

# The Complete Book of Presidential Trivia



## CHAPTER

# ★ 1 ★

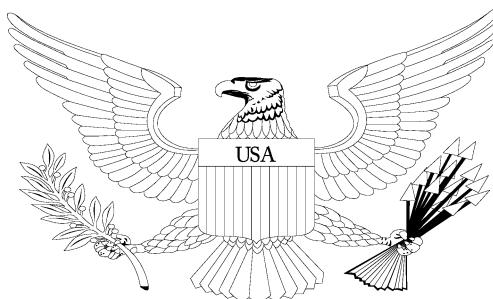
# Presidential Potpourri

### The One and Only . . .

Human beings are incurable list-makers, and we can't resist making lists of "onlys." There's something about uniqueness that fascinates us, and that definitely applies to people as visible as our presidents.

1. Who was the only Catholic president?
2. What conservative and pro-family politician was the only divorced man to serve as president?
3. Who was the only president who never married?
4. And who was the only bachelor president to marry while in office?
5. Who was the only "Yankee Doodle Dandy," born on the Fourth of July?
6. Who was the only president elected more than twice?
7. Who was the only president weighing over 300 pounds?
8. Who was the only one who was elected neither president nor vice president?
9. Who is the only prez whose state of birth is uncertain?
10. Who were the only two sons of presidents to become president?
11. Who was the only president who had served as Speaker of the House?

12. Who are the only two presidents buried in Arlington National Cemetery?
13. Who is the only one born outside the continental U.S.?
14. Who was the only one elected to another nation's Congress?
15. Who was the only president to die in the Capitol?
16. Who is the only president buried in Washington, D.C.?
17. Who was the only president to be married in the White House?
18. Besides the man in question 17, who were the only other presidents to marry while in office?
19. Who was the only president to win a Pulitzer Prize?
20. Who was the only president *not* to live in the White House?
21. Who were the only two that died in the White House? (Hint: both military heroes)
22. Who is the only president with a monument depicting him in a wheelchair?
23. Who were the only two who did not attend the inaugurations of their successors? (Hint: They were related.)



## The One and Only . . . (answers)

1. John F. Kennedy.
2. Ronald Reagan. His first wife was actress Jane Wyman, back in his Hollywood days, and their divorce was her idea, not his.
3. James Buchanan, "Old Buck."
4. Grover Cleveland, who married the much younger Frances Folsom in 1886. He was also the only president who married in the White House.
5. Calvin Coolidge, born in 1872.
6. Franklin D. Roosevelt, elected a grand total of four times, though he did not live to finish his last term, dying in 1945.
7. The gargantuan William Howard Taft, who weighed in at over 330 pounds.
8. Gerald R. Ford, who filled the slot vacated by Nixon's scandal-plagued vice president Spiro Agnew. Ford became president when Nixon resigned.
9. Andrew Jackson, who was born in a settlement called Waxhaw, somewhere near the state line of North Carolina and South Carolina. Jackson believed he was born in South Carolina, but we aren't 100 percent sure.
10. John Quincy Adams, sixth president, son of John Adams, second president, and George W. Bush, forty-third president, son of George H. W. Bush, forty-first president.
11. James K. Polk.
12. William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy.
13. Barack Obama, born in Hawaii.
14. John Tyler, that nation being the Confederacy. Tyler was elected in 1861 but died before he ever served.
15. John Quincy Adams, who collapsed on the House floor and died in the Speaker's chamber.
16. Woodrow Wilson, buried in National Cathedral, as is his second wife.

17. Grover Cleveland, who married Frances Folsom at the White House in 1886.
18. John Tyler, who married his second wife in New York, and Woodrow Wilson, who married his second wife in Washington (but not in the White House).
19. John F. Kennedy, who won in 1957 for *Profiles in Courage*. A number of critics believe the book may have been ghostwritten.
20. George Washington.
21. William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor.
22. Franklin Roosevelt. The statue in Washington was dedicated in May 1997. There was some long debating about whether the FDR memorial would show him with or without the wheelchair.
23. John Adams, who did not attend the inauguration of Jefferson, and son John Quincy Adams, who did not attend the inauguration of Jackson.



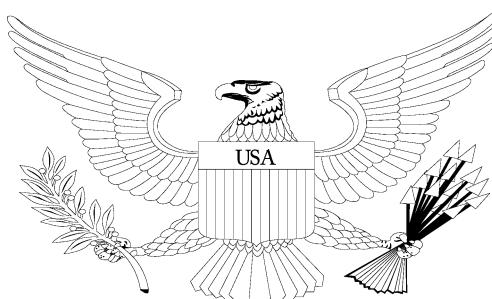
## Famous Firsts

What book of trivia would be complete without questions about the firsts? They range from the significant (the first to resign was pretty important, considering the circumstances that led to his resignation) to the supremely trivial (the first to have a middle name). Have fun with these famous firsts, since they give a sort of quickie tour of American history.

