

Presidents of the United States of America

By: Christina Thurman

Content Area: Social Studies and Language Arts

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Illinois Standards:

- IL.1 GOAL: Read with understanding and fluency.
- IL.1.A STANDARD: Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.
- IL.1.A.3a > Apply knowledge of word origins and derivations to comprehend words used in specific content areas (e.g., scientific, political, literary, mathematical).
- IL.2 GOAL: Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras and ideas.
- IL.2.A STANDARD: Understand how literary elements and techniques are used to convey meaning.
- IL.2.A.3c > Identify characteristics and authors of various literary forms (e.g., short stories, novels, drama, fables, biographies, documentaries, poetry, science fiction).
- IL.3 GOAL: Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.
- IL.3.A STANDARD: Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization and structure.
- IL.3.B STANDARD: Compose well-organized and coherent writing for specific purposes and audiences.
- IL.4 GOAL: Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations.
- IL.4.A STANDARD: Listen effectively in formal and informal situations.
- IL.4.A.3a > Demonstrate ways (e.g., ask probing questions, provide feedback to a speaker, summarize and paraphrase complex spoken messages) that listening attentively can improve comprehension.
- IL.16 GOAL: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
- IL.16.D STANDARD: Understand Illinois, United States and world social history.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to:

Expand their understandings of presidents through poetry
Learn and understand the concept of presentation skills
Learn the history of United States Presidents

Develop a good understanding of how to write down information that is important
Utilize their listening skills to develop a better concept of US Presidents
Understand and write poetry
Use the 3-Step interview procedure to conduct interviews

Materials:

Important Student Notes worksheets, Interview Sheet for the Presidents of the U.S., U.S. American President's Quiz, Partner List for President's Lesson Plan, Poetry assignment (Student Roster), pencils, and paper.

Anticipatory Set

The teacher will ask the students to raise their hand if they can name any United States President. The teacher will then call on the students until no further Presidents are named. The teacher will then present the "United States Presidents" lesson plan idea to the students.

The teacher will access the students' prior knowledge about poetry and the interview questions that they wrote down the previous week and turned into the teacher. Explain to the students that the teachers chose the most common questions written down by students to include in the Interview Sheet. They will explain what the 3-step interview is and what they will be doing today.

Procedures:

1. Tell the students that today we are going to continue our lesson on US Presidents.
2. Distribute the Interview worksheets, Important Student Notes worksheets, and individualized pre-selected presidents notes. (All materials are included in the lesson plan.)
3. Explain to the students what a three step interview process is about and write it on the board for the students to see.
4. Pair the students into small groups of four. Make sure you look at your student roster before pairing the students into fours.
5. Now that the students are in groups of four, the students need to pair up based upon the student roster. For example: looking at the roster, pair students together.
6. Tell the students that with their pre-selected presidents, they are going to pretend that they are the President. Each student will do this as the other student is conducting an interview with the President.
7. When the first interview is completed, the students will switch roles and the US president will now become the interviewer and the interviewer will become the US president (each student has their own President)
8. When the second interview is completed, the teacher will tell the students to get back into their groups of four and discuss with their group their interview findings. Every student must participate in order to earn participation points.
9. After small group discussion is completed, each student will stand in front of the class and present their "interview worksheet" to the class.

10. As the presenter is giving their interview information out, each student is to be writing down important facts notated by the interviewer.
11. Tell the students that it is very important to take good notes on the Important Student Notes sheets. This might be used at a later time.
12. Once each student has completed their presentations, the teacher will pass out the quiz for all the students to take. Tell the students that they are able to use their Important Student Notes worksheet to recall information about each President.
13. Once the quiz is completed, the teacher will pass out the poetry assignment for the students to take home and work on as homework. Tell the students that this is due at the beginning of class the next day.

Plan for Independent Practice: Poetry assignment: they are to write at least a one-page poem about any president they learned about that day without giving away the president's name in the poem. Tomorrow they will present their poems to the class and the class will then try to guess the president described in the poem—this will access their prior knowledge and help them connect history to language arts for a deeper understanding of the 3-Step Interview, U.S. presidents, and poetry.

Special accommodation for specific students

Looking at the classroom roster, the teacher should see that there are 4 behavior problem students, 1 English Language Learner, 1 learning disability in Math and 1 learning disability in Reading.

With the English Language Learner, that student is paired up with a High ability level student. President Obama is specialized for the ELL. There are pictures that connect to the words on the sheet so that the ELL can recognize the word/picture more clearly. Also, the entire class can use their written notes on the quiz given at the end of the lesson. It is however, up to the student to write down important notes in order to use their student notes on the quiz.

The groups were designed with the challenges of the students in mind; the students with learning disabilities are paired up with students who are at a normal learning level. Students with behavioral problems are paired with students who don't have a behavioral problem to keep them focused.

The Reading disability student is paired with a medium ability level student because the medium ability student can provide assistance to the Reading disability student. This needs to be discussed with the two students before the lesson begins.

