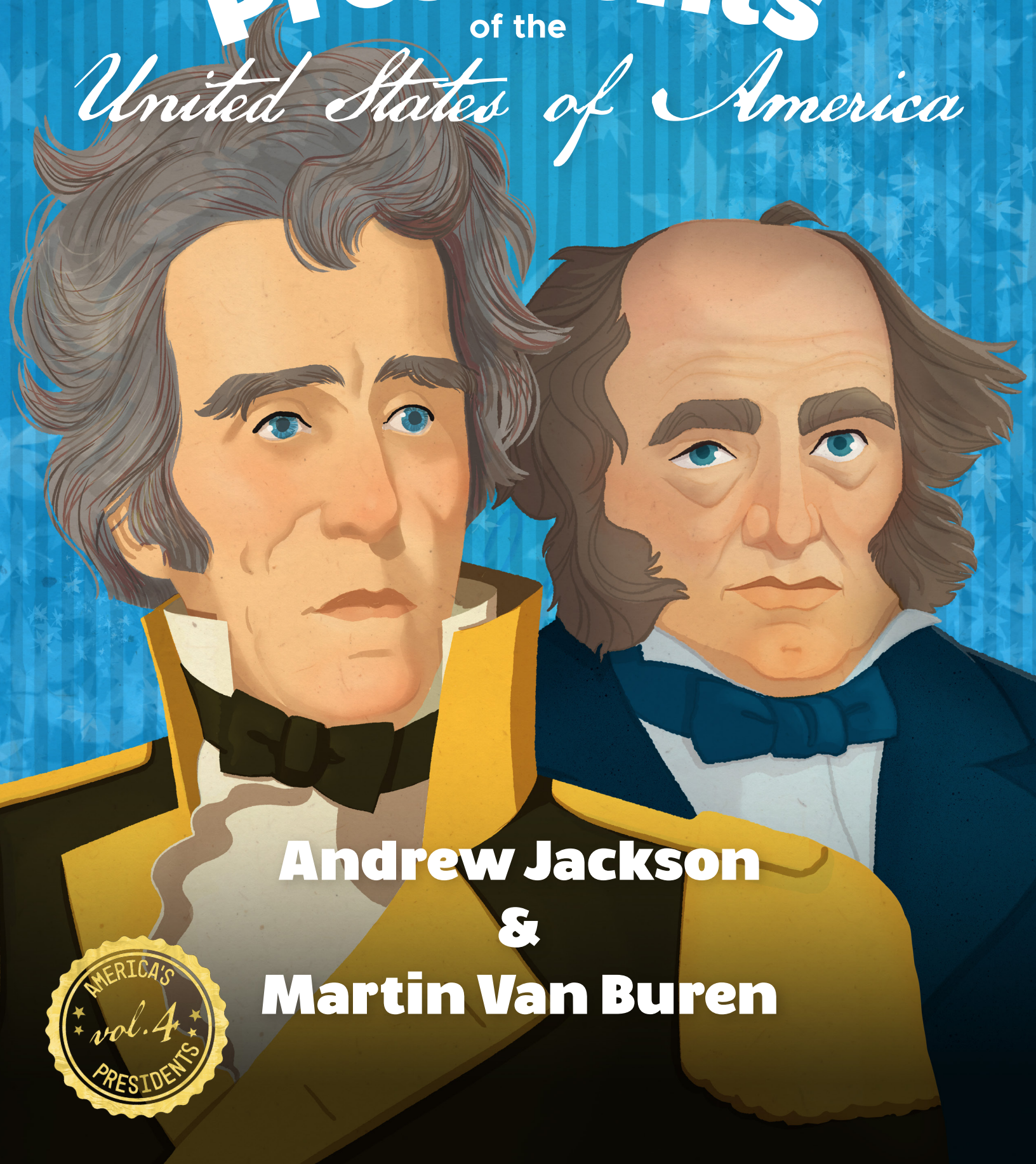


presidents of the *United States of America*



**Andrew Jackson
&
Martin Van Buren**





