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President's Day **Facts**

PRESIDENT'S DAY



President's Day, previously known as Washington's Day, is a national federal holiday celebrated every third Monday of February in the United States. It is meant to celebrate George Washington's birthday and pay tribute to all U.S. presidents. At the same time, some states commemorate the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ★ George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. In 1775, he was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army through the Second Continental Congress held in Philadelphia.
- ★ In 1789, Washington became the first and only president of the United States who was elected unanimously by the Electoral College. He served for two terms from 1789 to 1797.
- ★ During the late 1870's, Arkansas Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey proposed that Washington's birthday should be a federal holiday.

President's Day Facts



General George Washington during the surrender of Lord Cornwallis during the American Revolutionary War.

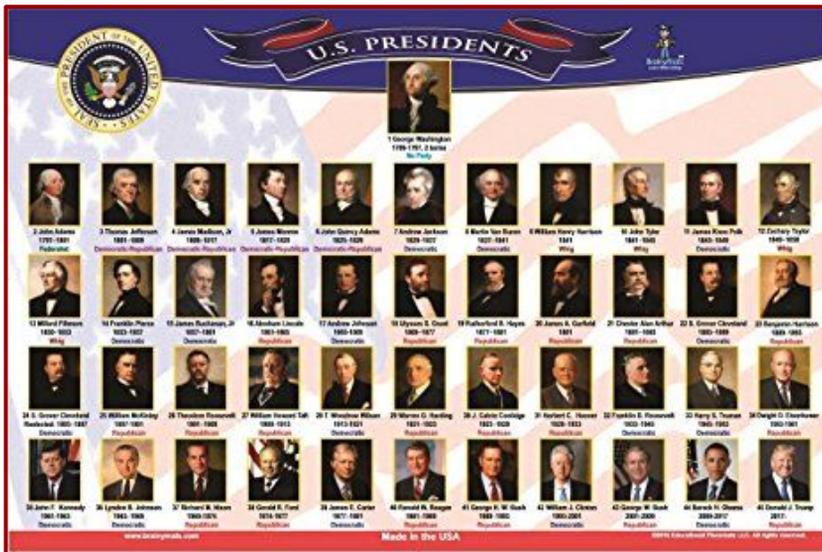
★ In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the bill declaring February 22 as George Washington's Day. Many people believed that Washington was one of the most important politicians in American history. He became the first U.S. citizen to have a holiday in his name.

- ★ On June 28, 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was signed into law. It was meant to give federal employees three-day weekends to increase the travel industry. It included Monday holidays such as Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Labor Day (1st Monday in September), Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October), and Veterans Day (4th Monday in October).
- ★ The Act did not directly establish the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12), but some states combined the celebration with Washington's Day.
- ★ By 1971, Washington's Day was moved to the 3rd Monday in February.

PRESIDENT'S DAY CELEBRATION

- ★ Today, most states call the holiday President's Day, commemorating George Washington while others honor past presidents of the United States, leading it to be called Presidents' Day.
- ★ Schools organize activities, events, and lessons in relation to the life of U.S. presidents, specifically George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In terms of business, retailers use this time to sell old stock.
- ★ In Indiana, observance of Washington's Day was moved to December since the original commemoration falls during mid-winter recess.

