



Window on America

Вікно в Америку

United States Presidents

Window on America Center
Kirovohrad Oblast Research Library Named After
Chizhevsky

Country Study Series

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Introduction

- The President of the United States is the head of state and head of government of the United States.
- The president leads the Executive Branch of the federal government and is the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Armed Forces.
- Because of the numerous responsibilities he holds, the President is frequently described as the most powerful person in the world.



Presidential Powers

- The President of the United States has many powers, including:
 - powers granted by [Article II of the Constitution](#),
 - implicit powers,
 - powers granted by Acts of Congress, and
 - enormous influence because of his position as leader of the United States.
- Presidential powers include:
 - *Powers of State* – As head of state, the President of the United States represents the nation at home and abroad.
 - *Executive Powers* – The president has power to manage national affairs and the workings of the federal government.



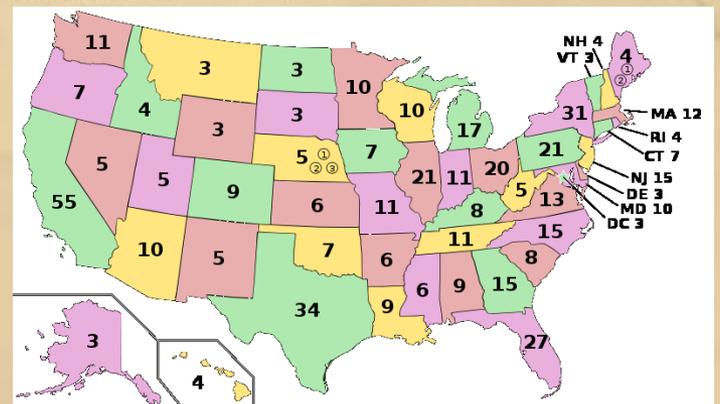
Presidential Powers

- *Legislative Powers* – Presidents must approve all of a bill or none of it, they do not have the ability to veto only selected parts.
- *Powers of Appointment* – The President has the power to appoint White House Staff, top officials at U.S. government agencies, diplomats, and many others.
- *Executive Clemency*
- *Foreign Affairs* – Under the Constitution, the president is the federal official that is primarily responsible for the relations of the United States with foreign nations.
- *Emergency Powers* – Declaring a state of emergency to allow funds to be released without following normal rules.
- *Executive Privilege* – This gives the President the ability to withhold information from the public, Congress, and the courts in matters of national security.



Electing the President

- The President is indirectly elected by the people through the [Electoral College](#) to a four-year term.
- In the Electoral College, a number of electors officially select the president.
 - On Election Day, voters in each of the states and the District of Columbia cast ballots for these electors.
 - Each state is allocated a number of electors, equal to the size of its delegation in both Houses of Congress combined.
 - The ticket that wins the most votes in a state wins all of that state's electoral votes and thus has its slate of electors chosen to vote in the Electoral College.
- The President is one of only two nationally elected federal officers, the other being the Vice President of the United States.
- The term of a U.S. President is four years.
- The [Twenty-Second Amendment](#), adopted in 1951, prohibits anyone from being elected to the Presidency for a third full term.



Salary and Amenities

- The president earns a \$400,000 annual salary, along with a \$50,000 annual expense account, a \$100,000 non-taxable travel account and \$19,000 for entertainment.
- The White House in Washington, D.C. serves as the official place of residence for the president.
- The President may also use other government-owned properties as country retreats and in cases of emergencies.
- The President also may use specially modified aircraft and vehicles when he travels.



Constitutional Qualifications

- The president must have been born in the United States (or on American soil abroad),
- he or she must be age 35 upon taking office, and
- he or she must have spent at least 14 years living within the United States.



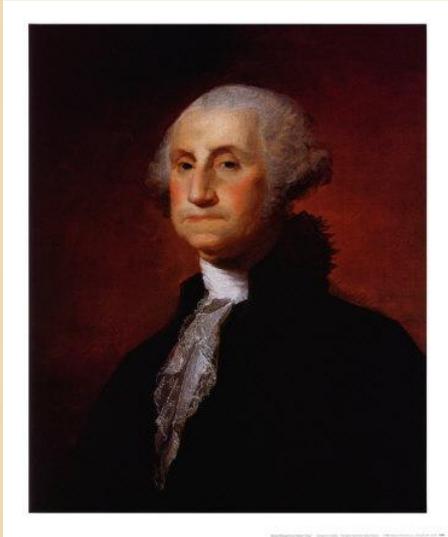
Presidential History

- In all, 43 individuals have served 55 four-year terms.
- George Washington was the first President.
- On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama became the forty-fourth and current President.



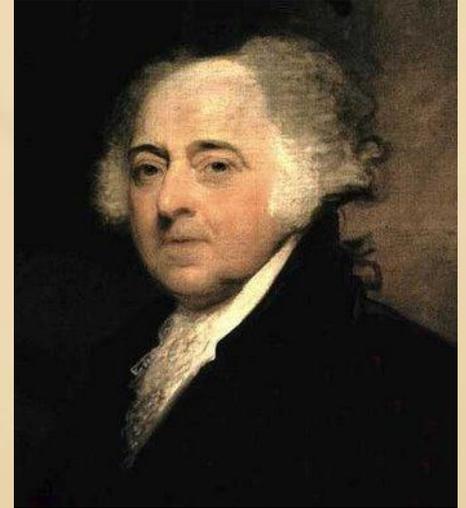
George Washington, 1789-1797

- Born in 1732
- Commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1754.
- When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Washington was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.
- Was instrumental in the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787.
- When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington President.
- He was the only president who did not live in Washington D.C.
- The nation's capital, along with one state, 31 counties and 18 cities are named in his honor.
- The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. was built between 1848 and 1884 as a tribute to Washington's military leadership during the American Revolution.
- Died in 1799.



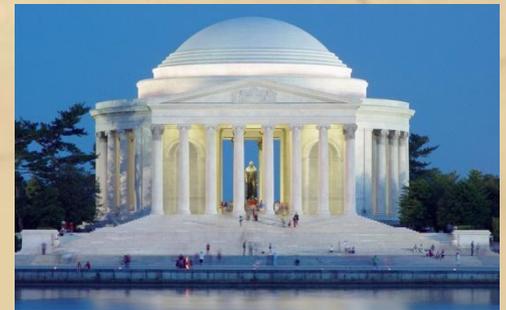
John Adams, 1797-1801

- Born in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1735.
- Harvard-educated lawyer.
- During the Revolutionary War he served in France and Holland in diplomatic roles, and helped negotiate the treaty of peace.
- Helped draft the Declaration of Independence.
- From 1785 to 1788 he was minister to the Court of St. James', returning to be elected Vice President under George Washington.
- When Adams became President, the war between the French and British was causing great difficulties for the United States.
- John and Abigail Adams were the first presidential couple to move into the White House, in 1800.
- He died July 4, 1826, on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



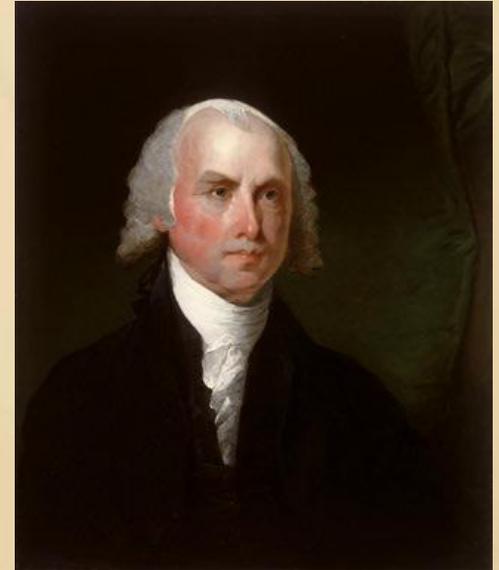
Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809

- Born in Virginia in 1743.
- Was a lawyer and plantation owner.
- Drafted the Declaration of Independence.
- Designed his famous home, [Monticello](#).
- Succeeded Benjamin Franklin as minister to France in 1785.
- Served as Vice President under John Adams.
- Owned slaves, but also wrote the famous quote *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”*.
- Was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.
- Originated the custom of shaking hands with the President of the U.S.
 - Before his term people bowed to the President.
- Acquired the [Louisiana Territory](#) from Napoleon in 1803.
- Founded the University of Virginia.
- Died on July 4, 1826.
- The [Jefferson Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C. was completed in 1943.