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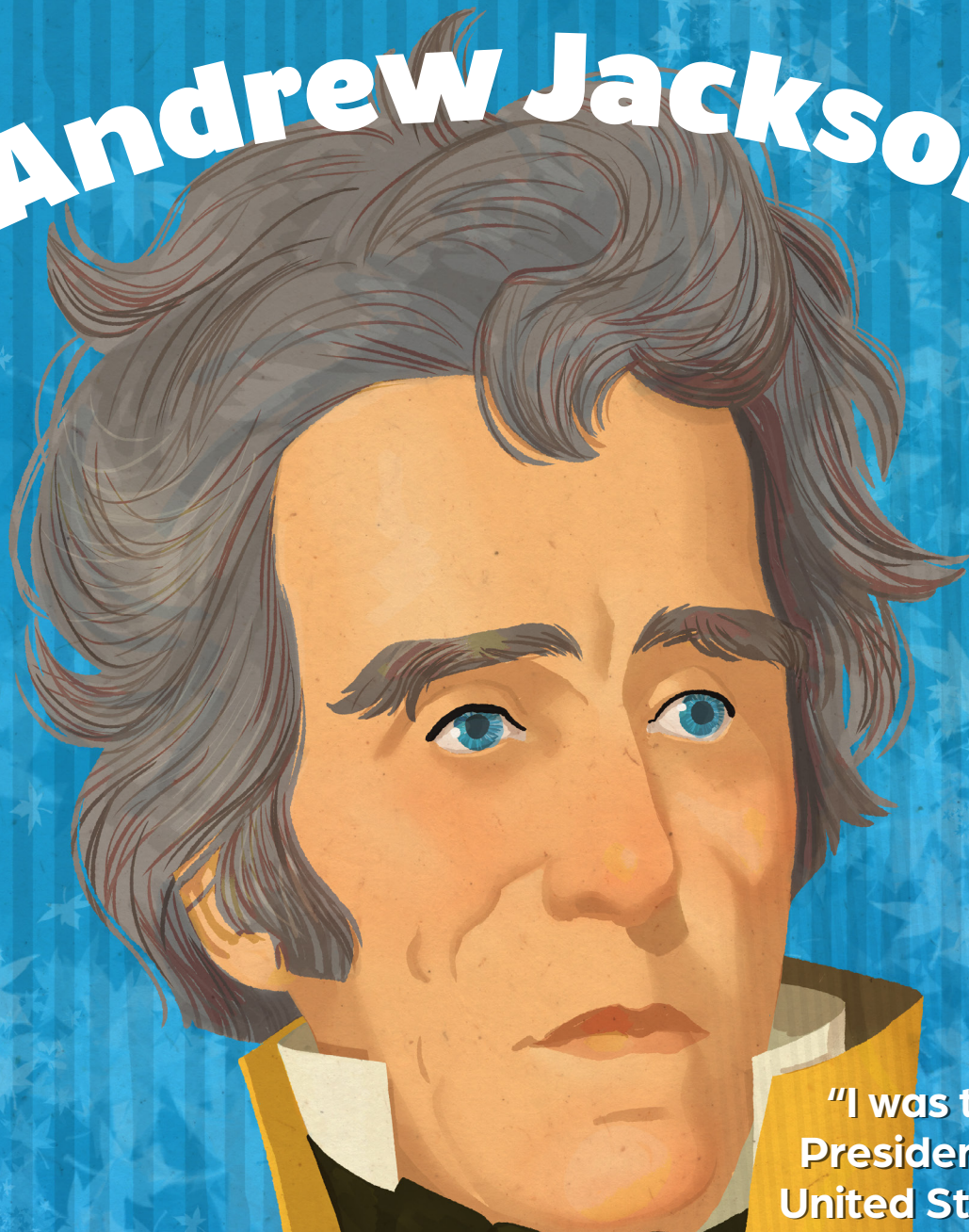
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