Assessment

The assessment includes the quiz on the US Presidents and a poetry assignment for the students to take home and complete. They will turn this in at the beginning of class the next school day.

Reflection

Recall today's lesson and ask them if they have questions or concerns. Answer any questions/concerns. Explain how their homework assignment relates to tomorrow's lesson.

Works Cited

Library of Congress. (2009). American presidents. Retrieved from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Presidents>

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Webstantaneous Web Marketing Design Studio, LLC. (1999-2000). President Activities and Games for Elementary Students Alphabetical and Chronological list of U.S. Presidents. Presidents of the United States. Retrieved from <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/presidents-day/past-presidents-of-usa.html>

Interview sheet for the President of the United States

Your name: (acting president): _____

Your Partners name: (interviewer): _____

President's Name: _____

Questions:

1. When were you born?

2. Where is your birthplace?

3. Do you have any military ranking? If so what is it?

4. What is your wife's name?

5. Do you have any kids? If so what are their names and age?

6. Who is your Vice President?

7. How old were you when you were inaugurated?

8. What years did you serve as President?

9. How many terms did you serve as President?

10. Can you give me one unique fact about yourself?

11. Your question _____

President Answer:

12. Your question _____

President Answer:



George Washington is an American hero whose fame is not wholly accounted for by the record of his life. Like Lincoln, the man was infinitely greater than anything he did. A military genius, he wrested liberty from tyranny; a statesman, he helped evolve a stable government from political chaos; a patriot, he refused a crown. Wisdom, patience, tolerance, courage, consecration to the righteous cause animated his every act. Ingratitude, injustice and treachery never embittered him, but served to strengthen his character. He grew in dignity and in capacity to the need of his growing responsibility and power, but he never became arrogant and ambition and opportunity never tempted him from the narrow path of honor.

Birthday: February 22, 1732

Birthplace: Wakefield, Virginia

College or University: none

Religion: Episcopalian

Occupation or Profession: Planter, Surveyor, Military

Military Rank: General

Married: (January 6, 1759) Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis

Children: 2 step grandchildren - John "Jackie" Parke Custis and Martha "Patsy" Parke Custis

President number: First President of U.S.

Political Party: Federalist

Runner Up: none

Vice President: John Adams

Age at Inauguration: 57

Served: 1789-1797

Number of terms: 2

Other Offices or Commissions: President of Constitutional Convention, Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of new United States Army

Died: December 14, 1799

Age at Death: 67

Place of Burial: Mount Vernon, Virginia

Only President to be elected unanimously

Only President inaugurated in 2 cities - New York and Philadelphia

Only President that did not live in the White House. He was involved in the planning of the Capitol.

Washington did his own bookkeeping and recorded every penny of expense or profit. His ledgers still exist today.

There were 13 stars on the United States flag when Washington became President in 1789.

Five states were added to the Union during Washington's presidency - North

Carolina (1789), Rhode Island (1790), Vermont (1791), Kentucky (1792), and Tennessee (1796).

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON 1789-1797 – IMPORTANT FACTS

On April 30, 1789, George Washington, standing on the balcony of Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York, took his oath of office as the first President of the United States. "As the first of every thing, in our situation will serve to establish a Precedent," he wrote James Madison, "it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles."

Born in 1732 into a Virginia planter family, he learned the morals, manners, and body of knowledge requisite for an 18th century Virginia gentleman.

He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion. At 16 he helped survey Shenandoah lands for Thomas, Lord Fairfax. Commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1754, he fought the first skirmishes of what grew into the French and Indian War. The next year, as an aide to Gen. Edward Braddock, he escaped injury although four bullets ripped his coat and two horses were shot from under him.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington managed his lands around Mount Vernon and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses. Married to a widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, he devoted himself to a busy and happy life. But like his fellow planters, Washington felt himself exploited by British merchants and hampered by British regulations. As the quarrel with the mother country grew acute, he moderately but firmly voiced his resistance to the restrictions.

When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Washington, one of the Virginia delegates, was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. On July 3, 1775, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, he took command of his ill-trained troops and embarked upon a war that was to last six grueling years.

He realized early that the best strategy was to harass the British. He reported to Congress, "we should on all Occasions avoid a general Action, or put anything to the Risque, unless compelled by a necessity, into which we ought never to be drawn." Ensuing battles saw him fall back slowly, then strike unexpectedly. Finally in 1781 with the aid of French allies--he forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Washington longed to retire to his fields at Mount Vernon. But he soon realized that the Nation under its Articles of Confederation was not functioning well, so he became a prime mover in the steps leading to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in

1787. When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington President.

He did not infringe upon the policy making powers that he felt the Constitution gave Congress. But the determination of foreign policy became preponderantly a Presidential concern. When the French Revolution led to a major war between France and England, Washington refused to accept entirely the recommendations of either his Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who was pro-French, or his Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who was pro-British. Rather, he insisted upon a neutral course until the United States could grow stronger.