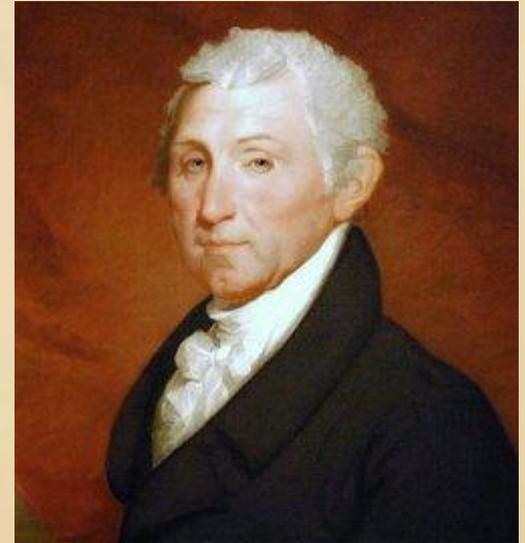
James Madison, 1809-1817

- Born in 1751
- Attended Princeton (then called the College of New Jersey).
- Participated in the framing of the Virginia Constitution in 1776, served in the [Continental Congress](#), and was a leader in the Virginia Assembly.
- Wrote, with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, the [Federalist Papers](#).
- Was called “The Father of the Constitution”.
- Was one of two presidents to sign the Constitution (George Washington was the other).
- In Congress, he helped frame the Bill of Rights and enact the first revenue legislation.
- Led the U.S. against the British during the War of 1812, though he never served in the military.
- Was the first president who had been a congressman.
- Died on June 28, 1836.



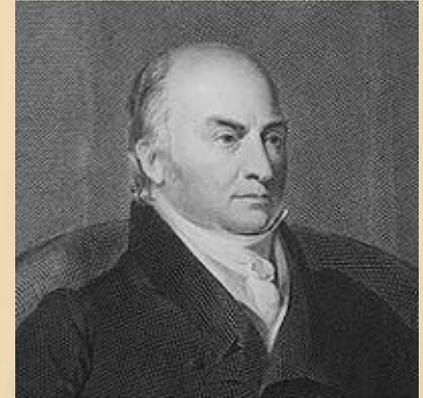
James Monroe, 1817-1825

- Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1758.
- Elected as a United States Senator in 1790.
- Served as Minister to France in 1794-1796; later, with Robert R. Livingston, he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.
- Introduced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, which stated that further efforts by European countries to colonize land or interfere with states in the Americas would be viewed as acts of aggression requiring U.S. intervention.
- The U.S. took over Florida from Spain during his term.
- Monroe's daughter was the first bride in the White House.
- Ran unopposed for his second term in 1820.
- Was the third of five presidents to die on the Fourth of July (in 1831).



John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829

- The first President who was the son of a President (John Adams, 1797-1801).
- Born in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1767.
- 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.
- Was one of 15 Presidents who were elected without winning the popular vote.
- Did not belong to a political party.
- As President, he 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.
- Was the first President to serve in the House of Representatives after serving as President.
- Died in February 1848.



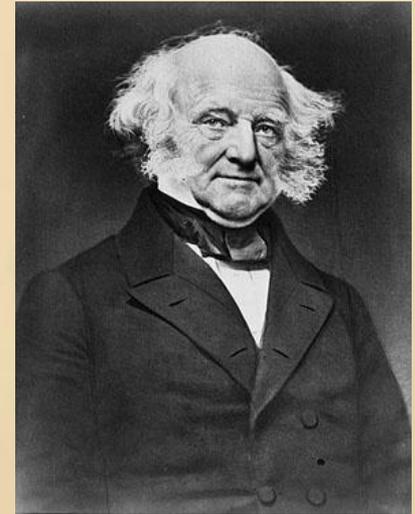
Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837



- Born in a backwoods settlement in the Carolinas in 1767.
- Jackson was the only first generation American to become president.
- At the age of 13, he joined the Army to fight in the Revolutionary War.
- Was the first man elected from Tennessee to the House of Representatives, and he served briefly in the Senate.
- A major general in the [War of 1812](#), Jackson became a national hero when he defeated the British at New Orleans.
- As President, unlike previous Presidents, he did not defer to Congress in policy-making but used his power of the veto and his party leadership to assume command.
- Was the first President to ride on a railroad train. The train ride lasted for 12 miles.
- On May 6, 1883 while on a steamboat trip to Fredericksburg, Virginia a former navy officer attacked President Jackson. He did not have a weapon but did draw blood during his attack. It was the first time an American President had been assaulted or involved in an assassination attempt.
- During his term some Native Americans were moved from Florida to reservations in Oklahoma. This was a harsh move for those tribes and became known as the [Trail of Tears](#).
- Died on June 8, 1845.

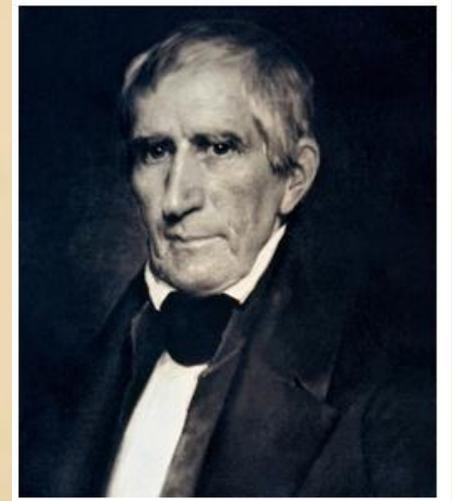
Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841

- Born in 1782 in Kinderhook, New York.
- Was the first president born an American citizen.
 - His predecessors all were born before the Declaration of Independence and thus were born British subjects.
- Elected to the United States Senate in 1821.
- Devoted his Inaugural Address to a discourse upon the American experiment as an example to the rest of the world.
- Was one of the founders of the Democratic Party.
- The U.S. had several problems during his term. Soon after he became President, hundreds of banks failed, causing financial panic. Also, the arguments about slavery became more intense.
- Blocked the annexation of Texas because it assuredly would add to slave territory--and it might bring war with Mexico.
- Died on July 24, 1862



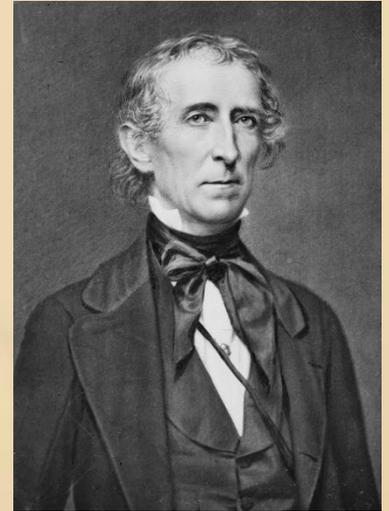
William Henry Harrison, 1841

- Born at Berkeley, Virginia in 1773.
- Was the first and only President who studied to become a doctor.
- After resigning from the Army in 1798, he became Secretary of the Northwest Territory, was its first delegate to Congress, and helped obtain legislation dividing the Territory into the Northwest and Indiana Territories.
- In 1801 he became Governor of the Indiana Territory, serving 12 years.
- Served in the Indian wars in the NW territory, War of 1812.
- Won the Presidency by a majority of less than 150,000, but swept the Electoral College, 234 to 60.
- Before he had been in office a month, he caught a cold that developed into pneumonia.
- Had the shortest term as President.
- On April 4, 1841 he was the first President to die in office.