President's Day Facts

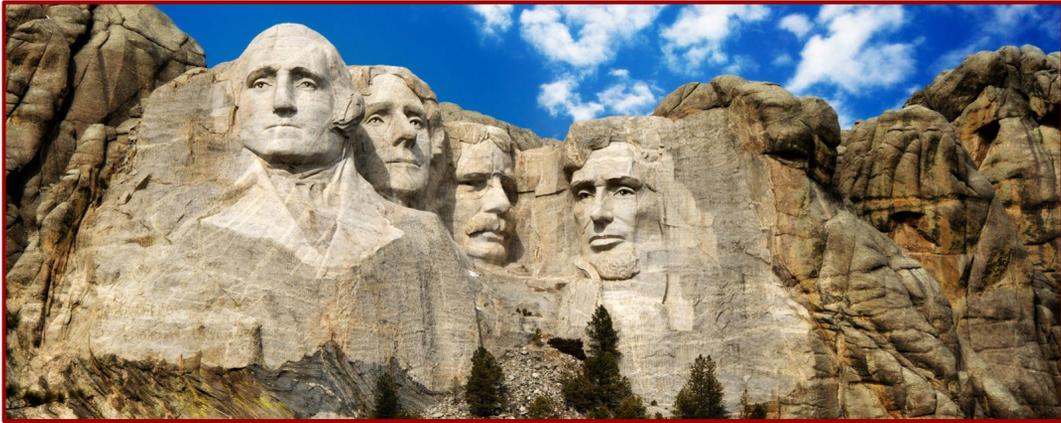


List of U.S. Presidents from George Washington to Donald Trump

US PRESIDENTS FUN FACTS

- ★ There were four U.S. presidents born in February, namely George Washington (February 22), Abraham Lincoln (February 12), Ronald Reagan (February 6), and William Henry Harrison (February 9).
- ★ The White House in Washington D.C. is the official residence of the sitting United States president. It was designed by James Hoban in the 1790s. It was then called the President's House until it was established as the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt.
- ★ On November 1, 1800, President John Adams and First Lady Abigail Adams became its first residents, but it was Thomas Jefferson who held his first inauguration in Washington, D.C.
- ★ On July 4, 1826, on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, former presidents Thomas Jefferson (3rd) and John Adams (2nd) died. In addition, James Monroe (5th) also died on the 4th of July in 1831. By contrast, Calvin Coolidge (30th) was the only president born on the 4th of July, 1872.

President's Day Facts



- ★ Mount Rushmore in South Dakota features the gigantic carved sculptures of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Sculptor Gutzon Borglum started the work in 1921 and finished in 1941. The “Shrine of Democracy” has become one of the most famous attractions in the U.S.
- ★ In 1881, James Garfield (20th) was the first president to talk on the telephone. Over a distance of 13 miles, he spoke to inventor Alexander Graham Bell. In 1939, Franklin Roosevelt (32nd) became the first president to appear on television.

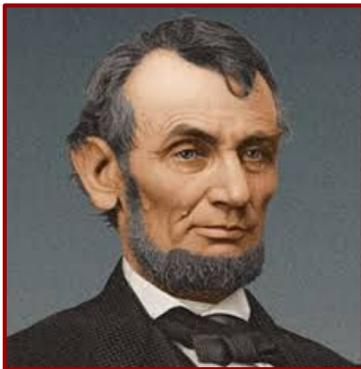


Opening of New York World's Fair on television in 1939

- ★ Grover Cleveland was the only president to be elected in two non-consecutive terms. He became the 22nd and 24th president of the United States with Benjamin Harrison as the 23rd.
- ★ There were six presidents named James: Madison (4th), Monroe (5th), Polk (11th), Buchanan (15th), Garfield (20th), and Carter (39th).
- ★ A number of U.S. presidents served in the military, including Washington, Jackson (7th), and Taylor (12th). Only Dwight Eisenhower served both in WWI and WWII.
- ★ Richard Nixon (37th) was the first president to visit all 50 states and the only one to resign.
- ★ James Buchanan (15th), the only bachelor president, secretly bought slaves in Washington D.C. and set them free in Pennsylvania.