presidents of the *United States of America*

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Andrew Jackson



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





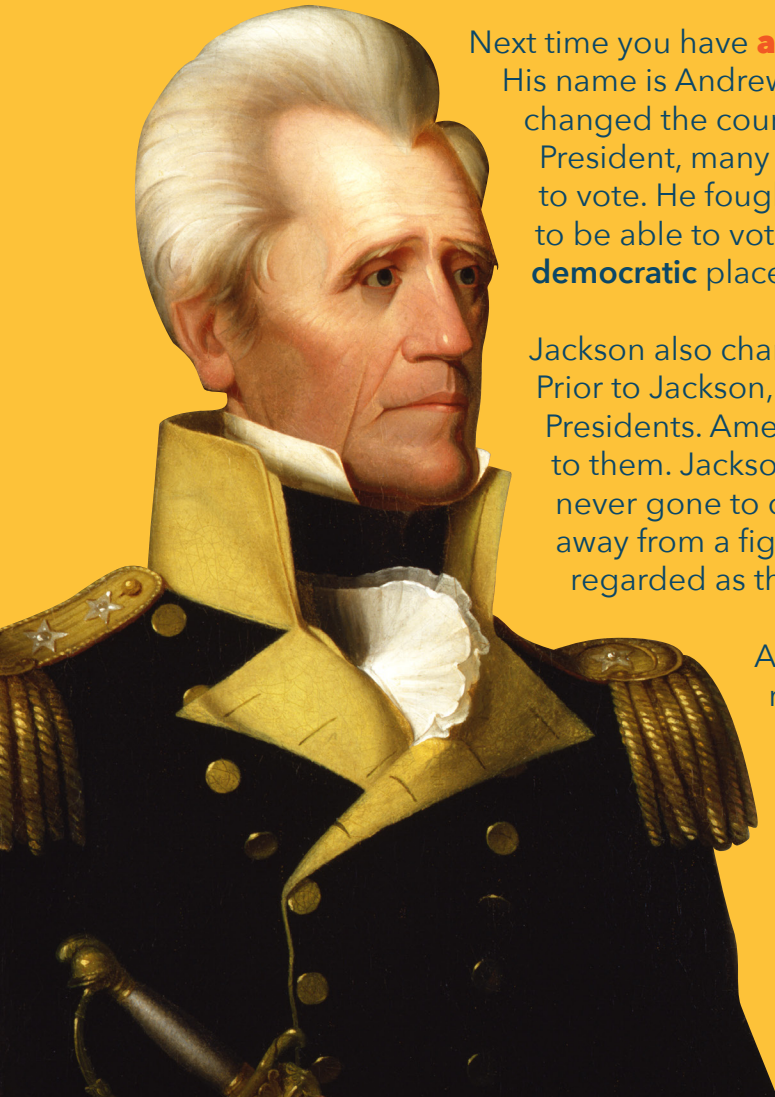
Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

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 **pe**ople, 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.



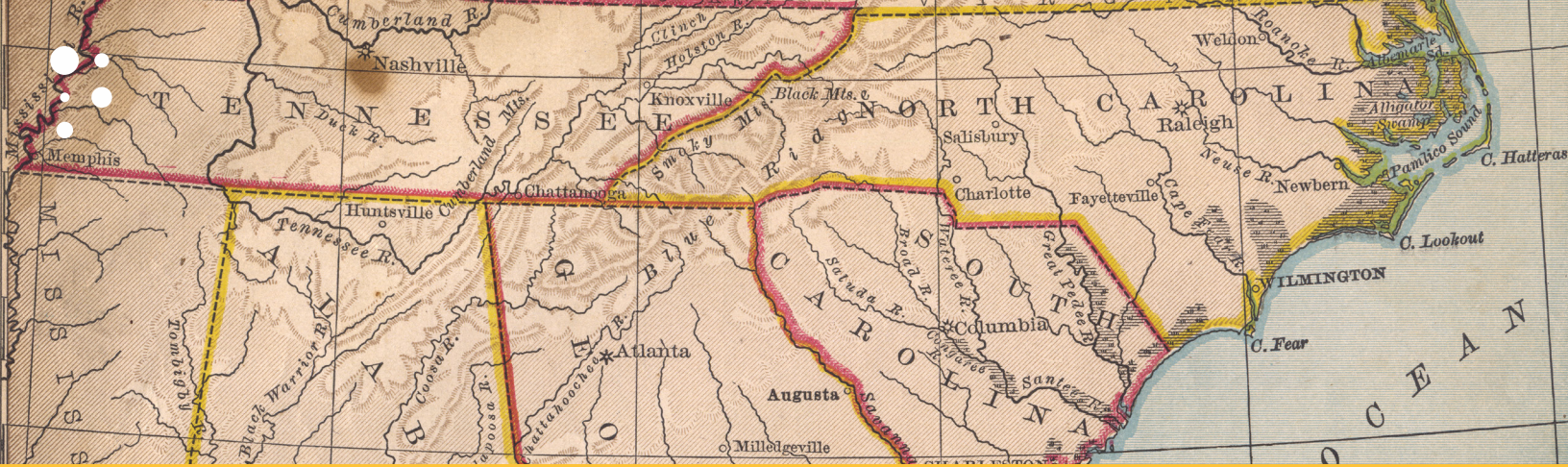
Did You Know?