1. In August 1974, who became the first president to resign?
2. In the 1980s, what Republican president submitted the first *trillion*-dollar budget to Congress?
3. In September 1960, the first televised presidential debates took place. Who were the debaters?
4. Who was first to see his wife elected to the U.S. Senate?
5. What Massachusetts-born president was the first with a middle name?
6. What 20th-century president was the first to be born in a hospital? (Hint: peanuts)

7. Who was the first vice president to become Acting President, for about eight hours in 1985?
8. Who was the first president born in the twentieth century? (Hint: assassination)
9. During the War of 1812, who became the first president to face enemy gunfire while in office?
10. In 1835 who became the first (and only) president to pay off the national debt?
11. Eisenhower was in charge at the first presidential press conference to be televised. What year?
12. The first presidential baby born in the White House was the daughter of whom?
13. On September 4, 1951, President Truman addressed a peace treaty conference in San Francisco. What was the significance of this address?
14. Who was the first president whose parents survived him?
15. What daring deed did former President George H. W. Bush do on March 25, 1997?
16. Who was the first president to have impeachment proceedings against him introduced in Congress? (Hint: *not* Andrew Johnson)
17. Who was the first to actually leave U.S. soil while in office?
18. Whose was the first presidential funeral broadcast on radio?
19. Who was the first president to wear a beard?
20. Who was the first president to hold regular press conferences?
21. What New Yorker was the first to have a black person as a formal guest at the White House?
22. Who was the first to *walk* the inaugural route from the Capitol to the White House? (Hint: big grin)
23. Who was first to wear long pants instead of knee-breeches?
24. Who was first to be born outside the thirteen original states?

25. Who oversaw the establishment of the first national park?  
(Hint: It was Yellowstone.)
26. Who was the first to fly the U.S. flag from public buildings?  
(Hint: Union veteran)
27. What large Republican was first to pay federal income tax on his presidential salary?
28. Who was the first to have “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the national anthem?
29. What Republican was the first to use helicopters for short presidential trips?
30. What Republican was the first president to visit all fifty states?
31. What early president was the first to shake hands instead of bow to his guests?
32. Who was the first to have his wife called “First Lady”? (Hint: wartime)
33. What familiar presidential song was played at a July 1828 ceremony at which John Quincy Adams officiated?
34. Who was the first American president who was born an American?
35. Who was the first to address the legislature of Russia?
36. Who was the first to appear on film?



## Famous Firsts (answers)

1. Richard Nixon.
2. Ronald Reagan.
3. Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy.
4. Bill Clinton. Hillary Clinton was elected as senator from New York in November 2000.
5. John Quincy Adams. (This is fortunate, since it helps distinguish him from his father, President John Adams.)
6. Jimmy Carter.
7. George H. W. Bush, vice president under Reagan.
8. John F. Kennedy, born in 1917.
9. James Madison.
10. Andrew Jackson. (Ah, how times have changed.)
11. 1955.
12. Grover Cleveland. His daughter Esther was born in the White House in 1893.
13. It was the first transcontinental TV broadcast, carried by 94 stations.
14. John F. Kennedy, assassinated at the young age of forty-six.
15. Bush, age 72, parachuted from a plane using a rainbow chute. He was the only president to ever have parachuted, having also done so in 1944 while bailing out of his bullet-ridden plane during World War II.
16. John Tyler, tenth president. The proposal to defeat him was defeated in 1843, so technically he was almost (but not quite) impeached.
17. Woodrow Wilson.
18. William Howard Taft's, in 1930.
19. Abraham Lincoln.
20. Woodrow Wilson.
21. Theodore Roosevelt, who peeved some Southerners when he had educator Booker T. Washington as a White House guest.
22. Jimmy Carter, at his 1977 inauguration.

23. James Madison. (Considering how short Madison was, perhaps the pants he wore to his ankles had been someone else's knee pants.) For the record, though Madison wore long pants, the next president, James Monroe, preferred knee pants.
24. Abraham Lincoln, born in Kentucky.
25. Ulysses S. Grant.
26. Benjamin Harrison.
27. William Howard Taft.
28. Herbert Hoover. It became the national anthem in 1931.
29. Dwight Eisenhower.
30. Richard Nixon.
31. Thomas Jefferson, who thought bowing was a bit too aristocratic, though Washington and Adams rather liked it.
32. Probably Abraham Lincoln. Mary Lincoln was spoken of as "First Lady of the Land," a title which was, thankfully, shortened.
33. "Hail to the Chief," which at the time was probably *not* played to honor the president, but rather played because it was a popular tune. Later, under Tyler and Polk, it became *the* presidential song.
34. Martin Van Buren, born in 1782, and thus the first president who was not a British subject when he was born.
35. Bill Clinton. The Russian legislature is known as the Duma.
36. Grover Cleveland, shown in 1895 signing a bill into law.



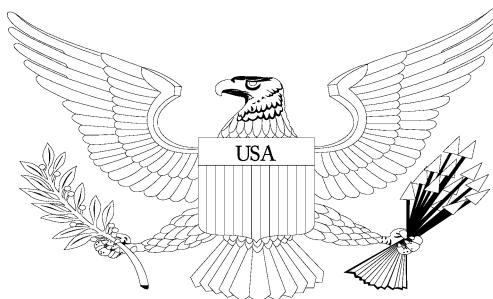
## Assassinations, and Some Attempts at It

America began with a revolution, but Americans have generally been horrified at assassinations. The usual wisdom is, if you don't like the president, vote him out in four years. But from early on there have been some assassination attempts, with some of them, alas, successful.

1. What alleged assassin was killed by Jack Ruby on November 24, 1963?
2. What federal agency took on the job of guarding the president after William McKinley's assassination in 1901?