President's Day **Facts**

- ★ It was George Washington who delivered the shortest inauguration speech in American presidential history with 135 words. By contrast, William Henry Harrison's 1841 inaugural address was the longest yet he served the shortest time with only 30 days in office.
- ★ At the age of 42, Theodore Roosevelt became the youngest president after the assassination of William McKinley (25th). John F. Kennedy was the youngest elected U.S. president at the age of 43.
- ★ There were nine presidents who did not attend college, including Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, A. Johnson, Cleveland, and Truman.
- ★ Lincoln was the first president to be born outside the original thirteen colonies. In 1978, Jimmy Carter became the first president from the South.
- ★ Out of 45 U.S. Presidents, four of them were assassinated. First, Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, by John Wilkes Booth. Second, 200 days after he took his oath of office, James Garfield was shot twice by Charles Guiteau on July 2, 1881. Inventor Alexander Graham Bell even tried to cure Garfield by inventing a metal detector. On September 6, 1901, barely a year into his second term, William McKinley was shot at the Temple of Music in Buffalo, New York. With coincidental similarities to Lincoln, J.F.K. was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald during his motorcade in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963.



*Presidents Abraham
Lincoln (16th) and John F.
Kennedy (35th)*

- ★ Both Lincoln and Kennedy were shot in the head on a Friday in the presence of their wives. Their assassins were killed before facing any trial. They defeated incumbent vice presidents when Lincoln was elected in 1860 and J.F.K. in 1960. After their deaths, both successors were Southern Democrats named Johnson (Andrew and Lyndon).

President's Day Facts

- ★ William Henry Harrison (9th) and Benjamin Harrison (23rd) were the only grandfather-grandson tandem who became presidents. Furthermore, John Adams (2nd) and John Quincy (6th), and George H. W. Bush (41st) and George W. Bush (43rd) have been the two sets of father-son presidents.
- ★ In 2009, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American President of the United States. He served for two consecutive terms from 2009 until 2017.
- ★ As of 2010, there were 23 U.S. Presidents who appeared on U.S. coins and paper bills. According to the law, only the portraits of a deceased individual may appear on U.S. currency. There have only been six non-presidents that have appeared on U.S. currency including Benjamin Franklin (founding father), Alexander Hamilton (first U.S. Secretary of Treasury), Salmon Chase (Secretary of Treasury), John Marshall (U.S. Supreme Court Justice), Susan B. Anthony (American suffragist), and Sacagawea (Shoshone interpreter of the Lewis and Clark expedition).

Name: _____

Washington's Day



In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the bill declaring February 22 as George Washington's Day to commemorate his life. Today, most states consider it as President's Day in honor of Washington and past U.S. presidents. Fill in the missing terms below.

George Washington was born on _____, in Westmoreland County, _____. He became the Commander-in-Chief of the _____ during the _____.

Washington was unanimously elected by the _____ as the first president of the Union. He served for _____ terms from _____ until _____. On his second inauguration, he delivered the _____ speech with only _____ words. Along with presidents _____, _____, and _____, Washington's carved sculpture can be seen at _____.



On September 19, 1794, Washington became the only sitting president to personally lead the militia to war.

