

# PRESIDENTIAL



Courtesy of Library of Congress (C) 2004 American Profile

**American voters will go to the polls in November**

to elect our 44th president. But how much do you know about the 42 men who previously held the nation's highest political office?

To mark Presidents' Day, here are some interesting facts courtesy of the National Park Service to help expand your presidential knowledge.

**FIRST PRESIDENT, 1789-1797**

George Washington was the only American president to be unanimously elected and the only president who did not represent a political party.

**SECOND PRESIDENT, 1797-1801**

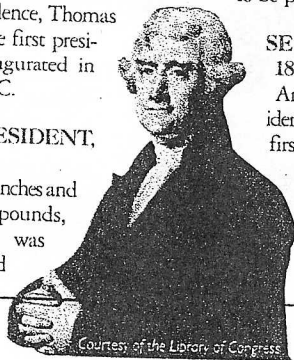
John Adams was the first president to reside in the White House. He moved in November 1800 while the paint was still wet.

**THIRD PRESIDENT, 1801-1809**

The main author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.

**FOURTH PRESIDENT, 1809-1817**

Standing 5 feet, 4 inches and weighing 100 pounds, James Madison was the shortest and



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lightest president. He also was the first president to wear trousers rather than knee breeches.

**FIFTH PRESIDENT, 1817-1825**

James Monroe was the first president to ride a steamboat, and his daughter, Maria Hester, was the first to be a bride in the White House.

**SIXTH PRESIDENT, 1825-1829**

John Quincy Adams was the son of a former president and the first president to be photographed.

**SEVENTH PRESIDENT, 1829-1837**

Andrew Jackson was the first president born in a log cabin and the first to ride in a train. He also was the first to experience and survive an assassination attempt.

**Thomas Jefferson was a founder of the Democratic-Republican Party.**



**James Monroe, the last Revolutionary War veteran to serve as president**

**EIGHTH PRESIDENT, 1837-1841**

Martin Van Buren was the first U.S. president born in the United States. Raised in Kinderhook, N.Y., Van Buren is credited with the term *OK*. After going into politics, he became known as "Old Kinderhook." Soon people began using the term *OK* to refer to Van Buren and the word *okay* was derived.

**NINTH PRESIDENT, 1841**

William Henry Harrison, the only president who studied to be a doctor, served the shortest presidency. He died of pneumonia one month after delivering his

105-minute outdoor inaugural speech without wearing an overcoat or hat.

**10TH PRESIDENT, 1841-1845**

John Tyler was the first vice president to ascend to the presidency upon the death of a president. He also was the president with the most children—15.

**11TH PRESIDENT, 1845-1849**

James K. Polk was the first president to have his inauguration reported by telegraph and the first to fulfill all of his campaign promises.

**12TH PRESIDENT, 1849-1850**

Zachary Taylor did not vote until the age of 62 because he had moved many times as a soldier and had not established an official place of residency.

**13TH PRESIDENT, 1850-1853**

Millard Fillmore refused an honorary degree from Oxford University because he felt he had "neither literary nor scientific attainment."

**14TH PRESIDENT, 1853-1857**

Franklin Pierce was the first president to have a Christmas tree in the White House.

*(Continued on page 12)*

**15TH PRESIDENT, 1841-1845**  
James Buchanan was the only president that never married.

**16TH PRESIDENT, 1849-1865**  
Abraham Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard and the tallest, at 6 feet, 4 inches.

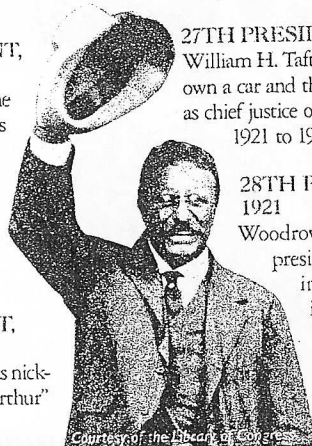
**17TH PRESIDENT, 1865-1869**  
Andrew Johnson was impeached for removing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton during the turbulent Reconstruction period, but was acquitted by one vote in the Senate.