3. What Republican president's shooting in 1981 caused the Oscar broadcast to be delayed?
4. Whose assassination was the Warren Commission appointed to investigate in 1964?
5. Chicago mayor Anton Cermak was killed by assassin Giuseppe Zangara in 1933. At what newly elected president was Zangara actually aiming?
6. The year 1881 was a "year of three presidents." Who were they?
7. What popular president of the 1800s was the first to survive an assassination attempt? (Hint: Old Hickory)
8. What Democratic presidential hopeful was fatally shot in 1968 by Sirhan Sirhan?
9. When Abraham Lincoln was shot, which of his cabinet members was also critically wounded?
10. The Dr. Samuel Mudd House can be toured in Waldorf, Maryland. What is Mudd's claim to fame?
11. What former president was shot while campaigning for president in Milwaukee in 1912? (Hint: bear)
12. Buffalo, New York, has a statue of a 20th-century president assassinated there. Who?
13. What president, assassinated in 1881, had said of the presidency, "What is there in this place that a man should ever want to get in it?"
14. Ford's Theatre in D.C. was the scene of what famous assassination?
15. The Sixth Floor is a Dallas, Texas, museum devoted to what famous assassination?
16. What Republican president did "Squeaky" Fromme try to assassinate in 1975?
17. What president was, in 1950, almost fatally shot by Puerto Rican nationalists?

18. The Surratt House in Clinton, Maryland, focuses on the escape of what presidential assassin?
19. What was the fate of Richard Lawrence, caught in his attempt to assassinate Andrew Jackson?
20. Who delivered an hour-long speech after being shot by assassin John Schrank?
21. Who, as a Republican vice president, faced a violent, angry mob when he landed in Caracas, Venezuela?



## Assassinations, and Some Attempts at It (answers)

1. Lee Harvey Oswald, arrested for shooting John F. Kennedy.
2. The Secret Service.
3. Ronald Reagan, shot (but not killed) by John Hinckley, Jr. It was appropriate that the Oscar telecast was postponed, since Reagan had been a movie actor.
4. The assassination of John F. Kennedy, shot in November 1963.
5. Franklin Roosevelt.
6. Rutherford Hayes (whose term had ended), James Garfield (newly elected, then assassinated), and Chester Arthur (president after Garfield's assassination).
7. Andrew Jackson. The spunky Jackson turned on his assailant, ready to beat him senseless with his cane.
8. Robert F. Kennedy.

9. William Seward, his Secretary of State, famous for having purchased Alaska for the U.S. Unlike Lincoln, Seward survived.
10. Dr. Mudd treated the broken leg of runaway assassin John Wilkes Booth, quite unaware that Booth had just shot Abraham Lincoln. Mudd was imprisoned for awhile but later pardoned.
11. Teddy Roosevelt, who escaped unhurt.
12. William McKinley, killed in 1901.
13. James Garfield.
14. Abraham Lincoln's, in 1865. The theatre has been restored to its appearance at the time Lincoln was shot.
15. John F. Kennedy's. The fatal shot came from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, now a museum.
16. Gerald Ford.
17. Harry Truman.
18. John Wilkes Booth, who shot Lincoln. The Surratt family aided Booth in his attempted escape.
19. He was committed to an asylum. The court found him not guilty by reason of insanity. Lawrence, a lunatic, claimed he was the rightful heir to the throne of England, and that Jackson had prevented him from taking the throne.
20. Theodore Roosevelt. This was in 1912, when TR was running on the "Bull Moose" ticket.
21. Richard Nixon.



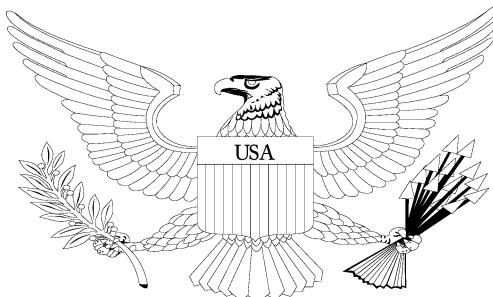
## Naming the Presidents

Sometimes a baby is named just because the name "sounds nice." Some are named to honor someone, say, a family member or someone famous. As you will see from the questions below, some presidents started out in life with one name and gained fame with another.

1. Who was the first president with a middle name?

2. Who had a middle initial but no middle name?
3. Who dropped his first name, John, because it was also his father's name?
4. How many presidents had the same first name as their fathers?
5. Who was originally named Hiram?
6. How many presidents have had their mother's maiden name in their name?
7. Who was named for his father's predecessor as pastor at a New Jersey church?
8. Who was named for the Dr. Abell who delivered him?
9. Who was named for his grandfather, James Knox?
10. Whose middle name was that of his great-grandfather, Speaker of the Massachusetts Assembly?
11. Whose first name was his mother's maiden name?
12. Whose middle name, Abram, was his father's first name? (Hint: assassinated)
13. Who was the only president named for a hero of Greek mythology?
14. Who reversed his middle and first names?
15. Who was named for his maternal grandfather, known as "Honey Fitz"?
16. Who was named for W. C. Linden, a family friend?
17. Who was born Leslie Lynch King but renamed after he was adopted?
18. Who was named for his great-uncle, a Methodist minister? (Hint: He died in office.)
19. Who was named for his maternal grandfather, a Presbyterian minister?
20. Who was named for his great-grandfather, a signer of the Declaration of Independence?

21. How many presidents were named for their grandfathers?
22. Who is the only president to have a president's last name in his own name?
23. What has been the most common first name for presidents?
24. The last names of eight U.S. presidents end in what same three letters?
25. What three presidents went by their middle names?