To his disappointment, two parties were developing by the end of his first term. Wearied of politics, feeling old, he retired at the end of his second. In his Farewell Address, he urged his countrymen to forswear excessive party spirit and geographical distinctions. In foreign affairs, he warned against long-term alliances.

Washington enjoyed less than three years of retirement at Mount Vernon, for he died of a throat infection December 14, 1799. For months the Nation mourned him.



Birthday: April 13, 1743

Birthplace: Albemarle County, VA

College or University: William and Mary

Religion: Unitarian (but never joined a church)

Occupation or Profession: Planter - Lawyer

Military Rank: Colonel

Married: Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson

Children: Martha Jefferson Randolph, Jane Randolph, a stillborn or unnamed son, Mary Wayles, Lucy Elizabeth, and Lucy Elizabeth again.

President number: 3rd

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Runner Up: Aaron Burr & Charles C. Pickney

Vice President: Aaron Burr

Age at Inauguration: 57

Served: 1801 - 1809

Number of terms: 2

Other Offices or Commissions: Wrote the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Virginia, Minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice-President

Died: July 4, 1826

Age at Death: 83

Place of Burial: Monticello, VA

3. THOMAS JEFFERSON 1801-1809 – IMPORTANT FACTS

In the thick of party conflict in 1800, Thomas Jefferson wrote in a private letter, "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

This powerful advocate of liberty was born in 1743 in Albemarle County, Virginia, inheriting from his father, a planter and surveyor, some 5,000 acres of land, and from his mother, a Randolph, high social standing. He studied at the College of William and Mary, then read law. In 1772 he married Martha Wayles Skelton, a widow, and took her to live in his partly constructed mountaintop home, Monticello.

Freckled and sandy-haired, rather tall and awkward, Jefferson was eloquent as a correspondent, but he was no public speaker. In the Virginia House of Burgesses and the Continental Congress, he contributed his pen rather than his voice to the patriot cause. As the "silent member" of the Congress, Jefferson, at 33, drafted the Declaration of Independence. In years following he labored to make its words a reality in Virginia. Most notably, he wrote a bill establishing religious freedom, enacted in 1786.

Jefferson succeeded Benjamin Franklin as minister to France in 1785. His sympathy for the French Revolution led him into conflict with Alexander Hamilton when Jefferson was Secretary of State in President Washington's Cabinet. He resigned in 1793.

Sharp political conflict developed, and two separate parties, the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans, began to form. Jefferson gradually assumed leadership of the Republicans, who sympathized with the revolutionary cause in France. Attacking Federalist policies, he opposed a strong centralized Government and championed the rights of states.

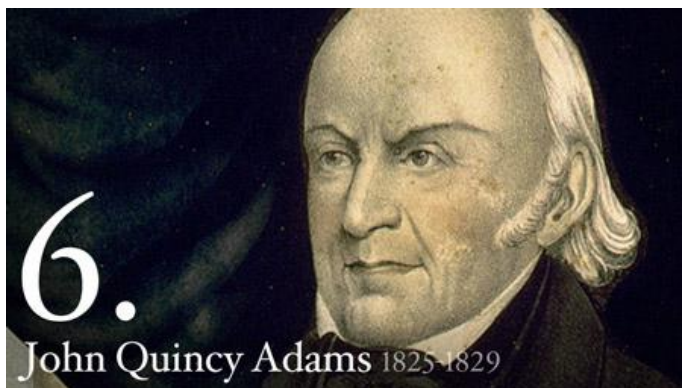
As a reluctant candidate for President in 1796, Jefferson came within three votes of election. Through a flaw in the Constitution, he became Vice President, although an opponent of President Adams. In 1800 the defect caused a more serious problem. Republican electors, attempting to name both a President and a Vice President from their own party, cast a tie vote between Jefferson and Aaron Burr. The House of Representatives settled the tie. Hamilton, disliking both Jefferson and Burr, nevertheless urged Jefferson's election.

When Jefferson assumed the Presidency, the crisis in France had passed. He slashed Army and Navy expenditures, cut the budget, eliminated the tax on whiskey so unpopular in the West, yet reduced the national debt by a third. He also sent a naval squadron to fight the Barbary pirates, who were harassing American commerce in the Mediterranean. Further, although the Constitution made no provision for the acquisition of new land, Jefferson suppressed his qualms over constitutionality when he had the opportunity to acquire the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon in 1803.

During Jefferson's second term, he was increasingly preoccupied with keeping the Nation from involvement in the Napoleonic wars, though both England and France interfered with the neutral rights of American merchantmen. Jefferson's attempted solution, an embargo upon American shipping, worked badly and was unpopular.

Jefferson retired to Monticello to ponder such projects as his grand designs for the University of Virginia. A French nobleman observed that he had placed his house and his mind "on an elevated situation, from which he might contemplate the universe."

He died on July 4, 1826.