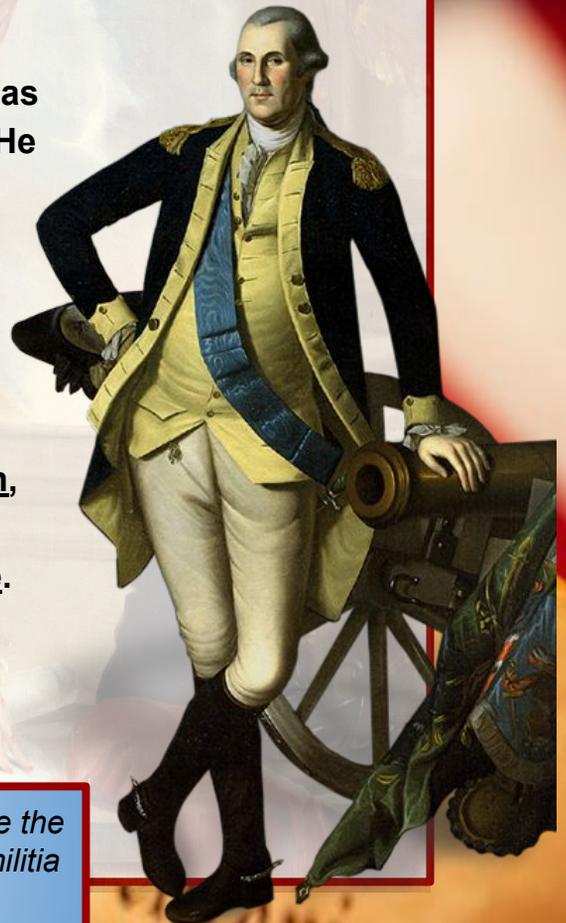
Washington's Day



ANSWER KEY

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He became the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Washington was unanimously elected by the Electoral College as the first president of the Union. He served for two terms from 1789 until 1797. On his second inauguration, he delivered the shortest speech with only 135 words. Along with presidents Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, Washington's carved sculpture can be seen at Mount Rushmore.



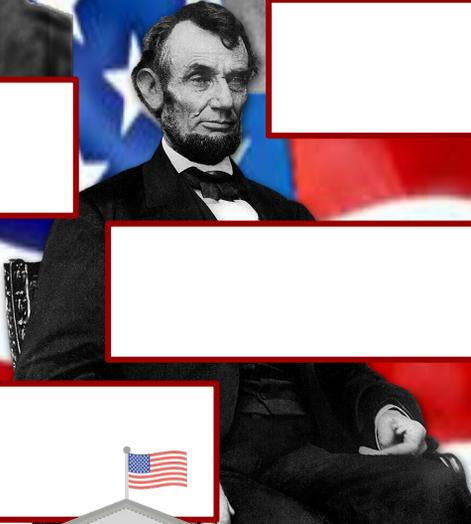
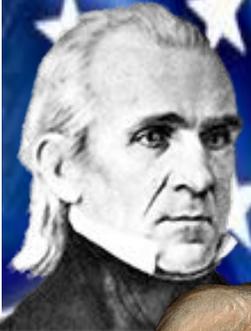
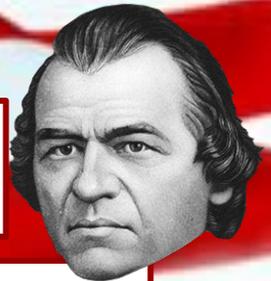
On September 19, 1794, Washington became the only sitting president to personally lead the militia to war.

Name: _____

Presidential Nicknames



George Washington is known as the Father of the Nation. His life and contributions to the Union are celebrated through the annual President's Day. Today, the federal holiday also honors all the past U.S. presidents. Name a few with their nicknames.



Presidential Nicknames



ANSWER KEY

Calvin "Silent Cal"
Coolidge

Benjamin
"Grandfather's Hat"
Harrison

Andrew "Sir Veto"
Johnson

James "Young
Hickory" Polk

Abraham "Grand
Wrestler" Lincoln

Andrew "Sharp
Knife" Jackson

Thomas "Long Tom"
Jefferson

Name: _____

Who's Mr. President?



Today, President's Day is not only celebrated in honor of George Washington but for all the past U.S. presidents. Can you identify who's being described below?

photo

He was the first African-American President of the United States.

photo

In 1939, he became the first U.S. President to appear on television during the opening of the New York World's Fair.

photo

In 1841, he delivered the longest inaugural address in U.S. history and served the shortest term.

photo

The youngest elected U.S. president at the age of 43.

photo

He was the only president who served for two non-consecutive terms.

Who's Mr. President?