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*

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.

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, 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 **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
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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

PRISONER OF WAR

WHIG

TARIFF

COMMON MAN

RAGTAG

LOG CABIN

DEMOCRATIC

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 10

Word Scramble

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 10



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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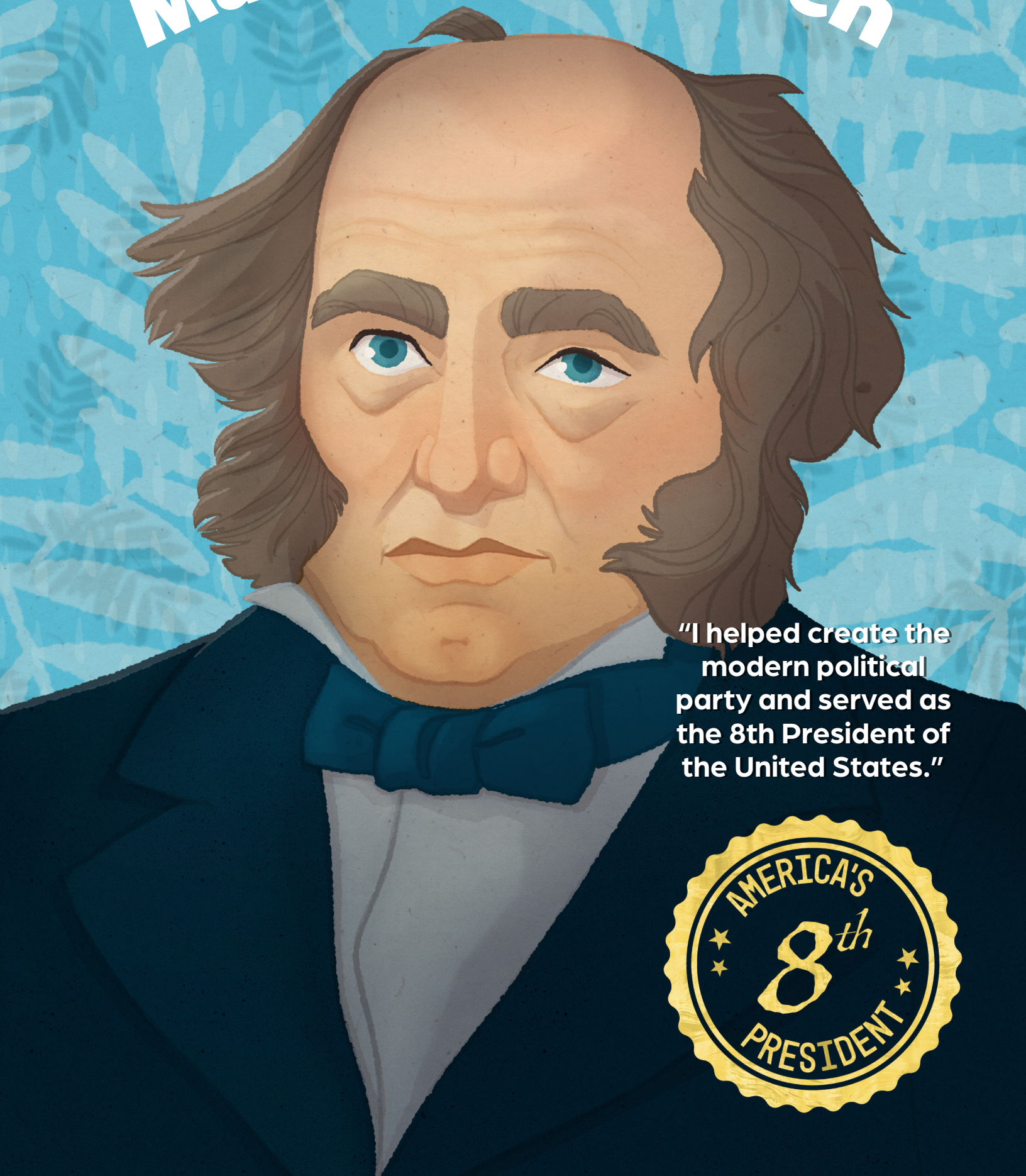
Images: Wikicommons, Getty, Pixabay, Unsplash