Birthday: July 11, 1767

Birthplace: Braintree, MA

College or University: Harvard

Religion: Unitarian

Occupation or Profession: Lawyer

Military Rank: n/a

Married: Louisa Catherine (Johnson) Adams

Children: 4 children

President number: 6th

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Runner Up: Andrew Jackson

Vice President: John C. Calhoun

Age at Inauguration: 57

Served: 1825-1829

Number of terms: 1

Other Offices or Commissions: U.S. Senator, Minister to Russia, Minister to Great Britain, Secretary of State

Died: February 23, 1848

Age at Death: 80

Place of Burial: Quincy, MA

6. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS 1825-1829 – IMPORTANT FACTS

The first President who was the son of a President, John Quincy Adams in many respects paralleled the career as well as the temperament and viewpoints of his illustrious father. Born in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1767, he watched the Battle of Bunker Hill from the top of Penn's Hill above the family farm. As secretary to his father in Europe, he became an accomplished linguist and assiduous diarist.

After graduating from Harvard College, he became a lawyer. At age 26 he was appointed Minister to the Netherlands, then promoted to the Berlin Legation. In 1802 he was elected to the United States Senate. Six years later President Madison appointed him Minister to Russia.

Serving under President Monroe, Adams was one of America's great Secretaries of State, arranging with England for the joint occupation of the Oregon country, obtaining from Spain the cession of the Floridas, and formulating with the President the Monroe Doctrine.

In the political tradition of the early 19th century, Adams as Secretary of State was considered the political heir to the Presidency. But the old ways of choosing a President were giving way in 1824 before the clamor for a popular choice.

Within the one and only party--the Republican--sectionalism and factionalism were developing, and each section put up its own candidate for the Presidency. Adams, the candidate of the North, fell behind Gen. Andrew Jackson in both popular and electoral votes, but received more than William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. Since no candidate had a majority of electoral votes, the election was decided among the top three by the House of Representatives. Clay, who favored a program similar to that of Adams, threw his crucial support in the House to the New Englander.

Upon becoming President, Adams appointed Clay as Secretary of State. Jackson and his angry followers charged that a "corrupt bargain" had taken place and immediately began their campaign to wrest the Presidency from Adams in 1828.

Well aware that he would face hostility in Congress, Adams nevertheless proclaimed in his first Annual Message a spectacular national program. He proposed that the Federal Government bring the sections together with a network of highways and canals, and that it develop and conserve the public domain, using funds from the sale of public lands. In 1828, he broke ground for the 185-mile C & O Canal.

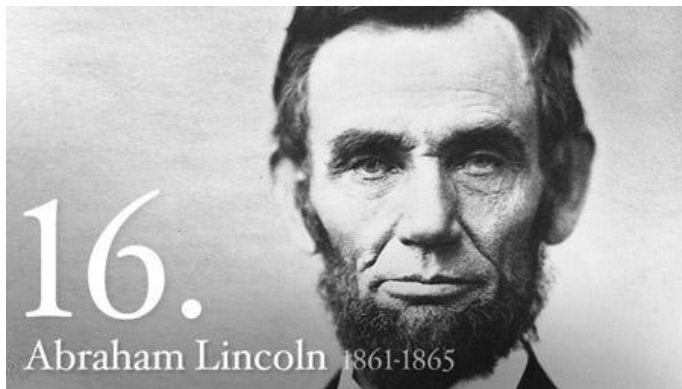
Adams also urged the United States to take a lead in the development of the arts and sciences through the establishment of a national university, the financing of scientific expeditions, and the erection of an observatory. His critics declared such measures transcended constitutional limitations.

The campaign of 1828, in which his Jacksonian opponents charged him with corruption and public plunder, was an ordeal Adams did not easily bear. After his defeat he returned to Massachusetts, expecting to spend the remainder of his life enjoying his farm and his books.

Unexpectedly, in 1830, the Plymouth district elected him to the House of Representatives, and there for the remainder of his life he served as a powerful leader. Above all, he fought against circumscription of civil liberties.

In 1836 southern Congressmen passed a "gag rule" providing that the House automatically table petitions against slavery. Adams tirelessly fought the rule for eight years until finally he obtained its repeal.

In 1848, he collapsed on the floor of the House from a stroke and was carried to the Speaker's Room, where two days later he died. He was buried--as were his father, mother, and wife--at First Parish Church in Quincy. To the end, "Old Man Eloquent" had fought for what he considered right.



Birthday: February 12, 1809

Birthplace: Hardin County, Kentucky

College or University: none

Religion: Presbyterian (never joined any church)

Occupation or Profession: Clerk, Store Owner, Military, Lawyer

Military Rank: Captain

Married: (November 4, 1842) Mary Todd

Children: Robert Todd Lincoln, Edward Baker Lincoln, William Wallace Lincoln,

Thomas Lincoln. Three sons predeceased Abraham.