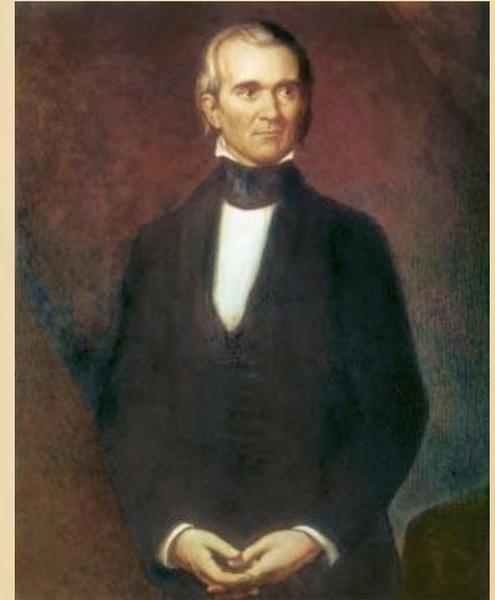
John Tyler, 1841-1845

- Born in Virginia in 1790.
- Was raised believing that the Constitution must be strictly construed.
- Served in the House of Representatives from 1816 to 1821.
- Voted against most nationalist legislation and opposed the [Missouri Compromise](#).
- After leaving the House he served as Governor of Virginia.
- Was the first Vice President to be elevated to the office of President by the death of his predecessor (William H. Harrison).
- Was the first president to have his veto overridden by Congress (March 3, 1845).
- Was President during [Second Seminole War](#).
- Joined the Confederacy when the Civil War started. Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives.
- Died in 1862.



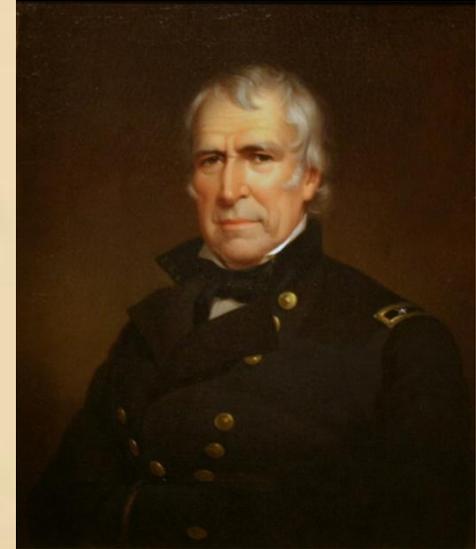
James K. Polk, 1845-1849

- Born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1795.
- In the House of Representatives, Polk was a chief lieutenant of Andrew Jackson in his [Bank War](#).
- Served as Speaker of the House between 1835 and 1839, leaving to become Governor of Tennessee.
- Was the first President who had been Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Was the first “dark horse” (long shot) presidential nominee in U.S. history.
- Was the first President to have his inauguration reported by telegraph.
- During the 1844 campaign, he made five promises: to acquire California from Mexico, to settle the Oregon dispute, to lower the tariff, to establish a sub-treasury, and to retire from the office after four years. When he left office, his campaign promises had all been fulfilled.
- During his term a [national election day](#) was set.
- Added a vast area to the United States, but its acquisition led to a bitter quarrel between the North and the South over expansion of slavery.
- Died in June 1849.



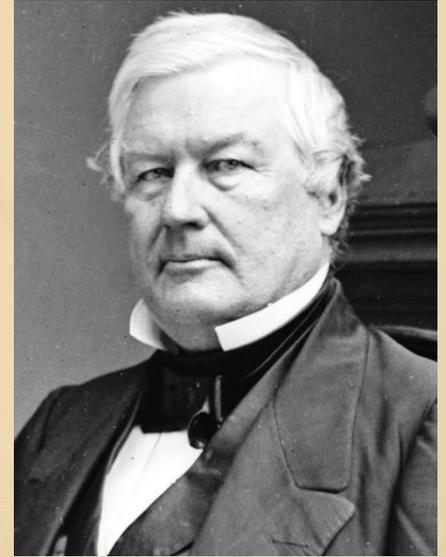
Zachary Taylor, 1849-1850

- Born in Virginia in 1784.
- Career officer in the Army, but his talk was most often of cotton raising.
 - His home was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and he owned a plantation in Mississippi.
- In the Mexican War he won major victories at Monterrey and Buena Vista.
- Never lived in one place long enough to register to vote.
 - He voted for the first time when he was 62 years old.
- Was the first President elected from a state west of the Mississippi.
- After participating in ceremonies at the Washington Monument in 1850, Taylor fell ill; within five days he was dead.
- Was the second President to die in office (July 1850).
- His body was later exhumed because some believed he was poisoned, but this was proved to be false.



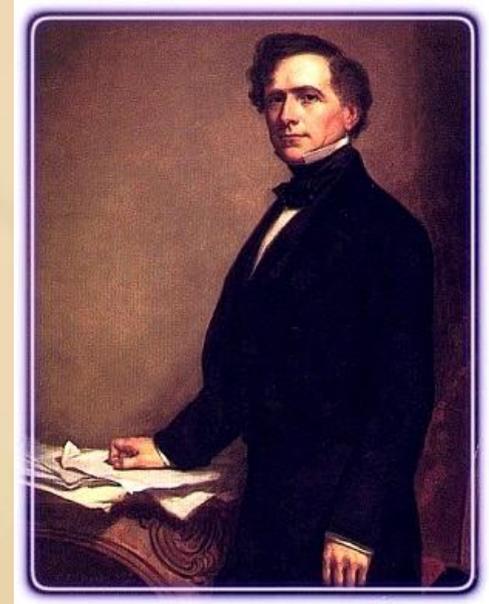
Millard Fillmore, 1850-1853

- Born in the Finger Lakes country of New York in 1800.
- As an associate of the Whig politician [Thurlow Weed](#), Fillmore held state office and for eight years was a member of the House of Representatives.
- In 1848, while Comptroller of New York, he was elected Vice President under Zachary Taylor.
- Opposed the proposal to keep slavery out of the territories annexed during the Mexican-American War, and supported the [Compromise of 1850](#), which he signed, including the [Fugitive Slave Act](#), which was part of the compromise.
- When the [Library of Congress](#) burned in 1851, Fillmore and his Cabinet helped fight the blaze.
- After his presidency, he joined the [Know-Nothing movement](#); throughout the Civil War, he opposed President Lincoln and during Reconstruction supported President Johnson.
- Died in 1874.



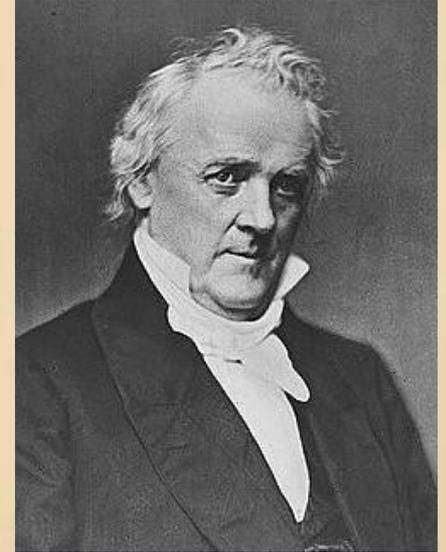
Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857

- Born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, in 1804.
- At 24 he was elected to the New Hampshire legislature; two years later he became its Speaker.
- During the 1830's he went to Washington, first as a Representative, then as a Senator.
- After serving in the Mexican War, was proposed by New Hampshire friends for the Presidential nomination in 1852.
- Became President at a time of apparent tranquility.
- Did not use a bible to take the oath of office. He felt God had passed his judgment with the death of his son two months prior to his inauguration.
- His popularity in the North declined sharply after he came out in favor of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, repealing the Missouri Compromise and renewed the debate over expanding slavery in the West.
- Was not re-nominated to run in the 1856 presidential election and was replaced by James Buchanan as the Democratic candidate.
- Died in 1869.



