served in the Union Army during the Civil War as a musician. He played an instrument called the fife and was also a drummer. At one point, he met President Abraham Lincoln while visiting the White House. George later became a teacher and a doctor. Warren's mother, Phoebe, was a midwife. Some historians believe that Phoebe predicted little Warren would one day become President of the United States. Warren grew up in a warm and loving household.



Interesting Facts

- His full name was Warren Gamaliel Harding.
- He was a member of the Republican Party.
- He was the first president born after the American Civil War.
- He is the only president (as of 2024) to be elected to the White House on his birthday.
- He was the first U.S. senator to be directly elected to the presidency.
- He was elected during the first presidential election in which women could vote.
- He won the presidency by the widest popular vote percentage margin since 1820.

Warren G. Harding was elected during the first presidential election in which women could vote!



Education, Family, and Early Career

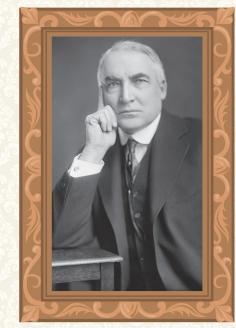
As a teenager, Warren found his calling: he wanted to work in the newspaper business. When he enrolled in Ohio Central College, he started a campus newspaper. After graduating in 1882, he moved to Marion, a small city in Ohio.

In 1884, when he was 18 years old, he and some friends bought a dying newspaper, the Marion Star. Thanks to Harding's hard work, the newspaper became popular again and attracted many readers. Harding became the Marion Star's editor and wrote many **editorials** discussing the important political issues in Ohio and across the country.

Harding became more and more interested in politics. He and his family were loyal supporters of the Republican Party. The Harding family began supporting the Republican Party during the Civil War because it opposed slavery. Harding also believed that the Republican Party's conservative economic policies helped the United States prosper, providing millions of American jobs. Harding wrote editorials explaining his beliefs in conservative Republican policies. These editorials also helped Harding think through difficult political issues and learn how to communicate his ideas to the public.

As more people read his newspaper articles, Harding became well-known in Marion. He was asked to speak at important events, and he impressed people with his speeches. He soon was one of the most popular people in the town.

Harding also met someone special. He had fallen in love with a piano teacher named Florence Mabel Kling. She was a strong-willed, independent woman, while he was more relaxed. Together, they complemented each other. She nicknamed him "Sonny," and he nicknamed her "the boss" and "the duchess." They married in 1891.





Quote

"America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy." - May 1920

Rise to Power

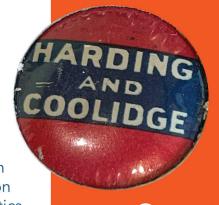
Harding's popularity and speaking abilities led many people in Ohio to believe he could succeed in politics. In 1899, he ran for the Ohio state senate as a Republican and won. When he arrived in the state legislature, he won over many friends and became a rising star in Ohio politics.

At the time, the Republicans were divided between the progressives, who wanted new policies to deal with new, modern problems, and conservatives, who believed that traditional American policies would continue helping the country prosper. Although Harding was a conservative, he was one of the few who had friends on both sides. He rose further, getting elected Ohio's Lieutenant Governor in 1903, and then to represent the state in the U.S. Senate in 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Harding moved to Washington, D.C., so that he could take up his seat in the Senate. As usual, Harding made many friends in the nation's capital. At the time, Democrat President Woodrow Wilson was in the White House and signing progressive policies into law. Harding opposed many of them, but he supported **women's suffrage**. He also began planning to run for president in 1920.

Under Wilson's leadership, the United States had entered World War I in Europe. Over 110,000 Americans had died fighting in Europe. The nation's economy was also in a depression by 1920. The American people were exhausted and yearned for the simpler life they had enjoyed before the war. Harding ran for president, promising a "return to normalcy," something the Americans desperately wanted.

In June 1920, Harding won the Republican nomination and became their candidate for president. That November, he and his running-mate, Calvin Coolidge, won the election by one of the greatest landslide victories in American history.