ANSWER KEY



He was the first African-American President of the United States. -**BARACK OBAMA**



In 1939, he became the first U.S. President to appear on television during the opening of the New York World's Fair. -**FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT**



In 1841, he delivered the longest inaugural address in U.S. history and served the shortest term. -**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**



The youngest elected U.S. president at the age of 43. -**JOHN F. KENNEDY**



He was the only president who served for two non-consecutive terms. -**GROVER CLEVELAND**

Name: _____

Coincidence: Lincoln & Kennedy

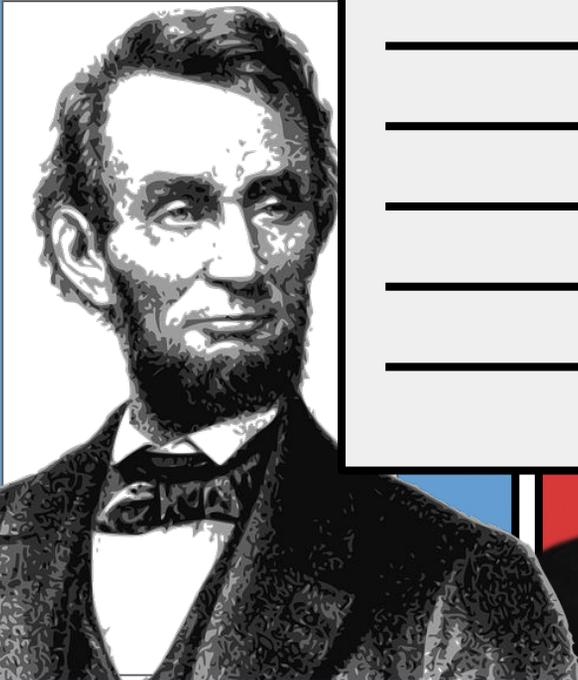


Political observers continue to list coincidences between former U.S. presidents, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. Can you compare and contrast the two?

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

JOHN F. KENNEDY

SIMILARITIES



Name: _____

Sequencing Presidents



As of 2018, there are 45 U.S. presidents who have served America from George Washington until Donald Trump. Using the number sequence, name the presidents in order.

2		16		30	
3		17		31	
4		18		32	
5		21		35	
6		22		37	
7		25		40	
11		26		42	
14		27		43	
15		28		44	

Sequencing Presidents



ANSWER KEY

2	John Adams	16	Abraham Lincoln	30	Calvin Coolidge
3	Thomas Jefferson	17	Andrew Johnson	31	Herbert Hoover
4	James Madison	18	Ulysses S. Grant	32	Franklin D. Roosevelt
5	James Monroe	21	Chester Arthur	35	John F. Kennedy
6	John Quincy Adams	22	Grover Cleveland	37	Gerald Ford
7	Andrew Jackson	25	William McKinley	40	Ronald Reagan
11	James K. Polk	26	Theodore Roosevelt	42	Bill Clinton
14	Franklin Pierce	27	William Howard Taft	43	George W. Bush
15	James Buchanan	28	Woodrow Wilson	44	Barack Obama

Name: _____

Mount Rushmore



Mount Rushmore in South Dakota features carved sculptures of four U.S. Presidents including George Washington. Briefly describe each president. Washington is given as an example.

George Washington

Example:

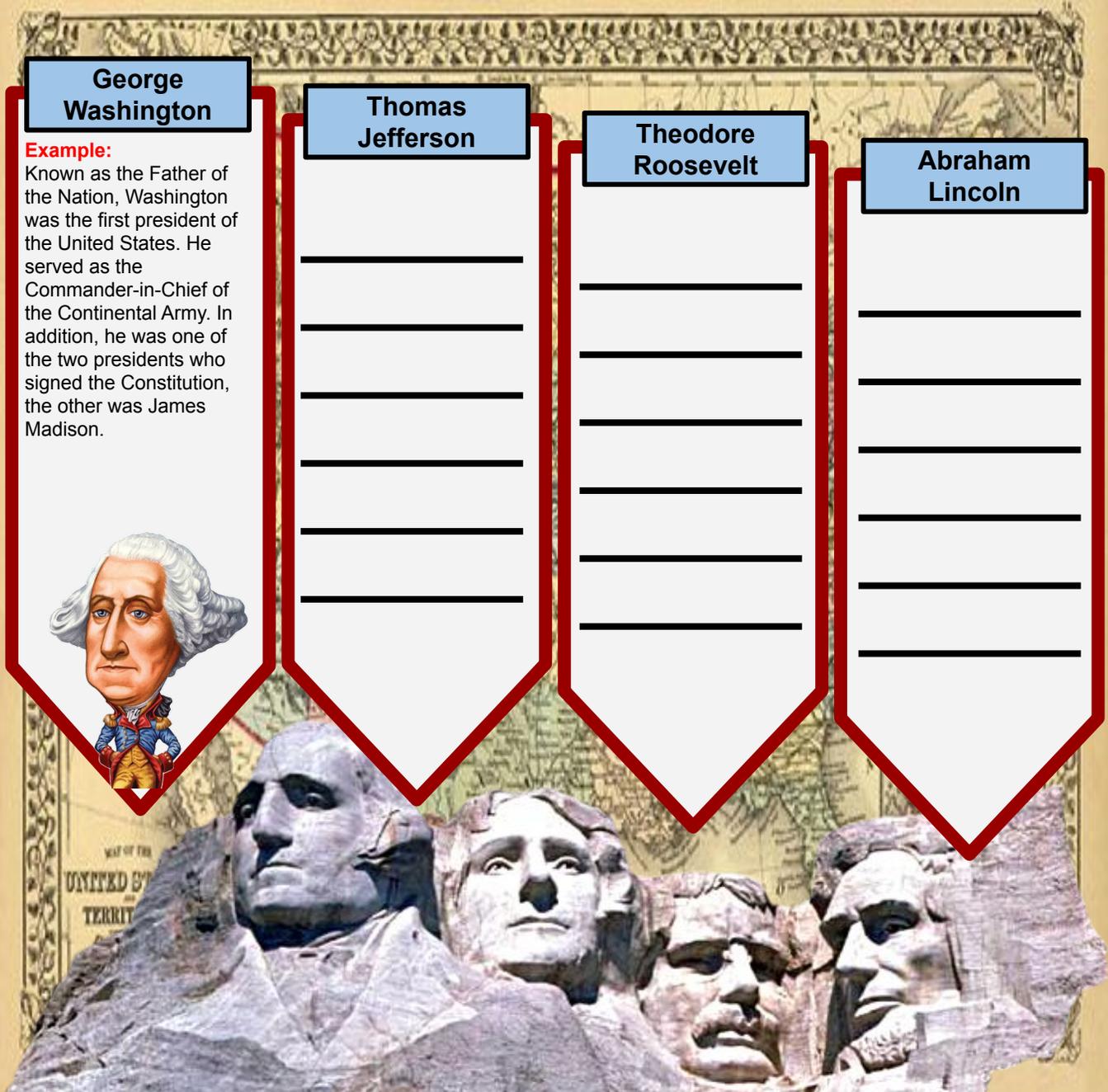
Known as the Father of the Nation, Washington was the first president of the United States. He served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. In addition, he was one of the two presidents who signed the Constitution, the other was James Madison.



Thomas Jefferson

Theodore Roosevelt

Abraham Lincoln



Name: _____

Defining Leadership

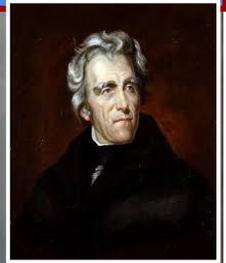


President's Day is widely commemorated all over America. It reminds every American to remember the contributions of U.S. presidents, especially Washington. Now, complete the acrostic with characteristics that leaders should have.

P
R
E
S
I
D
E
N
T

Example: Perseverance - *A leader should have the will to make things possible.*

A large, faded background image of George Washington on a white horse, leading a group of soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The scene is set in a hazy, outdoor environment with a large American flag being carried in the foreground.