Answers

N Z V V H V Q T Z O N P S 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
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	
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S O C O M M O N M A N C D J G	
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U A U Y X I Z G D R M C R V R	
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JACKSON'S PET: A PARROT NAMED POLL

Martin Van Buren



"I helped create the modern political party and served as the 8th President of the United States."





Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

The Sultan of Oman gave Van Buren two pets, and we need to know what kind of animal they 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 Martin Van Buren

Have you ever wondered why America has political parties? The Constitution says nothing about parties and many of the Founding Fathers hoped America wouldn't have them. So, why *do* we have them?

There are many people who contributed to the creation of parties in America, but Martin Van Buren played one of the biggest roles. He strongly believed in the Jeffersonian principles of limited government and felt the best way to promote them was to build a strong, well-organized party with connections all across the country. Van Buren worked with President Andrew Jackson to build up the Democratic Party, making it a powerful force in American politics. **T**hey were so successful that even their opponents, the Whigs, copied many of their strategies to build up their own party.

Van Buren succeeded Jackson and served one term as President from 1837 to 1841. Unfortunately, an economic depression during his presidency destroyed his popularity. His critics then and now say that, by inventing the modern political party, Van Buren helped divide the country and introduce corruption. His supporters respond that he helped Jackson make America a more democratic place. While Van Buren's career may be controversial, he did play a major role in the creation of our modern political system.

PUBLIC DOMAIN



Young Martin

Martin Van Buren was born on December 5, 1782 in Kinderhook, New York to Abraham and Maria Van Buren. Their family's ancestors were **Dutch** immigrants. Young Martin had three older half siblings and four full siblings. Although the Van Burens struggled to earn a living, they did own six enslaved servants and had a tavern in Kinderhook, where they hosted many important government officials. From these visitors, young Martin got his first taste of American politics as he listened to them discuss the major **i**ssues confronting the young nation.

Martin attended a small school in Kinderhook and, when he was about 13, started working at a law firm. Although he never attended college, he passed the bar in 1803, becoming a lawyer at the age of 21.



Interesting Facts

- He was the first President born after the United States declared independence from Great Britain.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He was the first President to not have British ancestry.
- He was the first President whose first language wasn't English (it was Dutch).
- He was the first former President to run for President again after leaving office.

His cunning political skills

- led his friends to nickname him the "Little Magician" and the "Sly Fox."

He was also nicknamed "Old Kinderhook," in reference to him being from Kinderhook, New York.

Since Van Buren was a

- widower, his daughter-in-law, Angelica Van Buren, served as First Lady at the age of 20 - the youngest to ever serve as White House hostess.

Early Career

Van Buren prospered as an attorney, and in 1807, married his childhood sweetheart Hannah Hoes. They had five children, four of whom lived to adulthood. Sadly, Hannah died of tuberculosis in 1819, which left Van Buren a widower at the age of 36.

He also got more involved in politics. Although the Federalist Party was popular in New York, Van Buren and his family supported Thomas Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican Party, which advocated for **states' rights**. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1812. During this time, the two parties battled fiercely for control of the state. Van Buren emerged as a major leader of the New York Democratic-Republicans and organized the party into an effective, disciplined **political machine**. Although he did not have an impressive stature (he was just five-foot-six) and was not an especially gifted speaker, he was one of the most powerful and well-connected politicians in the state.



Hannah Van Buren



Quote

"Next to being right, it is important to governments, as well as individuals, to be consistent."