### Naming the Presidents (answers)

1. John Quincy Adams.
2. Harry S. Truman. Both his grandfathers had "S" names, so the middle initial honored both.
3. Calvin Coolidge, born John Calvin Coolidge.
4. Lots—specifically, thirteen: John Adams, James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, James Buchanan, Rutherford Hayes (surprise!), William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, and George W. Bush. Some, certainly not all, were officially "Juniors."
5. Ulysses S. Grant, at first named Hiram Ulysses Grant. When he went to West Point, he found they had mistakenly listed him as Ulysses Simpson Grant. (Simpson was his mother's maiden name.) He went along with the change, not missing the name Hiram. (Who would?) Interestingly, one of his younger brothers was named Simpson.
6. Ten—James Knox Polk, Millard Fillmore, Rutherford Birchard Hayes,

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Richard Milhous Nixon, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and George Herbert Walker Bush (Walker being his mother's maiden name). Ulysses S. Grant is sometimes said to be Ulysses Simpson Grant, but in fact he was born Hiram Ulysses Grant.

7. Grover Cleveland, full name Stephen Grover Cleveland, and named for Reverend Stephen Grover.
8. Chester A. Arthur, named for Chester Abell.
9. James K. Polk. The "K" is for Knox.
10. John Quincy Adams.
11. Millard Fillmore, whose mother was born Phoebe Millard.
12. James A Garfield.
13. Ulysses S. Grant.
14. Dwight David Eisenhower, born David Dwight Eisenhower. He went by Dwight to avoid confusion with his father David.
15. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, named for John Fitzgerald.
16. Lyndon Johnson, whose mother altered the spelling from Linden.
17. Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr., named for his adoptive father.
18. Warren Gamaliel Harding, named for the Reverend Warren Gamaliel Bancroft.
19. Woodrow Wilson—full name Thomas Woodrow Wilson, named for the Reverend Thomas Woodrow.
20. Benjamin Harrison.
21. Ten—Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren, James Knox Polk, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant (original first name Hiram, after a grandfather), Chester Alan Arthur (his middle name after his grandfather), Woodrow Wilson, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and George Herbert Walker Bush.
22. William *Jefferson* Clinton.
23. James—as in Madison, Monroe, Polk, Buchanan, Garfield, and Carter, six in all. A close second is John—as in Adams, Quincy Adams, Tyler, Coolidge (his first name, Calvin being his middle name), and Kennedy.

24. Son. Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, William Henry Harrison, Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Harrison, Wilson, Lyndon Johnson. (And how about Nick-son?)
25. Stephen Grover Cleveland, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, and John Calvin Coolidge. Technically, Grant would qualify, since he was named Hiram Ulysses Grant by his parents, but at West Point became Ulysses S. Grant and stayed that way.



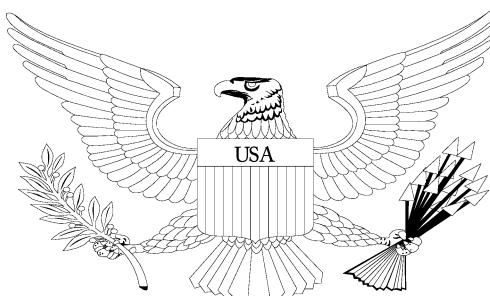
## Nicknaming the Presidents

Ah, the joy of nicknames—sometimes admiring, sometimes cruel, sometimes puzzling. A few of the ones below will be quite familiar, and others may leave you wondering “Where’d he get that from?”

1. Who was “Old Hickory”?
2. What early president was known as “His Rotundity”?
3. Why did William Henry Harrison have the nickname “Old Tippecanoe”?
4. Who was “Old Buck”?
5. What 20th-century Republican was “Dutch” in his younger days?
6. Who was the “Red Fox of Kinderhook”?
7. What was Zachary Taylor’s “rough” nickname?
8. Who was “Rutherford”?
9. What portly man was known as the “Big Lub” in his school days?
10. Who did the vanquished Indians refer to as “Sharp Knife”?
11. What recent president was “Little Pop” or “Poppy” in his younger days?
12. Who was “Young Hickory”?
13. Who was “Tricky Dickie”?
14. Who was “Handsome Frank”?

15. Who was the “Silent” president?
16. Who was the “Rail-Splitter”?
17. Who was “Little Ben”?
18. What philandering Republican was known as “Winnie” in his childhood?
19. Who was known to all his friends as “Bert”?
20. Who was the “Ike” that everyone liked?
21. Who was always known as “Jack” to friends and family?
22. Who was the “Little Magician”?
23. What ex-president became known as “Old Man Eloquent” in the House?
24. Who was the “Great Communicator”?
25. Why was John Tyler “His Accidency”?
26. Who was known by his political enemies as “the Beast of Buffalo”?
27. Who was known, from his Civil War days, as “Unconditional Surrender”?
28. What recent Republican president was called the “Teflon President” because scandals never seemed to stick to him?
29. Who was “Slick Willie”?
30. Who was the “Tennessee Tailor”?
31. What beefy Union veteran was the “Idol of Ohio”?
32. What dapper gent was the “Gentleman Boss” and the “Dude President”?
33. What Southern man was called “Hot” as a boy?
34. What former Ohio canal worker was “Boatman Jim”?
35. What rotund New Englander was the “Duke of Braintree”?
36. What Union veteran was “Wobbly Willie”?
37. What portly man was both “Uncle Jumbo” and “Big Steve”?
38. What wise, multi-talented man was the “Sage of Monticello”?