President number: 16

Political Party: Republican

Runner Up: Stephen A. Douglas - George B. McClellan

Vice President: Hannibal Hamlin - Andrew Johnson

Age at Inauguration: 52

Served: 1861-1865

Number of terms : 2

Other Offices or Commissions: House of Representatives (Illinois - 1847-1849), State Legislature (Illinois 1834-1842), Postmaster of New Salem, Illinois

Died: April 15, 1865

Age at Death: 56

Place of Burial: Springfield, Illinois

16. ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1861-1865 – IMPORTANT FACTS

Lincoln warned the South in his Inaugural Address: "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you.... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it."

Lincoln thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union. When Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter and forced its surrender, he called on the states for 75,000 volunteers. Four more slave states joined the Confederacy but four remained within the Union. The Civil War had begun.

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Lincoln had to struggle for a living and for learning. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, he sketched his life:

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families--second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when

I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom--and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln won re-election in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to the war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds.... "

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.



Birthday: May 29, 1917

Birthplace: Brookline, MA

College or University: Harvard

Religion: Roman Catholic

Occupation or Profession: Author

Military Rank: Lieutenant

Married: Jacqueline Kennedy

Children: John Kennedy Jr., Caroline Kennedy

President number: 35th

Political Party: Democrat

Runner Up: Richard M. Nixon

Vice President: Lyndon B. Johnson

Age at Inauguration: 43

Served: 1961-1963

Number of terms: less than 1

Other Offices or Commissions: Massachusetts Senator, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Died: November 22, 1963

Age at Death: 46

Place of Burial: Arlington, VA

35. JOHN F. KENNEDY 1961-1963 – IMPORTANT FACTS

On November 22, 1963, when he was hardly past his first thousand days in office, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was killed by an assassin's bullets as his motorcade wound through Dallas, Texas. Kennedy was the youngest man elected President; he was the youngest to die.

Of Irish descent, he was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, on May 29, 1917. Graduating from Harvard in 1940, he entered the Navy. In 1943, when his PT boat was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, Kennedy, despite grave injuries, led the survivors through perilous waters to safety.

Back from the war, he became a Democratic Congressman from the Boston area, advancing in 1953 to the Senate. He married Jacqueline Bouvier on September 12, 1953. In 1955, while recuperating from a back operation, he wrote Profiles in Courage, which won the Pulitzer Prize in history.

In 1956 Kennedy almost gained the Democratic nomination for Vice President, and four years later was a first-ballot nominee for President. Millions watched his television debates with the Republican candidate, Richard M. Nixon. Winning by a narrow margin in the popular vote, Kennedy became the first Roman Catholic President.

His Inaugural Address offered the memorable injunction: "Ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country." As President, he set out to redeem his campaign pledge to get America moving again. His economic programs launched the country on its longest sustained expansion since World War II; before his death, he laid plans for a massive assault on persisting pockets of privation and poverty.

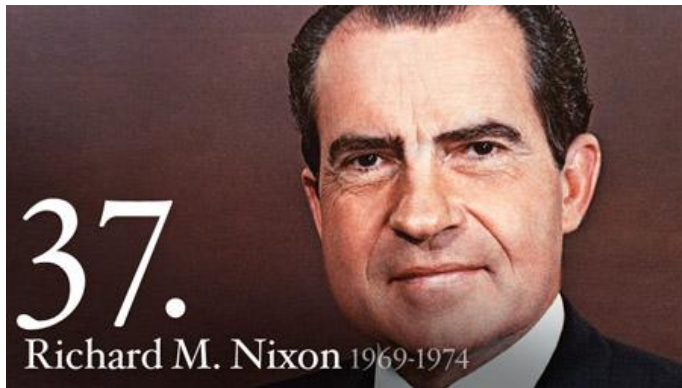
Responding to ever more urgent demands, he took vigorous action in the cause of equal rights, calling for new civil rights legislation. His vision of America extended to the quality of the national culture and the central role of the arts in a vital society.

He wished America to resume its old mission as the first nation dedicated to the revolution of human rights. With the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps, he brought American idealism to the aid of developing nations. But the hard reality of the Communist challenge remained.

Shortly after his inauguration, Kennedy permitted a band of Cuban exiles, already armed and trained, to invade their homeland. The attempt to overthrow the regime of Fidel Castro was a failure. Soon thereafter, the Soviet Union renewed its campaign against West Berlin. Kennedy replied by reinforcing the Berlin garrison and increasing the Nation's military strength, including new efforts in outer space. Confronted by this reaction, Moscow, after the erection of the Berlin Wall, relaxed its pressure in central Europe.

Instead, the Russians now sought to install nuclear missiles in Cuba. When this was discovered by air reconnaissance in October 1962, Kennedy imposed a quarantine on all offensive weapons bound for Cuba. While the world trembled on the brink of nuclear war, the Russians backed down and agreed to take the missiles away. The American response to the Cuban crisis evidently persuaded Moscow of the futility of nuclear blackmail.

Kennedy now contended that both sides had a vital interest in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and slowing the arms race--a contention which led to the test ban treaty of 1963. The months after the Cuban crisis showed significant progress toward his goal of "a world of law and free choice, banishing the world of war and coercion." His administration thus saw the beginning of new hope for both the equal rights of Americans and the peace of the world.