- March 1826

National Leader

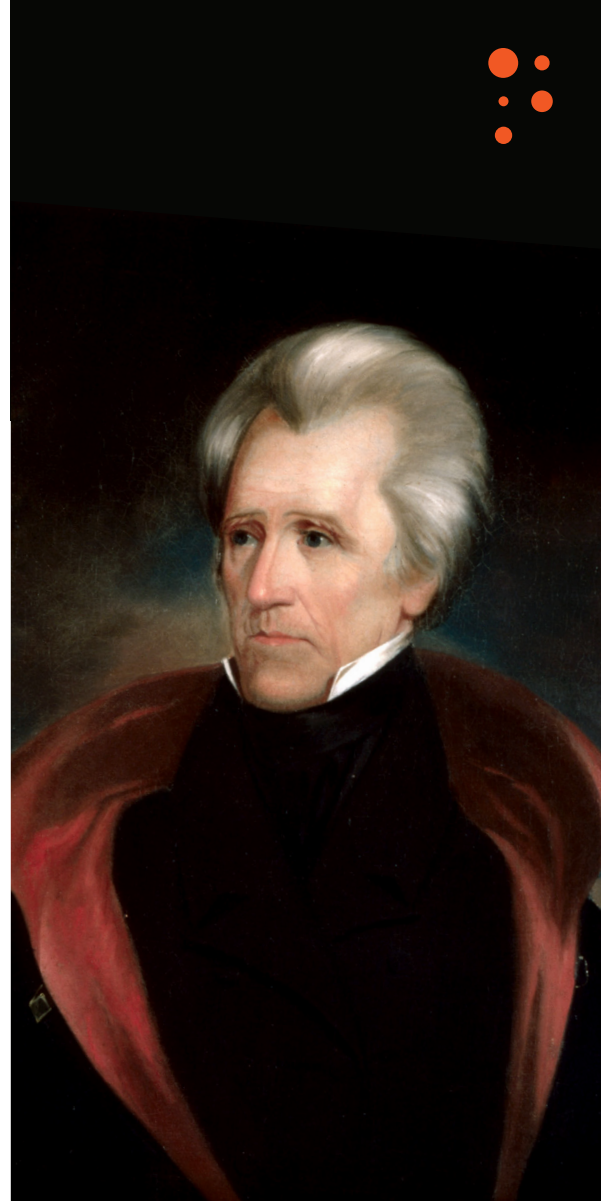
In 1821, Van Buren was elected to the U.S. Senate. He moved to Washington, DC to begin his national career. Just as he did in New York, he worked to strengthen the national Democratic-Republican Party. He did this by building alliances with politicians across the country. He found a strong partner in Andrew Jackson, the military hero of the War of 1812 and presidential candidate in 1824. They were united in their belief in states' rights and opposition to the **national bank**. Although Jackson lost the 1824 election, he did finally win in 1828, thanks to both his charisma and Van Buren's brilliant political strategy and organization.

The Jackson Era

Van Buren was elected Governor of New York that same year, but instead of moving back home, he accepted Jackson's offer to serve as Secretary of State. In 1832, Jackson selected Van Buren as his running-mate. They easily won the presidential election that year, which meant Van Buren served as Jackson's Vice President from 1833 to 1837.

Jackson's presidency was controversial, as he went to war against the **political establishment**. President Jackson portrayed himself as a man of the people, and attacked powerful entities, such as the national bank. The country split between his supporters, led by the Democratic Party, and his critics, led by the Whig Party. Van Buren was one of the President's closest advisors and took the lead in running the Democrats, unifying its various **factions** across multiple states. Under the Jackson-Van Buren partnership, the Democrats attracted strong support from the "**common man**" and worked to allow more people to vote.

Together, they implemented what was called the **spoils system**, in which loyal Jackson supporters were appointed to important positions in the government. Some felt this led to incompetent, corrupt officials taking over the government, while the Jacksonians responded that this allowed them to **replace** corrupt officials in the establishment.