39. What short Ohio man was the “Human Iceberg”?
40. What Virginian has a place in history as “Father of the Constitution”?
41. Who was “Big Will”?
42. What man was a great military leader but sometimes hissed as a “Useless” president”?
43. Who was “Little Mat” and “Matty”?
44. What short Tennessean was known as “Napoleon of the Stump”?
45. Who was “Rud” as a boy?
46. Who was sometimes called the “Ohio Napoleon” for his habit of putting one hand inside his coat while speaking?
47. What *very* serious Duke University law student (and California resident) got the nickname “Gloomy Gus”?
48. Who was the “Preacher President”?
49. What adopted child was “Junie” (short for “Junior”) as a boy? (Hint: Michigan)
50. Who, while serving in the House, was sometimes called “the Madman of Massachusetts” by Southerners?
51. What very laidback man had the habit of dozing off in public places, leading his wife to call him “Sleeping Beauty”?



## Nicknaming the Presidents (answers)

1. Andrew Jackson. The frontiersmen knew Jackson as a tough guy, tough as the wood of the hickory tree.
2. John Adams, always a bit chunky.
3. The Battle of Tippecanoe, at which Harrison was victorious, spelled the end of Indian resistance in the region of Indiana.
4. James Buchanan.
5. Ronald Reagan.
6. Martin Van Buren, a redhead, whose home was Kinderhook, New York. The “Fox” name alluded to his political savvy.
7. “Old Rough and Ready.” Taylor was known for his plainness and scorn of military “spit and polish.” He was a contrast to the pompous General Winfield Scott, known as “Old Fuss and Feathers.”
8. Rutherford Hayes. He never lived down the fact that in the election of 1872 there was deep suspicion of voter fraud. Hayes got fewer votes than his opponent, but won the electoral college by one vote—though this was disputed. Hayes was also called “His Fraudulency.”
9. The hulking William Howard Taft.
10. Andrew Jackson.
11. George H. W. Bush.
12. James K. Polk, a follower of the principles of “Old Hickory,” Andrew Jackson, a Tennessean like himself.
13. Richard Nixon. The name really came into wide use after the Watergate scandal broke.
14. Franklin Pierce, whose good looks were more notable than his political wisdom.
15. Calvin Coolidge, known as “Silent Cal.” He was correct when he said, “The Coolidges never slop over.”
16. Abraham Lincoln, of course. Like most backwoods men, he knew how to split logs for rail fences.
17. Benjamin Harrison, only 5’6”.
18. Warren G. Harding.

19. Herbert Hoover.
20. Dwight Eisenhower. Rumor has it that all the boys in his family were nicknamed Ike.
21. John F. Kennedy.
22. Martin Van Buren.
23. John Quincy Adams, who was both old and eloquent. The name “Old Man Eloquent” was, by the way, taken from poet John Milton’s “Sonnet X.” This must have pleased Adams, who was a great admirer of Milton.
24. Ronald Reagan.
25. He only became president because William Henry Harrison had died. He became the first vice president to succeed to the presidency.
26. Grover Cleveland, who was from Buffalo and had served as its mayor.
27. Ulysses S. Grant. Note that his initials are “U.S.” His nickname came from his demanding unconditional surrender from the Confederates at Fort Donelson in Tennessee.
28. Ronald Reagan.
29. Bill Clinton, who seemed to have as much “Teflon” as Ronald Reagan had, if not more.
30. Andrew Johnson, whose occupation was indeed tailoring.
31. William McKinley.
32. Chester A. Arthur. “Elegant Arthur” was another of his effete nicknames.
33. Jimmy Carter. “Hot” was short for “Hot Shot.”
34. James A. Garfield.
35. John Adams. He lived in Braintree, Massachusetts, and was “the Duke” because (his opponents said) he liked to put on airs.
36. William McKinley. His opponents accused him of being indecisive and changeable.
37. Grover Cleveland, whose first name was Stephen.
38. Thomas Jefferson.
39. Benjamin Harrison, who was cuddly and warm with his family, but chilly to everyone else.

40. James Madison.
41. William Howard Taft.
42. Grant. “Useless” was a spoof of the name Ulysses.
43. Martin Van Buren.
44. James K. Polk. “Stump” referring to “stump speaking.”
45. Rutherford Hayes.
46. William McKinley.
47. Richard Nixon.
48. James Garfield, who had done some lay preaching for his denomination, the Disciples of Christ.
49. Gerald Ford, who had been renamed Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr. after his stepfather.
50. John Quincy Adams, whose passion while speaking sometimes led people (especially his enemies) to doubt his sanity.
51. Plump (and well-rested) William Howard Taft, who seemed to enjoy sleeping almost as much as he enjoyed eating.



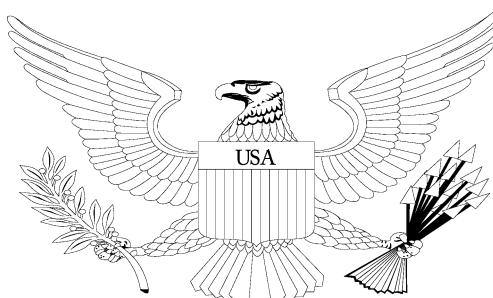
## Mr. President, Mr. Author

Most of our presidents had to have a way with words—presenting them in public or on paper, preferably both. More than a few tried their hand at the author trade, and along the way they produced, to no one’s surprise, an occasional best-seller.