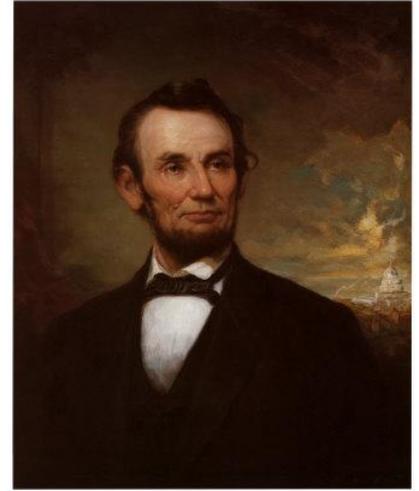
James Buchanan, 1857-1861

- Born in 1791 in Pennsylvania.
- Elected five times to the House of Representatives; after an interlude as Minister to Russia, he served for a decade in the Senate.
- Became Polk's Secretary of State and Pierce's Minister to Great Britain.
- Presiding over a rapidly dividing Nation, Buchanan did not adequately understand the political realities of the time.
 - He failed to understand that the North would not accept constitutional arguments which favored the South.
- Buchanan's efforts to maintain peace between the North and the South alienated both sides, and the Southern states declared their secession in the prologue to the American Civil War.
- By the time he left office, popular opinion had turned against him, and the Democratic Party had split in two.
- Queen Victoria sent greetings to Buchanan over the first Atlantic cable.
- Upon leaving the White House, he left a note for his successor, Abe Lincoln, which said: "My dear sir, if you are as happy on entering the White House as I on leaving, you are a happy man indeed."
- Died on June 1, 1868.



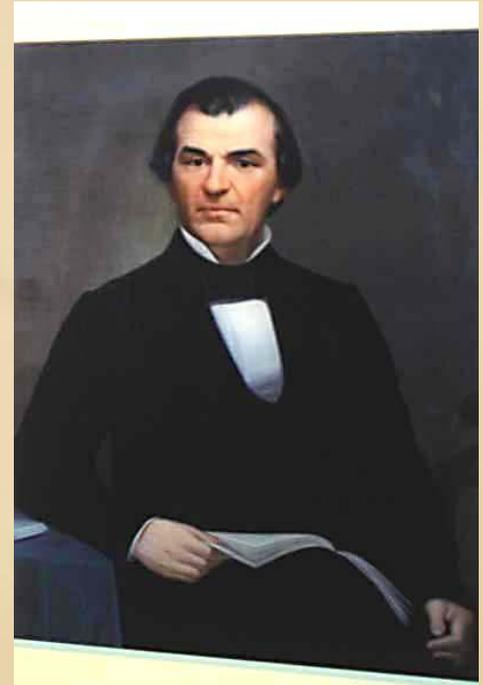
Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865

- Born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky.
- Made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois.
- Was a captain in the [Black Hawk War](#), spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years.
- 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.
- Built the Republican Party into a strong national organization.
 - Also got most of the northern Democrats to support the Union cause.
- On January 1, 1863, he issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.
- Thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union.
- On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. by John Wilkes Booth.
- The [Lincoln Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C. was opened to the public in 1922.



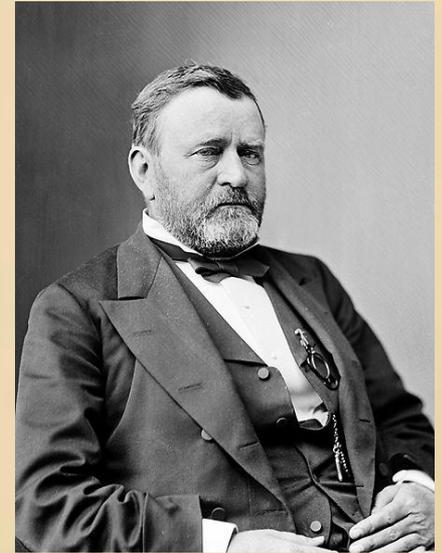
Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869

- Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1808.
- As a Member of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 1840's and 50's, he advocated a homestead bill to provide a free farm for the poor man.
- Was one of five Presidents who never ran for the office of President. He was the third President that never had a Vice President.
- After Lincoln's death, President Johnson proceeded to reconstruct the former Confederate States while Congress was not in session in 1865.
- His tenure was controversial as his positions favoring the white South came under heavy political attack from Republicans.
- The Radicals in the House of Representatives impeached him in 1868, charging him with violating the Tenure of Office Act, but he was acquitted by a single vote in the Senate.
- Commonly ranked by historians as being among the worst U.S. presidents.
- Died in 1875.



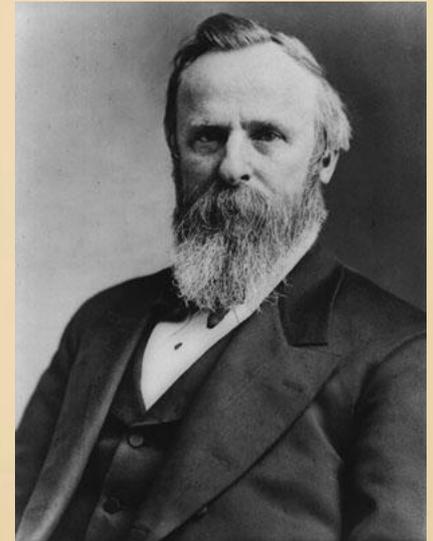
Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877

- Born in 1822 in Ohio.
- Began his lifelong career as a soldier after graduating from the [United States Military Academy at West Point](#) in 1843.
- Under Grant's command, the Union Army defeated the Confederate military and ended the Confederate States of America.
- Grant ran against the first woman to be nominated for President. [Victoria Claflin Woodhull](#) was nominated by the [Equal Rights Party](#).
- Presided over the Government much as he had run the Army.
- Allowed [Radical Reconstruction](#) to run its course in the South, bolstering it at times with military force.
- Established [Yellowstone](#) as the nation's first national park on March 1, 1872.
- Grant wrote a best-selling book of his time and it is still high on the all-time list.
- Died on July 23, 1885.
- [Ulysses S. Grant Memorial](#) is located on the base of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.



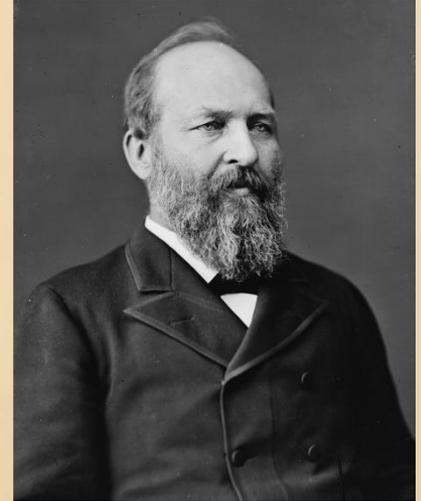
Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881

- Born in Ohio in 1822.
- Fought in the Civil War, was wounded in action, and rose to the rank of brevet major general.
- While he was still in the Army, Cincinnati Republicans ran him for the House of Representatives.
- Served three terms as Governor of Ohio.
- His was the most disputed election in US history.
 - It took a recount of the votes from three southern states by the House and Senate to determine the election.
- Pledged protection of the rights of Blacks in the South, but at the same time advocated the restoration of “wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government.”
- Had the first telephone installed in the White House.
- Banished wine and liquor from the White House because he wanted to set a good example for the country.
- Died in January 1893.



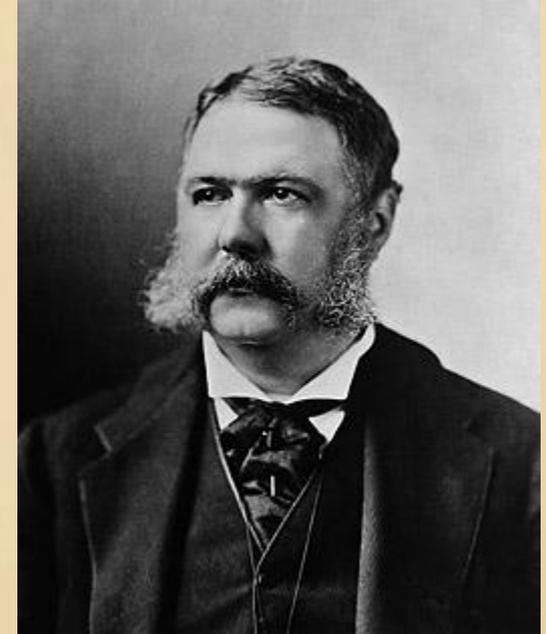
James Garfield, 1881

- Born in Ohio in 1831
- Elected to the Ohio Senate in 1859 as a Republican.
- During the secession crisis, he advocated coercing the seceding states back into the Union.
- In 1862, he successfully led a brigade at Middle Creek, Kentucky, against Confederate troops.
- Also in 1862, Ohioans elected him to Congress.
 - Repeatedly won re-election for 18 years, and became the leading Republican in the House.
- As President, he attacked political corruption and won back for the Presidency a measure of prestige it had lost during the Reconstruction Period.
- Was shot in July, 1881 and died in September of that same year.
- Garfield was the only man in U.S. history who was a congressman, senator-elect, and a president-elect at the same time.