Quote

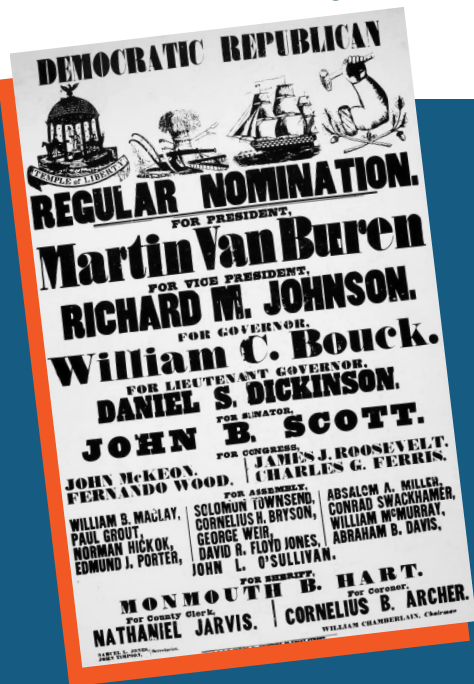
*"Political parties are inseparable from free governments... in many and material respects, they are highly useful to the country."
- Autobiography*





The 1836 Election

Van Buren’s loyalty was rewarded in 1836 when the Democrats nominated him as their candidate to succeed Jackson. Van Buren had several opponents, but his main Whig challenger was William Henry Harrison who, like Jackson, was a successful general from the War of 1812. During the campaign, Van Buren promised to continue Jackson’s policies. The American people, still in love with Jackson, chose Van Buren by a comfortable margin; 170 votes to 73 for Harrison in the Electoral College.



Vice Presidents

As of 2022, fifteen Vice Presidents have become President. Eight of them became President because of the death of their predecessor, and one due to resignation. Van Buren is one of only four men who have been directly elected to the presidency from the vice presidency (along with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and George H.W. Bush). The remaining two were elected several years after they served as Vice President (Richard Nixon and Joe Biden).

President

Van Buren did, indeed, continue some of Jackson’s policies. For instance, he further removed Native American tribes to lands west of the Mississippi River.

The major event of his presidency, however, occurred two months after moving into the White House: the Panic of 1837. Banks began collapsing, businesses went bankrupt, and workers everywhere lost their jobs.

There were many reasons for the Panic, such as economic problems in Europe that made their way to the United States through trade and investment. Also, some historians believe that Andrew Jackson’s policies, which reduced the amount of paper money, contributed to the Panic, making it harder for people to access cash.

To address the situation, Van Buren proposed an **independent treasury** system, which Congress passed in 1840, but it wasn’t enough to rebuild Van Buren’s popularity. By then, critics had nicknamed him “Martin Van Ruin.” In 1840, William Henry Harrison and his Whig Party took advantage of the crisis and won the presidency.

Quote

“The principle that will govern me in the high duty to which my country calls me is a strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.”

- March 1837



Retirement

Despite losing his re-election bid, Van **B**uren remained active. He had his eye on winning back the presidency in 1844, but he angered many in his party when he opposed **annexing** Texas to the Union as a new state. Van Buren worried that adding Texas, a slave state, would anger those who opposed slavery and divide the country, since it would give greater representation in Congress to slaveholders. The Democrats, excited at the prospect of annexing Texas, rejected Van Buren as their nominee in 1844. Van Buren then ran as the nominee for the anti-slavery Free **S**oil Party in 1848 and got just 10% of the vote. By then, Van Buren's career was effectively over.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Van Buren supported President Lincoln's policies to keep the Union together. He died in the city of his birth, Kinderhook, New York, on July 24, 1862 at the age of 79.

Quote

"From a small community we have risen to a people powerful in numbers and in strength; but with our increase has gone hand in hand the progress of just principles."