**18TH PRESIDENT, 1869-1877**  
Ulysses S. Grant was a Union commander during the Civil War and established Yellowstone as the first national park in 1872.

**19TH PRESIDENT, 1877-1881**  
Rutherford B. Hayes banished liquor and wine from the White House and held the first Easter egg roll on the White House lawn.

**20TH PRESIDENT, 1881**  
James Garfield was the last of seven presidents born in a log cabin and the second president to die by assassination, two months after being sworn into office.

**21ST PRESIDENT, 1881-1885**  
Chester A. Arthur was nicknamed "Elegant Arthur" for his fashion sense.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

**22ND PRESIDENT, 1885-1889**  
Grover Cleveland personally answered the White House phone and was the only president married in a ceremony at the White House, on June 2, 1886.

**23RD PRESIDENT, 1889-1893**  
Benjamin Harrison was the only president to be a grandson of a president and the first president to use electricity in the White House.

**24TH PRESIDENT, 1893-1897**  
Grover Cleveland was the only president to be elected to nonconsecutive terms and the first to have a child born in the White House: his daughter Esther in 1895.

**25TH PRESIDENT, 1897-1901**  
William McKinley was the first president to ride in an automobile, the first to campaign by telephone and the third to die from an assassin's wound.

**26TH PRESIDENT, 1901-1909**  
Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to call his residence in Washington, D.C., the "White House."

**27TH PRESIDENT, 1909-1913**  
William H. Taft was the first president to own a car and the only president to serve as chief justice of the United States, from 1921 to 1930.

**28TH PRESIDENT, 1913-1921**

Woodrow Wilson is the only president buried in Washington, D.C. He is interred at Washington National Cathedral.

**Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.**

**29TH PRESIDENT, 1921-1923**  
Warren G. Harding was the first president to speak over the radio and the first newspaper publisher to be elected to the presidency. He also had the largest feet of any president: size 14.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

**35TH PRESIDENT, 1961-1963**  
John F. Kennedy was the first Roman Catholic president, the first president born in the 20th century and the first president to hold a press conference on television. At age 43, he also was the youngest American elected president, and, at 46, the youngest to die in office.

**30TH PRESIDENT, 1923-1929**  
Calvin Coolidge lit the first national Christmas tree in 1923 on the White House lawn and refused to use the telephone while he was in office.

**31ST PRESIDENT, 1929-1933**  
Herbert Hoover approved "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem and was the first president born west of the Mississippi River, in West Branch, Iowa.

**32ND PRESIDENT, 1933-1945**  
Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only American president to serve four terms.

**33RD PRESIDENT, 1945-1953**  
Harry S. Truman was the first president to give a speech on television and the first president to travel underwater in a submarine.

**36TH PRESIDENT, 1963-1969**  
Before becoming a politician, Lyndon B. Johnson was a high school teacher in Texas.

**37TH PRESIDENT, 1969-1974**  
Richard Nixon was the first president to visit all 50 states, the first president to visit China and the only U.S. president to resign.

**38TH PRESIDENT, 1974-1977**  
Gerald R. Ford, who once worked as a fashion model, became vice president and president without being elected to either office.

**39TH PRESIDENT, 1977-1981**  
Jimmy Carter was the first president born in a hospital.

**40TH PRESIDENT, 1981-1989**  
At age 69, Ronald W. Reagan became the oldest person—and first actor—ever elected U.S. president.

**41ST PRESIDENT, 1989-1993**  
George H.W. Bush was the first vice president elected president since Martin Van Buren, and also the first vice president to lose re-election since Van Buren.

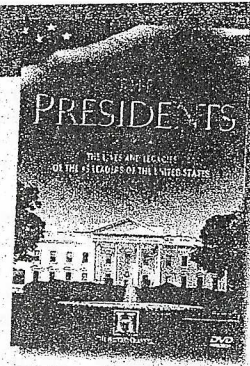
**42ND PRESIDENT, 1993-2001**  
William J. Clinton was the first president to be a Rhodes Scholar.

**43RD PRESIDENT, 2001-2008**  
George W. Bush was the first son of a president to become president since John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams. ☆

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