1. Who was credited with writing *Why England Slept* and the Pulitzer-winning *Profiles in Courage*?
2. What Republican’s 1988 autobiography was titled *Looking Forward*?
3. What New Englander published his *Autobiography* in 1929, four years before his death?
4. What much-published man wrote (among many others) *Rough Riders*, *Hunting Trip of a Ranchman*, and *The Winning of the West*?

5. What professor-president wrote *Congressional Government*, *George Washington*, and the five-volume *History of the American People*?
6. Whose autobiographies are *Where's the Rest of Me?* and *An American Life*?
7. Which failed president (but successful judge) wrote *Our Chief Magistrate and His Power*?
8. What chunky Democrat wrote *Presidential Problems* and *Fishing and Shooting Sketches*?
9. What former general's two volumes of *Personal Memoirs* were written while he was dying from throat cancer?
10. What Southerner's books include *Why Not the Best?*, *Keeping Faith*, and *Everything to Gain*?
11. Who published a book about his *Administration On the Eve of the Rebellion*?
12. Who published the 1979 book *A Time to Heal*?
13. Whose four-volume diary of the White House years was published in 1910?
14. What word-happy intellectual wrote *Dermot MacMorrogh, or, The Conquest of Ireland*, a long narrative poem?
15. Whose various books include *The Real War, Real Peace*, and *No More Vietnams*?
16. What early president wrote *A View of the Conduct of the Executive in the Foreign Affairs of the United States*?
17. Who was one of the three contributors to that amazing series known as *The Federalist Papers*? (Hint: He was short.)
18. What New Englander wrote *A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*?
19. What popular propaganda author was thought by many people to be the author of the Declaration of Independence, which Thomas Jefferson wrote?
20. What military man wrote *Crusade in Europe*, *Mandate for Change*, and *At Ease: Stories I Tell To Friends*?

21. What Virginian wrote *Notes on the State of Virginia*?
22. What bespectacled man wrote *Years of Trial and Hope* and *Mr. Citizen*?
23. What Democrat's only book was *The Happy Warrior: Alfred E. Smith*?
24. Whose many, *many* books include *Principles of Mining*, *Fishing for Fun*, and *An American Epic*? (Hint: the Depression)
25. What Virginian, as a Princeton student, wrote "Poem on the Rising Glory of America"?
26. What early (and pudgy) president was flattered because many people thought he was the author of the popular *Common Sense*?
27. What Texan published *The Vantage Point: Perspectives of the Presidency*?
28. Who wrote *Discourses on Davilia*, comparing the French Revolution to the American?
29. Who wrote *The Challenges to Liberty*, an attack on the expansion of government under Franklin Roosevelt?
30. Who, after being defeated in his first run for the presidency, described his career in *Six Crises*?
31. Who, while a congressman, published *Portrait of the Assassin*, a book about the JFK assassination?
32. Who wrote *The Audacity of Hope*?



## Mr. President, Mr. Author (answers)

1. John F. Kennedy. Quite a few historians seem sure that books were not by JFK himself but were ghostwritten. This may be true of some other books “by” the presidents.
2. George H. W. Bush’s.
3. Calvin Coolidge. As expected from “Silent Cal,” the book is not very revealing.
4. Theodore Roosevelt.
5. Woodrow Wilson.
6. Ronald Reagan’s. The title of the first is from a famous line by Reagan in the movie *King’s Row*.
7. William Howard Taft, who fared better as chief justice than as president.
8. Grover Cleveland.
9. Ulysses S. Grant. After his death, the books helped support his survivors.
10. Jimmy Carter.
11. James Buchanan.
12. Gerald Ford. The “healing” was what he felt was needed after the Watergate scandal.
13. James K. Polk.
14. John Quincy Adams. The long poem was his “therapy” after losing to Andrew Jackson in 1828. It concerns England’s King Henry II’s invasion of Ireland.
15. Richard Nixon.
16. James Monroe.
17. James Madison. The other authors were Alexander Hamilton and John Jay.
18. John Adams.
19. Thomas Paine.
20. Dwight Eisenhower.

21. Thomas Jefferson.
22. Harry S. Truman.
23. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
24. Herbert Hoover.
25. James Madison.
26. John Adams. *Common Sense* was by Thomas Paine.
27. Lyndon Johnson.
28. John Adams. The writings offended Thomas Jefferson, leading to a break in their friendship.
29. FDR's predecessor, Herbert Hoover, who did not think highly of FDR's ways of coping with the Depression. Historians, and people in general, preferred FDR's methods to Hoover's, but Hoover was correct in asserting that FDR did expand the government hugely to cope with the Depression.
30. Richard Nixon. The book was published in 1962.
31. Gerald Ford, who had been a member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination and concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone.
32. Barack Obama.

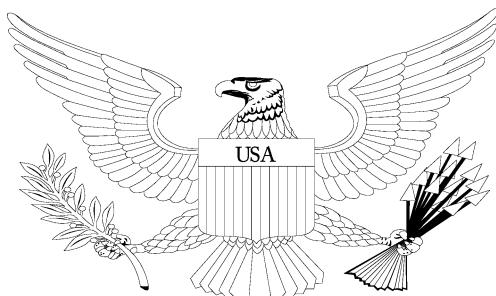


## Holidays, Holy Days, and Other Special Days

Observing special days is as old as humankind itself. We need reminders of events and people that made us who we are. Inevitably, the presidents had some connections with these special days, sometimes even *creating* them.