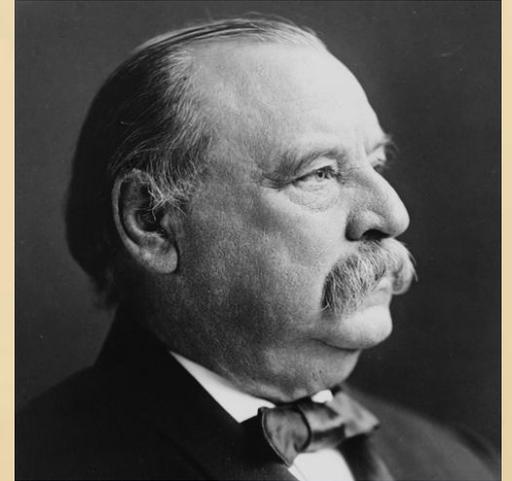
Chester A. Arthur, 1881-1885

- Born in Vermont in 1829.
- Served in the Civil War.
- In 1871 President Grant appointed him Collector of the Port of New York.
- Took office after the assassination of James Garfield.
- Primary achievement was the passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act.
 - The passage of this legislation earned Arthur the moniker “The Father of Civil Service” and a favorable reputation among historians.
- The Arthur Administration enacted the first general Federal immigration law.
 - Approved a measure in 1882 excluding paupers, criminals, and lunatics. Congress suspended Chinese immigration for ten years, later making the restriction permanent.
- Due to his short term, there were three Presidents in 1881 – Hays, Garfield, and Chester
- Died in 1886.



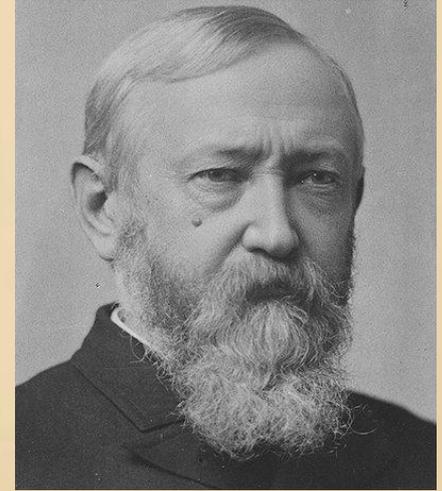
Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889 and 1893-1897

- Born in New Jersey in 1837.
- Elected Mayor of Buffalo in 1881, and later, Governor of New York.
- As President, Cleveland pursued a policy barring special favors to any economic group.
- Signed the [Interstate Commerce Act](#), the first law attempting Federal regulation of the railroads.
- Dedicated the [Statue of Liberty](#) on October 28, 1886.
- His second term coincided with the [Panic of 1893](#), a severe national depression that Cleveland was unable to reverse.
- Was the only President married in the White House.
- Was the only President to leave the White House and return for a second term four years later.
- Died in 1908.



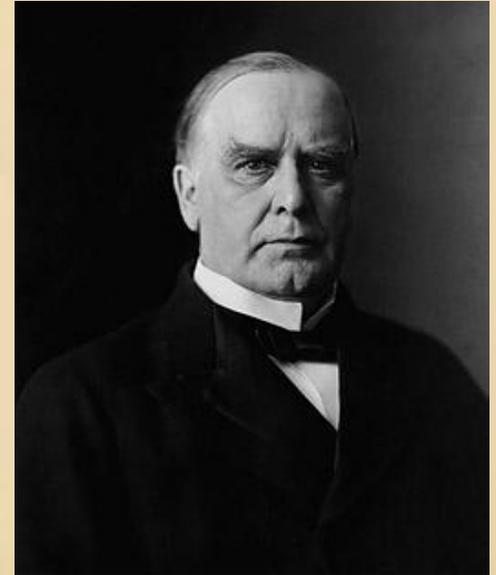
Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893

- Born in 1833 in Ohio.
- In the 1880's he served in the United States Senate, where he championed Native Americans, homesteaders, and Civil War veterans.
- In the Presidential election, he lost the popular vote, but won the electoral vote.
- Was the only grandson of a President (William Henry Harrison) to be elected President.
- Electric lights were installed in the White House during his term.
- Was proud of the foreign policy which he helped shape. The first [Pan American Congress](#) met in Washington in 1889, establishing an information center which later became the [Pan American Union](#).
- His administration is most remembered for economic legislation, including the [McKinley Tariff](#) and the [Sherman Antitrust Act](#).
- Died in 1901



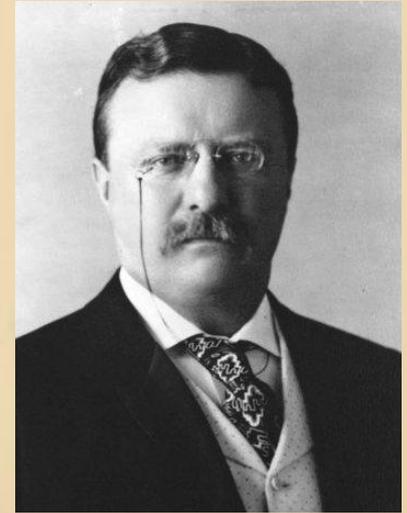
William McKinley, 1897-1901

- Born in Ohio, in 1843.
- Was the last veteran of the American Civil War to be elected President.
- During his 14 years in the House, he became the leading Republican tariff expert, giving his name to the measure enacted in 1890.
- Was elected Governor of Ohio in 1891 and served two terms.
- Presided over a return to prosperity after the [Panic of 1893](#), and made gold the base of the currency.
- Was President during the [Spanish-American War](#) and the [Boxer Rebellion](#).
- Foreign policy dominated McKinley's Administration.
 - As a result of the [1898 Treaty of Paris](#), the former Spanish colonies of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines were acquired by the United States as unincorporated territories, and Cuba was subjected to United States occupation.
 - Also annexed the independent Republic of Hawaii in 1898, with all its residents becoming full American citizens.
- Was assassinated by Leon F. Czolgosz during the [Pan American Exposition](#) in Buffalo, New York in September 1901. He was the third president that was assassinated.



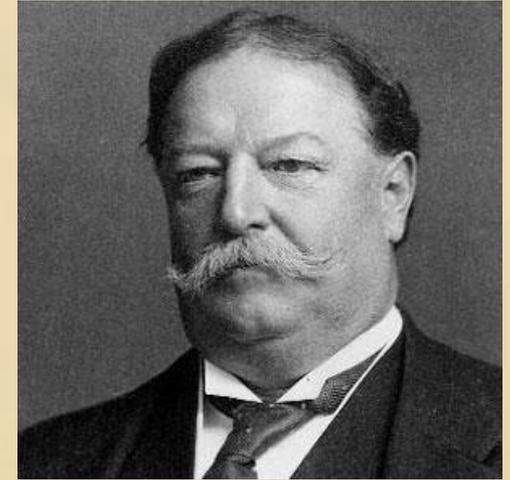
Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909

- Born in 1858 in New York City.
- Was one of the best-known heroes of the Spanish-American War.
- Before becoming President, he held offices at the municipal, state, and federal levels of government.
- Became the youngest President in the Nation's history when President McKinley was assassinated. He was 43 years old at the time.
- Believed that the Government should be the great arbiter of the conflicting economic forces in the Nation, especially between capital and labor, guaranteeing justice to each and dispensing favors to neither.
- Led Congress and the American public toward progressive reforms and a strong foreign policy.
- Ensured the construction of the [Panama Canal](#).
- Was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for mediating the [Russo-Japanese War](#).
- Set aside vast wilderness lands for conservation. These later became part of the country's national parks and nature reserves.
- Died in January 1919.