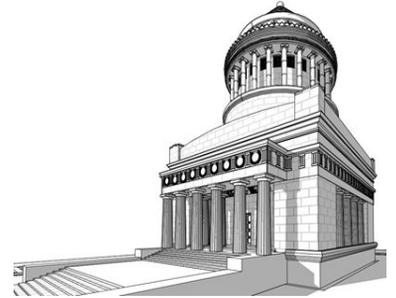


Name: _____

Presidential Monuments



Some of the most famous U.S. presidents have historic sites located at places notable to their life. Can you map some of the presidential monuments in the United States?

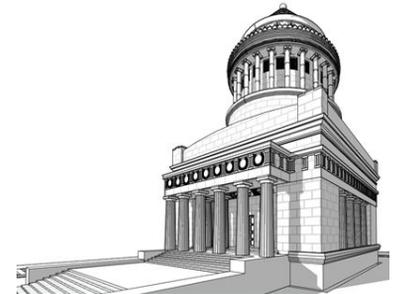


Presidential Monuments

ANSWER KEY



Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.



General Grant National Memorial in New York City



Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.



Mount Rushmore in South Dakota



Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.



Name: _____

Washington's Address

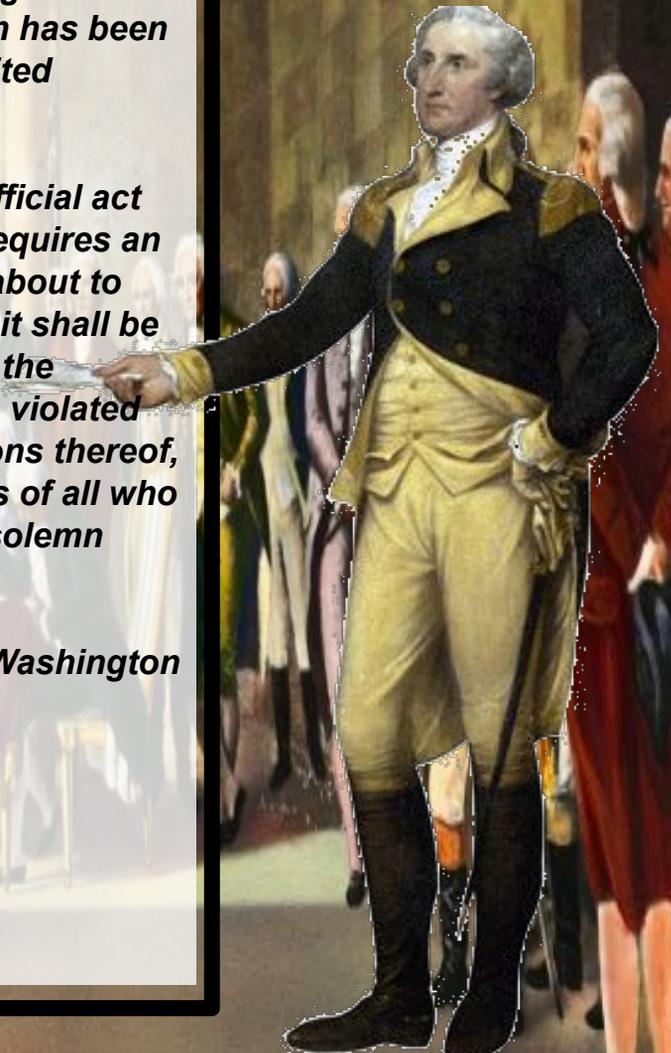


On March 4, 1793, President George Washington delivered the shortest inaugural address in history of America. He took his oath of office at the Senate Chamber of Congress Hall in Philadelphia. Briefly define what the underline words in his speech mean.

I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.

-President George Washington



Name: _____

Best US Presidents



Choose three U.S. presidents and rank them from 1 to 3 for their contributions. Do some research to complete the profiling below.

photo

Rank 1

Name: _____
Term of Office: _____
Characteristics: _____
Contributions: _____

photo

Rank 2

Name: _____
Term of Office: _____
Characteristics: _____
Contributions: _____

photo

Rank 3

Name: _____
Term of Office: _____
Characteristics: _____
Contributions: _____