1. What president's farewell address used to be read aloud in the Senate every year on his birthday?
2. In 1915 President Wilson designated what holiday to fall on the second Sunday in May?
3. What assassinated president's February 12 birthday became a federal holiday in 1892?
4. On what patriotic holiday did John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe die?

5. Presidents' Day combines the birthdays of which two presidents born in February?
6. On what Christian holiday was Abraham Lincoln shot? (Hint: pre-Easter)
7. By a 1966 presidential proclamation, what holiday was fixed as the third Sunday in June?
8. In 1789 what fall holiday became the first U.S. holiday designated by presidential proclamation?
9. What Vermont-born president was a real "Yankee Doodle Dandy," born on the 4th of July?
10. When Andrew Jackson invited all D.C. residents to the White House on Washington's birthday, 1837, what large food item were they served?



## Holidays, Holy Days, and Other Special Days (answers)

1. George Washington's.
2. Mother's Day.
3. Abraham Lincoln's.
4. July 4.
5. George Washington (Feb. 22) and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12).

6. Good Friday. Lincoln supporters made much of the coincidence that Lincoln, like Christ, had died on Good Friday.
7. Father's Day.
8. Thanksgiving.
9. Calvin Coolidge, born in Plymouth, Vermont, in 1872.
10. A 1,400-pound cheese, a gift to Jackson from admiring New Yorkers. It sat in the White House vestibule for two years until Jackson made it a gift to all D.C. dwellers.

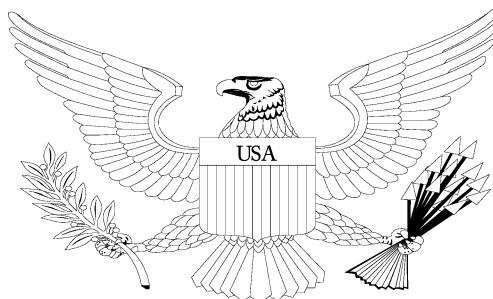


## Famous Firsts (Part 2)

1. What handsome, silver-haired Republican was the first president for which women could vote?
2. Who was the first to be photographed while in office? (Hint: Tennessee)
3. Who was the first to refer to his D.C. home as the White House? (Hint: mustache)
4. Who was first to ride in an automobile?
5. What early president was the first victim of an assassination attempt?
6. Who was the first president—and, in fact, the first *American*—to have a Medicare card?
7. Who was the first to serve as a senator?
8. Who was giving a speech during America's first transcontinental TV broadcast in 1951?
9. Who presided over the first televised cabinet meeting?
10. Who was the first who was not born a British subject?
11. Whose was the first presidential face on a U.S. coin? (Hint: copper)
12. Who was the first whose parents were both alive at the time of his inauguration? (Hint: Civil War)
13. Who was the first to appear in a film?

14. Who was first to be sworn into office in Washington?
15. Who was the first to be commonly referred to by his initials?
16. Who was the first to be born west of the Mississippi? (Hint: Quaker)
17. Who was the first to use a campaign photo of himself shirtless?
18. Who was first to have a veto overridden by Congress?
19. Who, in the 1970s, became the first to visit Japan while in office?
20. Who was president at the first inaugural ball held in D.C.?
21. Who was the first president whose death brought no official recognition from the federal government?
22. What 20th-century Republican was the first to have a national budget prepared?
23. Who was first to be president of fifty states?
24. In April 1792, Washington became the first to exercise what presidential power?
25. Who, riding on the B & O in 1833, became the first prez to ride on a train?
26. What famous first occurred when Andrew Jackson appointed Roger Taney as Secretary of the Treasury?
27. What did Franklin Pierce become the first to do in his inaugural address?
28. Who was first to be present at his nominating convention? (Hint: Union veteran)
29. What brassy man was, appropriately, the first to fly in a plane?
30. What 20th-century Democrat was the first president to visit Europe while in office?
31. What Republican's election victory was the first to be broadcast via radio?

32. Who was the first to take the oath of office in the White House?
33. Who was the first president to publish a book about a president?
34. Who was the first to assume office during a major war?
35. What honest Republican was the first Eagle Scout to become president?
36. Who was president when the first baby was born in the White House?
37. Who was first to have his inaugural message sent out by wire?
38. Who was first to have his inauguration photographed?
39. Who was first to have his own valet in the White House?
40. Who was the first for whom "Hail to the Chief" was played whenever he entered a room? (Hint: Tennessean)



## Famous Firsts (Part 2) (answers)

1. Warren Harding. The Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the vote, passed shortly before the 1920 election.
2. James K. Polk. There are photographs of earlier presidents such as Jackson and John Quincy Adams, but these were taken *after* those men left office.
3. Theodore Roosevelt. Prior to his term of office, the house had been called either the President's House or the Executive Mansion.