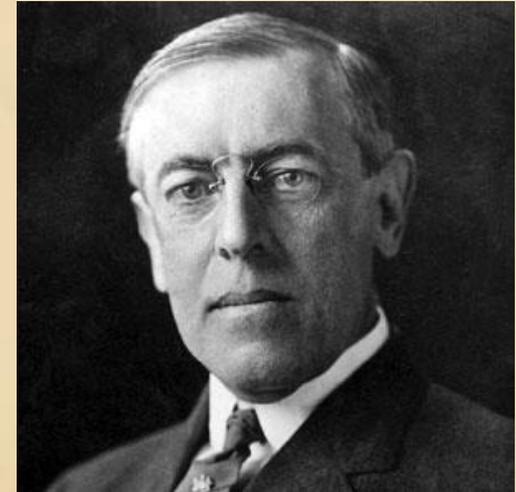
William H. Taft, 1909-1913

- Born in 1857 in Ohio.
- Appointed a Federal circuit judge at age 34.
- President McKinley sent him to the Philippines in 1900 as chief civil administrator.
- President Roosevelt made him Secretary of War in 1904.
- During his administration, the U.S. parcel post system began, and Congress approved the [16th Amendment to the Constitution](#), providing for the levying of an income tax.
- Sought to continue the economic development of underdeveloped nations in Latin America and Asia through “[Dollar Diplomacy](#)”.
- Was appointed Chief Justice of the [United States Supreme Court](#) in 1921.
- Died in March 1930 and was the first President to be buried in the [National Cemetery](#) in Arlington, Virginia.



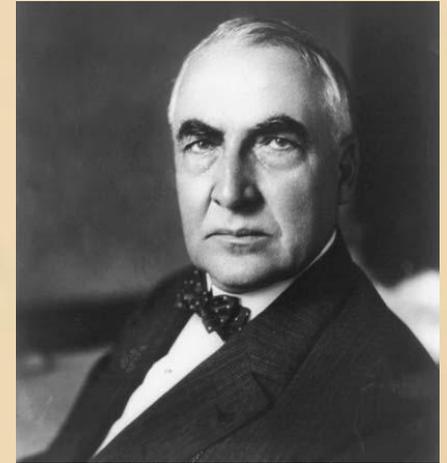
Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1921

- Born in Virginia in 1856.
- Served as President of Princeton University from 1902 to 1910, and as the Governor of New Jersey from 1911 to 1913.
- Campaigned for the Presidency on a program called the New Freedom, which stressed individualism and states' rights.
- Regarded himself as the personal representative of the people.
- Persuaded a Democratic Congress to pass the Federal Reserve Act, Federal Trade Commission Act, the Clayton Antitrust Act, the Federal Farm Loan Act and America's first-ever federal progressive income tax in the Revenue Act of 1913.
- In 1917 he proclaimed American entrance into World War I a crusade to make the world “safe for democracy.”
- Went to Paris in 1919 to create the League of Nations and shape the Treaty of Versailles.
- Because of his leadership in World War I, he is frequently ranked as one of the greatest U.S. Presidents.
- Died February 1924.



Warren G. Harding, 1921-1923

- Born in Ohio in 1865.
- Served in the Ohio Senate, as Lieutenant Governor of Ohio and as a U.S. Senator.
- Promised a return of the nation to “normalcy” during his presidential campaign, which was conducted in the aftermath of World War I.
- Rewarded friends and political contributors, referred to as the Ohio Gang, with financially powerful positions.
- Rejected the League of Nations and signed a separate peace treaty with Germany and Austria, formally ending World War I.
- Signed the first child welfare program in the United States and dealt with striking workers in the mining and railroad industries.
- Scandals and corruption eventually reached his administration; one of his own cabinet and several of his appointees were eventually tried, convicted, and sent to prison for bribery or defrauding the federal government.
- His Presidency is ranked by historians as one of the worst.
- Died in August 1923.



Calvin Coolidge, 1923-1929

- Born in Vermont in 1872.
- Worked his way up the ladder of Massachusetts state politics, eventually becoming governor.
- Succeeded to the Presidency upon the sudden death of Warren G. Harding in 1923. Elected as President in 1924.
- In his inaugural address, he pledged himself to maintain the status quo of the country.
- Gained a reputation as a small-government conservative, and also as a man who said very little.
- Restored public confidence in the White House after the scandals of Harding's administration, and left office with much popularity.
- During his administration, new forms of communication spread as radios became a part of American homes.
 - Motion pictures were projected with sound, and telephones connected America and Europe.
 - The first two commercial air routes were established, from coast-to-coast and from Chicago to Dallas.
- Was the last Ex-President to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Died in January 1935.



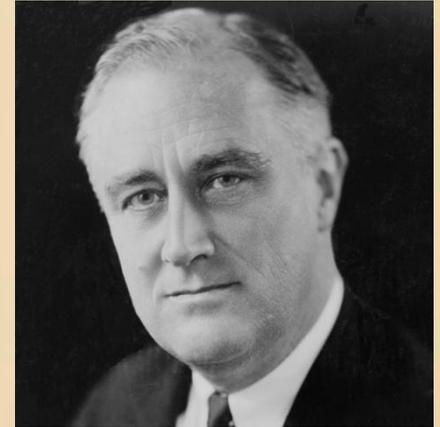
Herbert Hoover, 1929-1933

- Born in Iowa in 1874.
- As the United States Secretary of Commerce in the 1920s, he promoted partnerships between government and business under the term “economic modernization”.
- Brought to the Presidency a reputation for public service as an engineer, administrator, and humanitarian.
- Believed in the Efficiency Movement, which said that government and the economy were riddled with inefficiency and waste, and could be improved by experts who could identify the problems and solve them.
- Tried to fight the Great Depression with volunteer efforts, none of which produced economic recovery during his term.
- In 1947 President Truman appointed Hoover to a commission, which elected him chairman, to reorganize the Executive Departments.
 - He was appointed chairman of a similar commission by President Eisenhower in 1953. Many economies resulted from both commissions’ recommendations.
- Died in October 1964.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933-1945

- Born in 1882 in New York.
- Won election to the New York Senate in 1910.
- President Wilson appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and was the Democratic nominee for Vice President in 1920.
- Became Governor of New York in 1928.
- Assumed the Presidency at the depth of the [Great Depression](#).
- In his first “hundred days,” he launched major legislation and executive orders that gave form to the [New Deal](#)—a complex set of programs designed to produce relief, recovery of the economy, and reform (through regulation of Wall Street, banks and transportation).
- Sought to keep the United States out of the war in Europe, yet at the same time to strengthen nations threatened or attacked.
- Directed organization of the Nation’s manpower and resources for global war when the Japanese attacked [Pearl Harbor](#) on December 7, 1941.
- Devoted much thought to the planning of a [United Nations](#), in which, he hoped, international difficulties could be settled.
- Was the only person who was elected President to four terms: 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944.
- Died in April 1945.



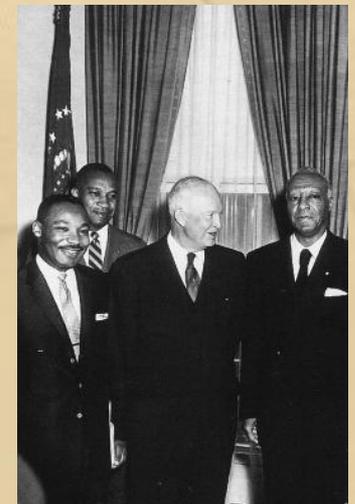
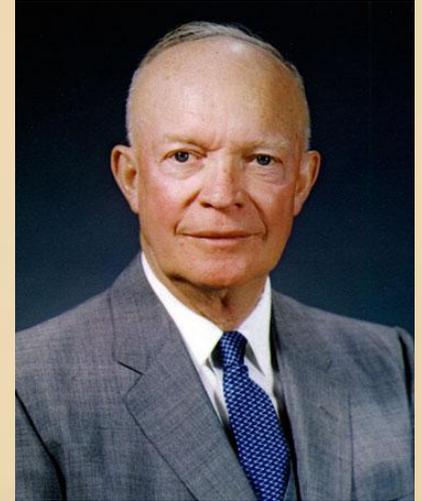
Harry S. Truman, 1945-1953

- Born in Missouri in 1884.
- Became a Senator in 1934.
- Headed the Senate war investigating committee during World War II.
- Became president when Franklin Roosevelt died, then won the election in 1948, but not by popular vote.
- Ordered atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Used executive orders to end racial discrimination in the armed forces.
- Witnessed the signing of the charter of the United Nations in June 1945.
- His administration was eventful in foreign affairs, with the defeat of Nazi Germany, the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe, the Truman Doctrine to contain communism, the beginning of the Cold War, the Berlin Airlift, the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Chinese Civil War, and the Korean War.
- His approval ratings in the polls started out very high, then steadily sank until he was one of the most unpopular men to leave the White House
- Escaped assassination on November 1, 1950.
- Died in December 1972.