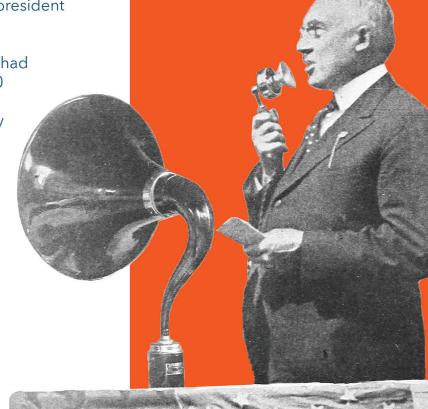


Quote

"All human ills are not curable by legislation.

The problems of maintained civilization are not to be solved by a transfer of responsibility from citizenship to government."

- Way 1920



Presidents of the United States of America: Wane



President

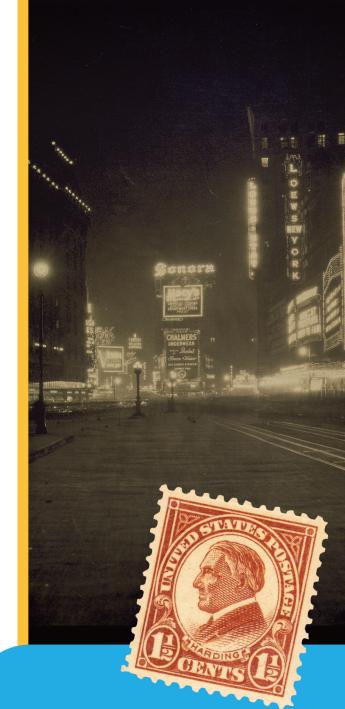
Harding's first priority as president was to revive the economy. Harding believed the depression was caused, in part, because President Wilson had increased government spending and raised taxes on the American people. This took money away from individual Americans, preventing them from buying homes and starting businesses.

Harding worked very hard to cut taxes and government spending, which allowed Americans to keep more of the money they earned. Soon, they could buy new products and build a better life. A few months into his presidency, the depression ended, and the country as a whole prospered for the rest of the 1920s.

Harding wanted to make sure that he kept a close eye on government spending, so in his first year as president, he signed a law creating the Bureau of the Budget. This helped the federal government better plan how much money to spend. Harding used the Bureau to reduce waste in the government. Today, the Bureau still exists and is called the Office of Management and Budget.

Harding also worked to prevent another world war. He organized the Washington Naval Conference from November 1921 to February 1922, where the world's most powerful countries agreed to limit how many warships they could have. By building fewer ships, the American government saved more money.

Unfortunately, during this whole time, many of Harding's advisors were corrupt and making money illegally through their positions in government. One of them, Secretary of Interior Albert Fall, took **bribes** from oil businessmen in exchange for access to a government oil field called Teapot Dome. Harding became very worried when he heard rumors of these scandals. His health declined, and he died of a heart attack on August 2, 1923, in San Francisco, California at the age of 57. His vice president, Calvin Coolidge, became the new president.



Quote

"Our most dangerous tendency is to expect too much of government, and at the same time do for it too little."

- March 1921

Roaring Twenties

President Harding led America during one of its most colorful and exciting decades: the Roaring Twenties. It was an era of great change-when cars, radios, and movies became a part of everyday life. Americans began buying new consumer goods and appliances for their household, such as telephones. They were also excited by the new trends in popular culture, like the increasing popularity of jazz, dancing, and baseball. They waited in line to listen to jazz legend Louis Armstrong, went to nightclubs to dance the Charleston, and paid money to watch baseball superstar Babe Ruth break records.





Although black American slaves were freed during the Civil War, many laws in the South continued to treat them unfairly. These laws restricted black Americans' right to vote and **segregated** them from white Americans. In October of 1921, Harding gave a courageous speech in the southern city of Birmingham, Alabama, in front of both black and white people, where he called for racial equality and protections for black Americans' right to vote. He also appointed many black people to important positions in his administration.

Civil Rights



Quote

"We meant to have less of government in business as well as more business in government."

- April 1921

Legacy

The American people were shocked and saddened at Harding's death. Afterwards, however, they learned about many scandals involving his administration, such as the Teapot Dome scandal. Although Harding wasn't the original cause of the scandals, Americans felt disappointed that he didn't stop all of the corruption. Ever since then, historians have been very harsh with Harding, calling him one of the least successful American presidents.