Birthday: January 9, 1913

Birthplace: Yorba Linda, CA

College or University: Whittier College, Duke University School of Law

Religion: Quaker

Occupation or Profession: U.S. House of Representatives

Military Rank: Commander

Married: Patricia Ryan Nixon

Children: Tricia and Julie Nixon

President number: 37th

Political Party: Republican

Runner Up: Hubert Humphrey

Vice President: Spiro Agnew, Gerald Ford

Age at Inauguration: 56

Served: 1969-1974

Number of terms: less than 2

Other Offices or Commissions: U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, Vice President

Died: April 22, 1994

Age at Death: 81

Place of Burial: Yorba Linda, California

37. RICHARD M. NIXON 1969-1974 – IMPORTANT FACTS

Reconciliation was the first goal set by President Richard M. Nixon. The Nation was painfully divided, with turbulence in the cities and war overseas. During his Presidency, Nixon succeeded in ending American fighting in Viet Nam and improving relations with the U.S.S.R. and China. But the Watergate scandal brought fresh divisions to the country and ultimately led to his resignation.

His election in 1968 had climaxed a career unusual on two counts: his early success and his comeback after being defeated for President in 1960 and for Governor of California in 1962.

Born in California in 1913, Nixon had a brilliant record at Whittier College and Duke University Law School before beginning the practice of law. In 1940, he married Patricia Ryan; they had two daughters, Patricia (Tricia) and Julie. During World War II, Nixon served as a Navy lieutenant commander in the Pacific.

On leaving the service, he was elected to Congress from his California district. In 1950, he won a Senate seat. Two years later, General Eisenhower selected Nixon, age 39, to be his running mate.

As Vice President, Nixon took on major duties in the Eisenhower Administration. Nominated for President by acclamation in 1960, he lost by a narrow margin to John F. Kennedy. In 1968, he again won his party's nomination, and went on to defeat Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and third-party candidate George C. Wallace.

His accomplishments while in office included revenue sharing, the end of the draft, new anticrime laws, and a broad environmental program. As he had promised, he appointed Justices of conservative philosophy to the Supreme Court. One of the most dramatic events of his first term occurred in 1969, when American astronauts made the first moon landing.

Some of his most acclaimed achievements came in his quest for world stability. During visits in 1972 to Beijing and Moscow, he reduced tensions with China and the U.S.S.R. His summit meetings with Russian leader Leonid I. Brezhnev produced a treaty to limit

strategic nuclear weapons. In January 1973, he announced an accord with North Viet Nam to end American involvement in Indochina. In 1974, his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, negotiated disengagement agreements between Israel and its opponents, Egypt and Syria.

In his 1972 bid for office, Nixon defeated Democratic candidate George McGovern by one of the widest margins on record.

Within a few months, his administration was embattled over the so-called "Watergate" scandal, stemming from a break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee during the 1972 campaign. The break-in was traced to officials of the Committee to Re-elect the President. A number of administration officials resigned; some were later convicted of offenses connected with efforts to cover up the affair. Nixon denied any personal involvement, but the courts forced him to yield tape recordings which indicated that he had, in fact, tried to divert the investigation.

As a result of unrelated scandals in Maryland, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigned in 1973. Nixon nominated, and Congress approved, House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford as Vice President.

Faced with what seemed almost certain impeachment, Nixon announced on August 8, 1974, that he would resign the next day to begin "that process of healing which is so desperately needed in America."

In his last years, Nixon gained praise as an elder statesman. By the time of his death on April 22, 1994, he had written numerous books on his experiences in public life and on foreign policy.



Birthday: February 6, 1911

Birthplace: Tampico, IL

College or University: Eureka College

Religion: Presbyterian

Occupation or Profession: Actor

Military Rank: Lieutenant

Married:

- Jane Wyman (divorced in 1948)

- Nancy Davis Reagan 1952

Children: From first marriage - Maureen, Michael & Christine

From 2nd marriage - Patti and Ron

President number: 40th

Political Party: Republican

Runner Up: Jimmy Carter

Vice President: George H. W. Bush

Age at Inauguration: 69

Served: 1981-1989

Number of terms: 2

Other Offices or Commissions:

- 33rd Governor of California

Died: June 5, 2004

Age at Death: 93

Place of Burial: California

40. RONALD REAGAN 1981-1989 – IMPORTANT FACTS

At the end of his two terms in office, Ronald Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce their reliance upon Government. He felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism."

On February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. He attended high school in nearby Dixon and then worked his way through Eureka College. There, he studied economics and sociology, played on the football team, and acted in school plays. Upon graduation, he became a radio sports announcer. A screen test in 1937 won him a contract in Hollywood. During the next two decades he appeared in 53 films.

From his first marriage to actress Jane Wyman, he had two children, Maureen and Michael. Maureen passed away in 2001. In 1952 he married Nancy Davis, who was also an actress, and they had two children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott.