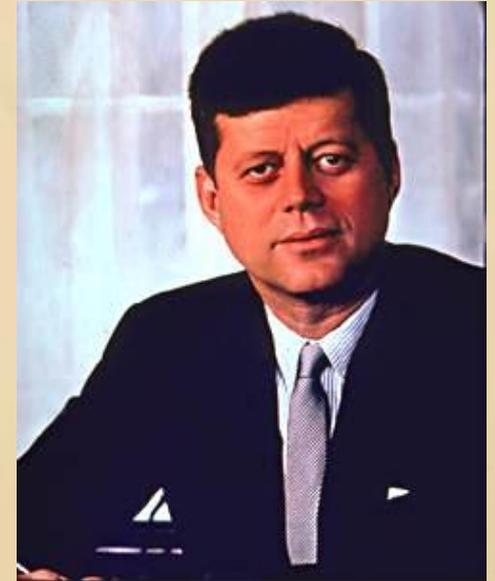
Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-1961

- Born in Texas in 1890.
- Commanded the [Allied Forces landing in North Africa](#) in November 1942; on [D-Day](#), 1944, he was Supreme Commander of the troops invading France.
- In 1951, he became the first supreme commander of NATO.
- Concluded negotiations with China to end the Korean War.
- Had to play catch-up in the [Space Race](#) after the Soviets launched the [Sputnik](#) satellite in 1957.
- Continued most of the New Deal and Fair Deal programs, emphasizing a balanced budget.
- Sent troops to Arkansas to protect black students trying to enroll in [Little Rock High School](#).
- Signed the first [Civil Rights legislation](#) in 1960.
- Concentrated on maintaining world peace.
- Died in March 1969.



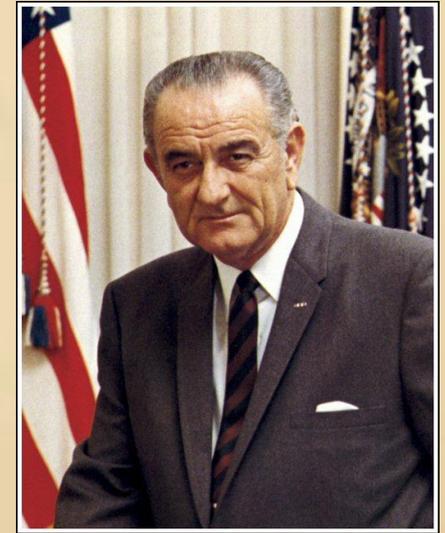
John F. Kennedy, 1961-1963

- Born in Massachusetts in 1917.
- Became a Democratic Congressman from the Boston area in 1947, and in 1953 advanced to the Senate.
- His economic programs launched the country on its longest sustained expansion since World War I.
- Started the Peace Corps.
- Events during his presidency included the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the building of the Berlin Wall, the Space Race, the African American Civil Rights Movement and early stages of the Vietnam War.
- On November 22, 1963, Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas.



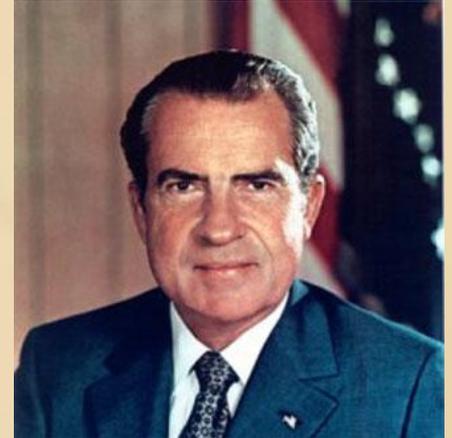
Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1969

- Born in Texas in 1908.
- Served as a United States Representative from Texas, from 1937–1949 and as United States Senator from 1949–1961, including six years as United States Senate Majority Leader, two as Senate Minority Leader and two as Senate Majority Whip.
- Was the first President sworn in on Air Force One after Kennedy’s assassination by a woman, [Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes](#).
- Was responsible for designing the “[Great Society](#)” legislation that included laws that upheld civil rights, Public Broadcasting, [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), environmental protection, aid to education, and his “[War on Poverty](#).”
- Escalated direct American involvement in the Vietnam War.
- Was one of four people who served in all four elected Federal offices of the United States: Representative, Senator, Vice President and President.
- Died in January 1973.



Richard M. Nixon, 1969-1974

- Born in California in 1913.
- Was elected in 1946 as a Republican to the House of Representatives, and in 1950 to the United States Senate.
- Successfully negotiated a ceasefire with North Vietnam in 1973, ending American involvement in the war.
- Visited the People's Republic of China in 1972 and opened diplomatic relations between the two nations, and he initiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union.
- Implemented the concept of New Federalism; new economic policies which called for wage and price control and the abolition of the gold standard; sweeping environmental reforms, including the Clean Air Act and creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; the launch of the War on Cancer and War on Drugs; reforms empowering women, including Title IX; and the desegregation of schools in the deep South.
- The Watergate Scandal led to his resignation.
- Was the only President to resign the office as well as the only person to be elected twice to both the Presidency and the Vice Presidency.
- Died in April 1994.



Gerald R. Ford, 1974-1977

- Born in Nebraska in 1913.
- Served nearly 25 years as a Representative, eight of them as the Republican Minority Leader.
- When he became President upon Richard Nixon's resignation, he became the only President of the United States who was never elected President or Vice-President.
 - He was chosen to be Vice-President under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment.
- Granted former President Nixon a full pardon.
- Signed the Helsinki Accords.
- Provided aid to both Israel and Egypt and helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce agreement.
- Presided over what was then the worst economy since the Great Depression, with growing inflation and a recession during his tenure.
- In 1975, two attempts were made to assassinate him.
- Died in December 2006.



James Carter, 1977-1981

- Born in Georgia in 1924.
- Studied nuclear physics at Annapolis.
- Served two terms as a Georgia State Senator and one as Governor of Georgia, from 1971 to 1975, and was a peanut farmer and naval officer.
- Aspired to make Government “competent and compassionate,” responsive to the American people and their expectations.
- Established a national energy policy that included conservation, price control, and new technology.
- Prompted government efficiency through civil service reform and proceeded with deregulation of the trucking and airline industries.
- Expansion of the national park system included protection of 103 million acres of Alaskan lands.
- In foreign affairs, Carter pursued the [Camp David Accords](#), the [Panama Canal Treaties](#), the second round of [Strategic Arms Limitation Talks](#) (SALT II), and returned the Panama Canal Zone to Panama.
- Strongly emphasized human rights.



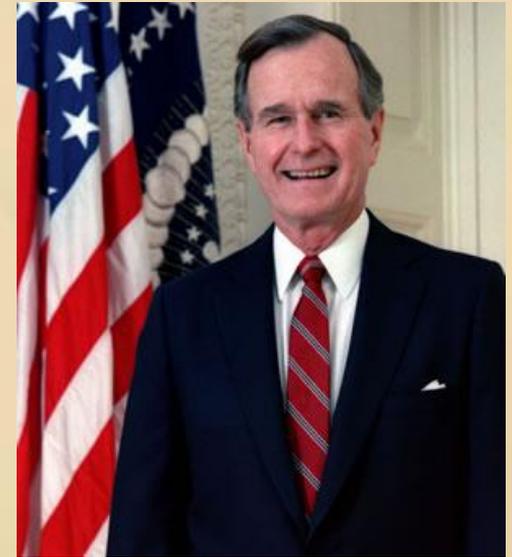
Ronald Reagan, 1981-1989



- Born in Illinois in 1911.
- Began his career as an actor, first in films and later television.
- Was elected Governor of California in 1966.
- Economic policies, dubbed “[Reaganomics](#),” supported reducing tax rates to urge economic growth, controlling the money supply to reduce inflation, deregulation of the economy, and reducing government spending.
- Signed the legislation making [Martin Luther King Jr.’s](#) birthday a federal holiday.
- Obtained an overhaul of the income tax code in 1986.
- Sought to achieve “peace through strength.”
- Increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union.
- Negotiated with Soviet General Secretary [Mikhail Gorbachev](#), culminating in the [INF Treaty](#) and the decrease of both countries’ nuclear arsenals.
- Survived an assassination attempt in 1981.
- Died in 2004.