- March 1837



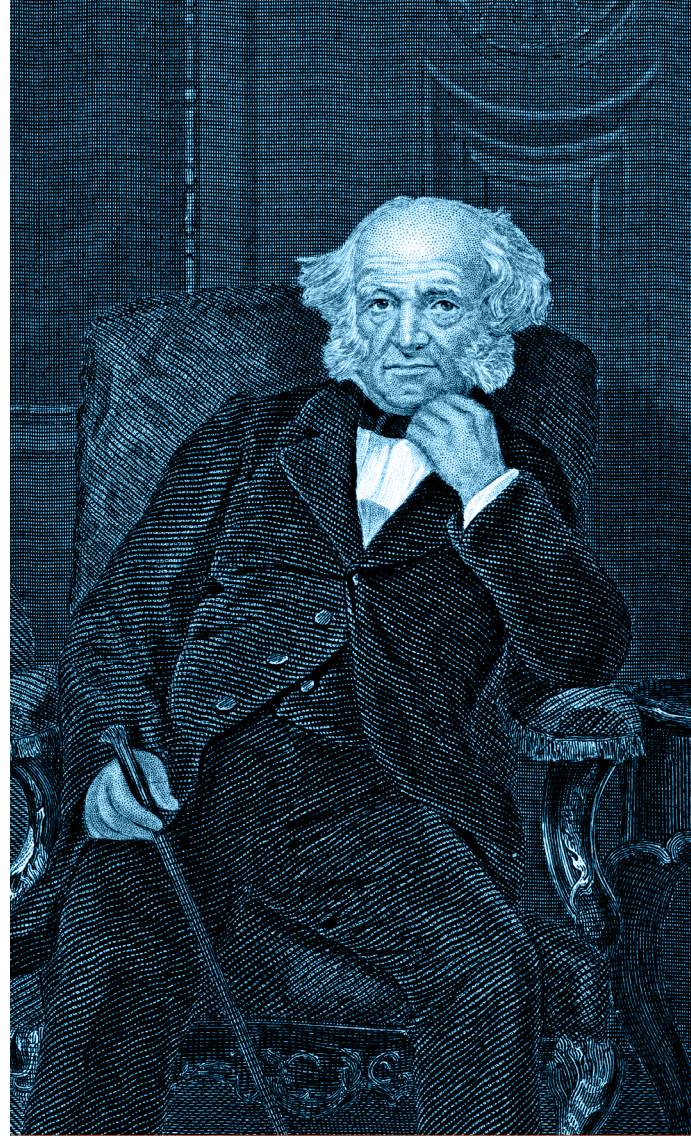


Legacy

Not every President made their biggest contributions to the country while they were in the White House. Some made a major impact before the presidency. Martin Van Buren is one of them. Before Van Buren's career, many of America's leaders criticized the existence of political parties, even if they belonged to one. At best, they considered parties necessary, but feared they would divide and break up the country. In public, these leaders claimed their obligation was to their country, not their party.

Van Buren was one of the first American leaders who completely embraced parties, saying they were actually good and necessary for the country. He believed that citizens could prevent anyone from getting too powerful by organizing into parties to stop them. By helping to create the Democrats into an efficient and effective organization, he created the blueprint for future parties to gain power.

Political parties continue to play a major role in America's system of government. Not everyone believes this is a good thing, but as long as they are around, Martin Van Buren's legacy will continue to influence us.



Quote

*"The framers of our excellent constitution... wisely judged that the less government interferes with private pursuits, the better for the general prosperity."
- September 1837*

Word Search



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

Dutch

States Rights

National Bank

Faction

Common Man

Spoils System

Annex

ANSWERS ON PG 20

“OK!”

You’ve probably heard of the term “OK” or “okay,” which is usually used to show agreement or acceptance. There are many theories as to where the word came from - it may have originated with the Choctaw word “okeh.” Some historians believe that Martin Van Buren inadvertently played a role in making the term popular. Since his nickname was “Old Kinderhook,” which was then shortened to “OK,” many people began using the term to refer to him, and eventually used it for its current meaning.





Glossary

Dutch: Referring to the people, language, or culture of the Netherlands.

States' Rights: The political powers of the states within the United States.

Political Machine: An organization, usually led by a boss or group with powerful political influence over a city or area. They are often considered corrupt.

National Bank: A financial institution created by the nation's government to manage the country's banking system and money supply.

Political Establishment: The group of people who have the most power in a political system.

Faction: A group of people who have the same political beliefs or goals that differ from other groups.

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

Spoils System: A practice in which a political party, after winning an election, appoints its supporters and followers to positions in the government.

Independent Treasury: A system used by the U.S. government from the 1840s to the 1910s where it managed the money supply through the U.S. Treasury instead of a national bank.

Annex: To take possession of or add territory or a state to a country.

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Answers:

ANIMAL SULTAN GAVE
VAN BUREN:
TIGER CUBS



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