As president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan became embroiled in disputes over the issue of Communism in the film industry; his political views shifted from liberal to conservative. He toured the country as a television host, becoming a spokesman for conservatism. In 1966 he was elected Governor of California by a margin of a million votes; he was re-elected in 1970.

Ronald Reagan won the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980 and chose as his running mate former Texas Congressman and United Nations Ambassador George Bush. Voters troubled by inflation and by the year-long confinement of Americans in Iran swept the Republican ticket into office. Reagan won 489 electoral votes to 49 for President Jimmy Carter.

On January 20, 1981, Reagan took office. Only 69 days later he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and returned to duty. His grace and wit during the dangerous incident caused his popularity to soar.

Dealing skillfully with Congress, Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen national defense. He embarked upon a course of cutting taxes and Government expenditures, refusing to deviate from it when the strengthening of defense forces led to a large deficit.

A renewal of national self-confidence by 1984 helped Reagan and Bush win a second term with an unprecedented number of electoral votes. Their victory turned away Democratic challengers Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

In 1986 Reagan obtained an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. At the end of his administration, the Nation was enjoying its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression.

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve "peace through strength." During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub.

By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.



Birthday: August 19, 1946

Birthplace: Hope, Arkansas

College or University: Georgetown University, Oxford University, and Yale University

Religion: Baptist

Occupation or Profession: State attorney general, Governor of Arkansas

Military Rank: n/a

Married: Hillary Rodham

Children: Chelsea Clinton

President number: 42nd

Political Party: Democrat

Runner Up: George Bush, Ross Perot

Vice President: Al Gore

Age at Inauguration: 46

Served: 1992 - 2000

Number of terms: 2

Other Offices or Commissions: State attorney general, Governor of Arkansas

Died: n/a

Age at Death: n/a

Place of Burial: n/a

42. WILLIAM J. CLINTON 1993-2001 – IMPORTANT FACTS

During the administration of William Jefferson Clinton, the U.S. enjoyed more peace and economic well being than at any time in its history. He was the first Democratic president since Franklin D. Roosevelt to win a second term. He could point to the lowest unemployment rate in modern times, the lowest inflation in 30 years, the highest home ownership in the country's history, dropping crime rates in many places, and reduced welfare rolls. He proposed the first balanced budget in decades and achieved a budget surplus. As part of a plan to celebrate the millennium in 2000, Clinton called for a great national initiative to end racial discrimination.

After the failure in his second year of a huge program of health care reform, Clinton shifted emphasis, declaring "the era of big government is over." He sought legislation to upgrade education, to protect jobs of parents who must care for sick children, to restrict handgun sales, and to strengthen environmental rules.

President Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe III on August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas, three months after his father died in a traffic accident. When he was four years old, his mother wed Roger Clinton, of Hot Springs, Arkansas. In high school, he took the family name.

He excelled as a student and as a saxophone player and once considered becoming a professional musician. As a delegate to Boys Nation while in high school, he met President John Kennedy in the White House Rose Garden. The encounter led him to enter a life of public service.

Clinton was graduated from Georgetown University and in 1968 won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University. He received a law degree from Yale University in 1973, and entered politics in Arkansas.

He was defeated in his campaign for Congress in Arkansas's Third District in 1974. The next year he married Hillary Rodham, a graduate of Wellesley College and Yale Law School. In 1980, Chelsea, their only child, was born.

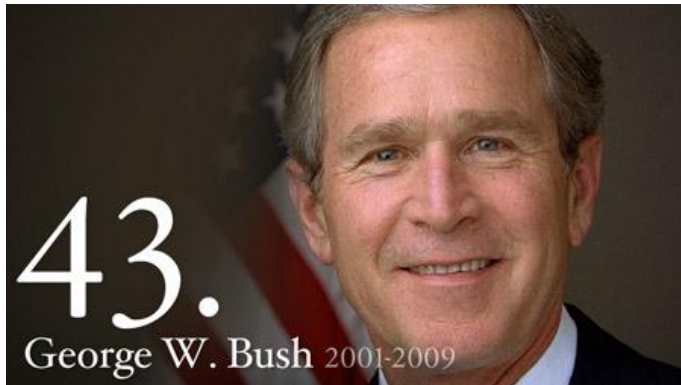
Clinton was elected Arkansas Attorney General in 1976, and won the governorship in 1978. After losing a bid for a second term, he regained the office four years later, and

served until he defeated incumbent George Bush and third party candidate Ross Perot in the 1992 presidential race.

Clinton and his running mate, Tennessee's Senator Albert Gore Jr., then 44, represented a new generation in American political leadership. For the first time in 12 years both the White House and Congress were held by the same party. But that political edge was brief; the Republicans won both houses of Congress in 1994.

In 1998, as a result of issues surrounding personal indiscretions with a young woman White House intern, Clinton was the second U.S. president to be impeached by the House of Representatives. He was tried in the Senate and found not guilty of the charges brought against him. He apologized to the nation for his actions and continued to have unprecedented popular approval ratings for his job as president.