George H.W. Bush, 1989-1993

- Born in Massachusetts in 1924.
- Was the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings, and flew 58 combat missions during World War II.
- Served two terms as a Congressman.
- Twice he ran unsuccessfully for the Senate.
- Was appointed to a series of high-level positions: Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Chief of the U. S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Foreign policy drove his presidency: military operations were conducted in [Panama](#) and the [Persian Gulf](#) at a time of world change; the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and the Soviet Union dissolved two years later.
 - Hailed the march of democracy but insisted on restraint in U. S. policy toward the group of new nations.
- Reneged on a 1988 campaign promise and after a struggle with Congress, signed an increase in taxes that Congress had passed.



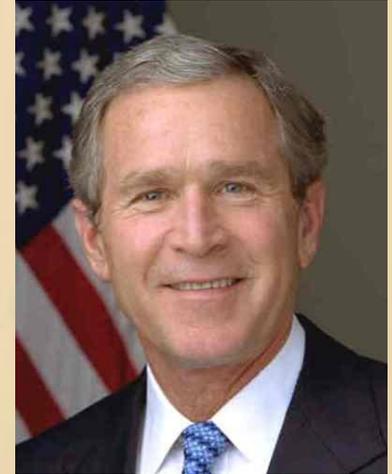
William J. Clinton, 1993-2001

- Born in Arkansas in 1946.
- Was the first President to be a [Rhodes Scholar](#).
- Elected Arkansas Attorney General in 1976 and Governor in 1978.
- Presided over the continuation of an economic expansion that would later become the longest period of peace-time economic expansion in American history.
- Was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice in connection with a scandal involving a White House intern, but was later acquitted by the Senate.
- As part of a plan to celebrate the millennium in 2000, Clinton called for a great national initiative to end racial discrimination.
- Successfully sent peace-keeping forces to Bosnia and bombed Iraq when Saddam Hussein stopped U.N. inspections for evidence of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.
- Became a global proponent for an expanded NATO, more open international trade, and a worldwide campaign against drug trafficking.
- Left office with the highest end-of-office approval rating of any U.S. president since World War II.
- Since leaving office he has been involved in public speaking and humanitarian work.



George W. Bush, 2001-2009

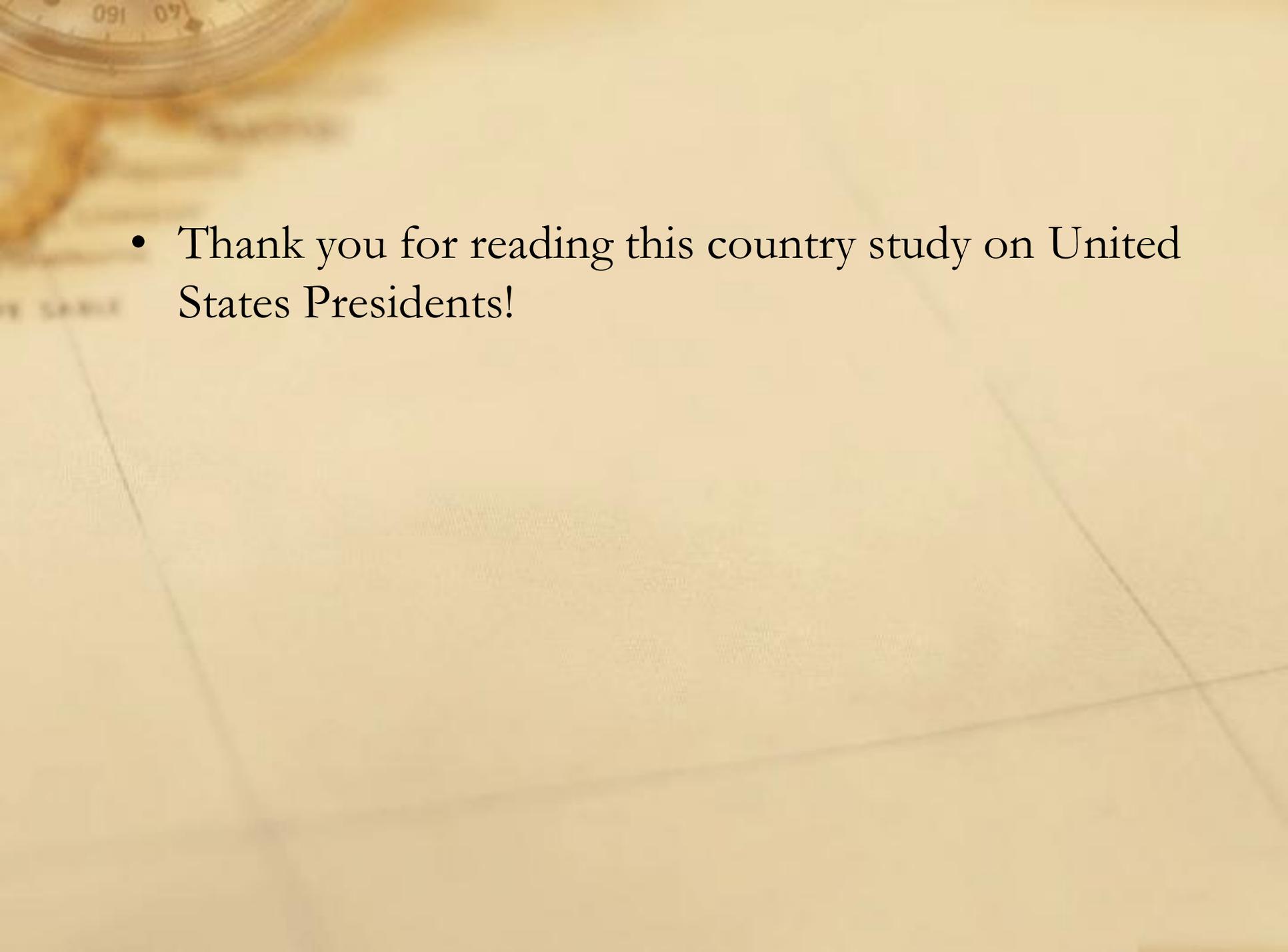
- Born in Connecticut in 1946.
- Elected Governor of Texas in 1994.
- Won the Presidency without a majority vote. Al Gore won the popular vote.
- First initiative as President was the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Withdrew from a number of international treaty processes, notably the Kyoto protocol on global warming.
- Most significant event of President Bush's tenure came on September 11, 2001, when terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people on American soil.
 - After that, he announced a global War on Terrorism, ordered an invasion of Afghanistan that same year and an invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- Promoted policies on the economy, health care, education, and social security reform.
- His tenure saw national debates on immigration, electronic surveillance, waterboarding and other “enhanced interrogation techniques”.
- Is currently a public speaker and has written a book about his life



Barack Obama, 2009-present

- Born in Hawaii in 1961.
- Served three terms in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004.
- Served as a United States Senator from Illinois, from January 2005 until he resigned after his election to the Presidency in November 2008.
- When Obama took office, he inherited a global economic recession; two ongoing foreign wars; and the lowest international favorability rating for the United States ever.
- Signed economic stimulus legislation in the form of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) in February 2009 and the [Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010](#) in December 2010.
- Other domestic policy initiatives include the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#), the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010.
- In foreign policy, Obama gradually withdrew combat troops from Iraq, increased troop levels in Afghanistan, and signed an arms control treaty with Russia. In October 2009, Obama was named the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



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- Thank you for reading this country study on United States Presidents!