Although Harding did fail to discipline his advisors, it is often forgotten that Harding's actual policies ended a major depression and helped improve millions of Americans' lives. He also successfully cut government spending and the national debt. Few presidents in American history have ever so effectively led America through an economic crisis. Although Harding deserves criticism for how he managed his administration, he also deserves more credit for his successful policies.



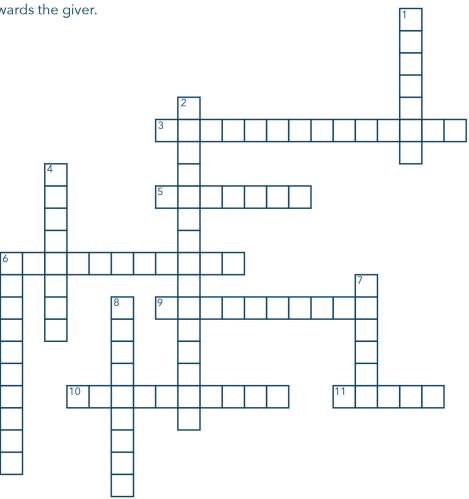
Crossword

ACROSS:

- 3. The right of women to vote.
- 5. A person who assists women during childbirth.
- 6. Having attractiveness or charm that inspires admiration and devotion from others.
- 9. When people are separated by race.
- 10. A period of time when the economy is strong, and people have a lot of money and good jobs.
- 11. A gift of money given to influence someone, usually illegally or dishonestly, into acting favorably towards the giver.

DOWN:

- 1. An event involving dishonest and/or illegal activity that provokes outrage.
- 2. The nickname for the decade from 1920 to 1929.
- 4. A situation that is normal or predictable.
- 6. Dishonest, often illegal, activity where an individual seeks selfish gain.
- 7. A person who decides what is published in a newspaper, book, or magazine.
- 8. An article in a newspaper that expresses an opinion.





Writing Activity

What modern-day inventions (such as cars, radios, and electronics)
are you most grateful for and why?





Glossary

Charismatic: Having attractiveness or charm that inspires admiration and devotion from others.

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

Roaring Twenties: The nickname for the decade from 1920 to 1929. The Roaring Twenties are remembered for the great prosperity that began in the aftermath of World War I.

Editor: A person who decides what is published in a newspaper, book, or magazine.

Midwife: A person who assists women during childbirth.

Editorial: An article in a newspaper that expresses an opinion.

Women's Suffrage: The right of women to vote.

Normalcy: A situation that is normal or predictable.

Bribe: A gift of money given to influence someone, usually illegally or dishonestly, into acting favorably towards the giver.

Segregated: When people are separated by race.

Scandal: An event involving dishonest and/or illegal activity that provokes outrage.

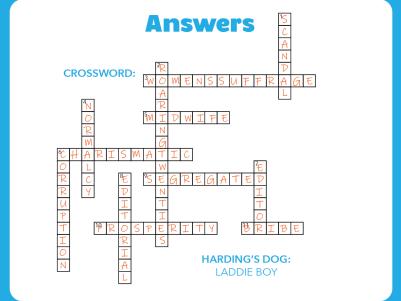
Corruption: Dishonest, often illegal, activity where an individual seeks selfish gain.

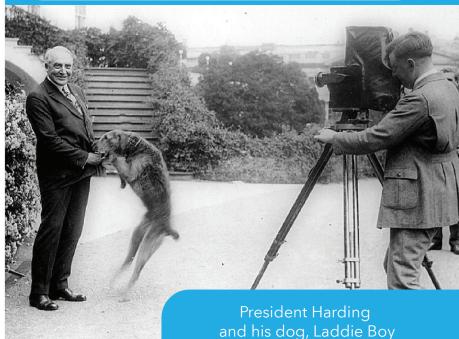
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Notes



Notes

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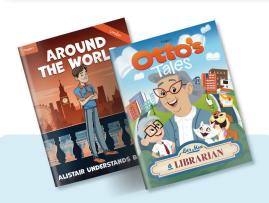
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