In the world, he successfully dispatched peace keeping forces to war-torn Bosnia and bombed Iraq when Saddam Hussein stopped United Nations inspections for evidence of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. He became a global proponent for an expanded NATO, more open international trade, and a worldwide campaign against drug trafficking. He drew huge crowds when he traveled through South America, Europe, Russia, Africa, and China, advocating U.S. style freedom.



Birthday: July 6, 1946

Birthplace: New Haven, Connecticut

College or University: Yale University, Harvard Business School

Religion: Episcopal, Methodist, Born-again Christian

Occupation or Profession: Governor of Texas

Military Rank: Lieutenant in Air National Guard

Married: Laura Bush

Children: Jenna and Barbara Bush

President number: 43rd

Political Party: Republican

Runner Up: Al Gore, John Kerry

Vice President: Dick Cheney

Age at Inauguration: 52

Served: 2000 - 2008

Number of terms: 2

Other Offices or Commissions: Governor of Texas

Died: n/a

Age at Death: n/a

Place of Burial: n/a

43. GEORGE W. BUSH 2001-2009 – IMPORTANT FACTS

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, was sworn into office on January 20, 2001, re-elected on November 2, 2004, and sworn in for a second term on January 20, 2005. Prior to his Presidency, President Bush served for 6 years as the 46th Governor of the State of Texas, where he earned a reputation for bipartisanship and as a compassionate conservative who shaped public policy based on the principles of limited government, personal responsibility, strong families, and local control.

President Bush was born on July 6, 1946, in New Haven, Connecticut, and grew up in Midland and Houston, Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University in 1968, and then served as an F-102 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. President Bush received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School in 1975. Following graduation, he moved back to Midland and began a career in the energy business. After working on his father's successful 1988 Presidential campaign, President Bush assembled the group of partners who purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise in 1989. On November 8, 1994, President Bush was elected Governor of Texas. He became the first Governor in Texas history to be elected to consecutive 4-year terms when he was re-elected on November 3, 1998.

President Bush worked with the Congress to create an ownership society and build a future of security, prosperity, and opportunity for all Americans. He signed into law tax relief that helped workers keep more of their hard-earned money, as well as the most comprehensive education reforms in a generation, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This legislation ushered in a new era of accountability, flexibility, local control, and more choices for parents, affirming our Nation's fundamental belief in the promise of every child. President Bush also worked to improve healthcare and modernize Medicare, providing the first-ever prescription drug benefit for seniors; increase homeownership, especially among minorities; conserve our environment; and increase military strength, pay, and benefits. Because President Bush believed the strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, he supported programs that encourage individuals to help their neighbors in need.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked our Nation. President Bush took unprecedented steps to protect our homeland and create a world free from terror. He was grateful for the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform and their families. The President believed that by helping build free and prosperous societies, our Nation and our friends and allies can succeed in making America more secure and the world more peaceful.

President Bush is married to Laura Welch Bush, a former teacher and librarian, and they have twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna. The Bush family also includes two dogs, Barney and Miss Beazley, and a cat, Willie.



Barack Obama

Birthday: August 4, 1961

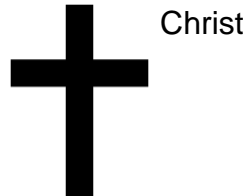
Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawaii



Schools

- Occidental College
- Columbia University
- Harvard Law School

Religion: United Church of



Christ

Jobs

- Community Organizer
- Attorney
- Author
- Professor
- Politician

Wife (mom): Michelle Robinson 1992



Children (kids): Malia Ann (1998) and Sasha (2001)



President number: 44th

Political Party: Democratic



Runner Up: John McCain



Vice President: Joe Biden



Age at Inauguration: 47

Served: 2009-present

Number of terms: current

Other Jobs:

- United States Senator from Illinois (1/3/05-11/16/2008)
- Member of the Illinois Senate from the 13th District (1/8/1997-11/4/2004)

Where he lives:

- Chicago, Illinois (Private)



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA –IMPORTANT FACTS

Barack H. Obama is the 44th President of the United States.

His story is the American story — values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others.

With a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, President Obama was born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961. He was raised with help from his grandfather, who served in Patton's army, and his grandmother, who worked her way up from the secretarial pool to middle management at a bank.

After working his way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans, President Obama moved to Chicago, where he worked with a group of churches to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants.

He went on to attend law school, where he became the first African—American president of the *Harvard Law Review*. Upon graduation, he returned to Chicago to help lead a voter registration drive, teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago, and remain active in his community.

President Obama's years of public service are based around his unwavering belief in the ability to unite people around a politics of purpose. In the Illinois State Senate, he passed the first major ethics reform in 25 years, cut taxes for working families, and expanded health care for children and their parents. As a United States Senator, he reached across the aisle to pass groundbreaking lobbying reform, lock up the world's most dangerous weapons, and bring transparency to government by putting federal spending online.

He was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009. He and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.