4. Again, Theodore Roosevelt.
5. Andrew Jackson, the seventh president. The gritty Jackson was prepared to beat the man with his cane.
6. Harry S. Truman. He had card Number 1, and his wife Bess had card Number 2.
7. James Monroe of Virginia.
8. Harry Truman, speaking at a conference in San Francisco. The broadcast was carried by 94 stations.
9. Dwight Eisenhower, on October 25, 1954.
10. Martin Van Buren, born in 1782.
11. Abraham Lincoln. The Mint starting making Lincoln pennies in 1909.
12. Ulysses S. Grant. In fact, neither of his parents did attend his inauguration.
13. William McKinley. His friend Thomas Edison made a short film of him.
14. Thomas Jefferson.
15. TR, Theodore Roosevelt.
16. Herbert Hoover, born in Iowa.
17. John F. Kennedy. The photo shows him bare-chested on his navy ship, the PT-109.
18. John Tyler. It happened on his last day in office.
19. Gerald Ford, in 1974.
20. James Madison. It was held in Long's Hotel.
21. John Tyler. He died in 1862, at the time an official of the Confederacy, so the authorities in Washington chose to ignore his passing.
22. Warren Harding, who had Charles G. Dawes as the nation's first budget director.
33. Dwight Eisenhower. Alaska and Hawaii were admitted as states in 1959.
24. The veto.
25. Andrew Jackson.
26. The Senate rejected him—the first time a cabinet appointment had been turned down.

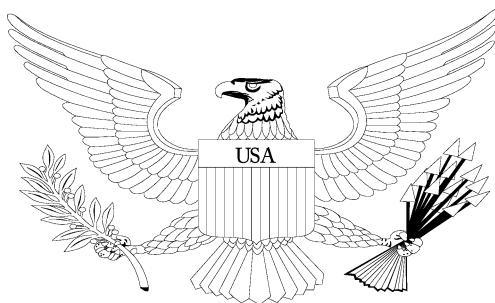
27. He memorized it, using no notes at all.
28. James Garfield, present at the Republican convention of 1880.
29. Theodore Roosevelt. He did this *after* his presidency, not during it.
30. Woodrow Wilson, who went in 1918 after World War I ended to press for his Fourteen Points and the League of Nations.
31. Warren Harding, in November 1920.
32. Rutherford Hayes, who was sworn into office in the Red Room.
33. Herbert Hoover, who published *The Ordeal of Woodrow Wilson*.
34. Harry Truman, who took office in 1945 during World War II. (In case anyone answered "Andrew Johnson" to this question, that answer is sort of correct, for the Civil War was not technically over when Lincoln was assassinated. Even so, it was practically finished at the time Johnson took over.)
35. Gerald Ford.
36. Thomas Jefferson, whose grandson James Madison Randolph was born there.
37. James K. Polk. At his inauguration, Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph, sat nearby and tapped out the entire inaugural address in code.
38. James Buchanan, in 1857.
39. Chester Arthur, "the Dude."
40. James K. Polk. Supposedly his wife Sarah liked for the song to be played so that people in the room would know that the vertically challenged Polk had entered.



## The One and Only (Part 2)

1. Who was the only president given the oath of office by his own father? (Hint: Vermont)
2. Who was the only one to serve in the House after his presidency? (Hint: famous dad)
3. Who was the only one who had been a preacher?
4. Who were the only 20th-century presidents to end major wars, as they had promised?

5. Which two were the only ones whose terms ended and began in the same year?
6. Who was the only one to die in the 1700s?
7. What 20th-century Republican was the only ambidextrous president?
8. Who was the only one to have his U.S. citizenship restored to him by a later president?
9. What was the only First Family that shared the same monogram?
10. Who was the only prez to get a speeding ticket in D.C. while in office? (Hint: Civil War)
11. Who was the only elected president who had less than a week between winning the election and being inaugurated?
12. Who was the only one who knew his wife when she was an infant?
13. Who was the only one who was a second-generation American? (Hint: hickory)
14. Who was the only one to grow up speaking Dutch as his first language?
15. What is the distinction of Franklin Pierce's cabinet?
16. What two-term Democrat was the only president who personally had executed a man by hanging?
17. Who was the only one who was *not* an American citizen at the time of his death?
18. Who was the only one to have an *earned* doctoral degree?
19. Who was the only one to run a ferry service across the Potomac?
20. Who was the only one who could write with both hands at the same time? (Hint: assassinated)
21. What Democrat was the only 20th-century president to never have attended college?
22. What Democrat was the only man sworn into office using his nickname instead of his birth name?



## The One and Only (Part 2)(answers)

1. Calvin Coolidge, who was staying at his father's home when President Harding died. As a notary, his father was "official" enough to swear him in.
2. John Quincy Adams, who served many years as a congressman from Massachusetts.
3. James Garfield, 20th president, a Disciples of Christ preacher who once baptized 40 converts during a two-week evangelistic campaign.
4. Dwight Eisenhower (the Korean War) and Richard Nixon (the war in Vietnam).
5. William Henry Harrison (1841) and James Garfield (1881). Both men died in office.
6. George Washington, who died in 1799.
7. Gerald Ford, who is, depending on the occasion, both right- and left-handed.
8. John Tyler, who died in 1862 as a citizen (and congressman) of the Confederate States. More than a century later, his U.S. citizenship was restored during the Carter administration.
9. Lyndon Johnson's—with Lyndon Baines Johnson, Lady Bird Johnson, Lynda Bird Johnson, Luci Baines Johnson, plus a dog named Little Beagle Johnson.
10. Ulysses S. Grant, who at the time was driving a gig, a two-horse carriage. He was stopped by an M Street cop who (obviously) did not recognize the president.

11. Rutherford Hayes. The disputed election of 1876 led to a congressional commission that did not decide in Hayes's favor till three days before his inauguration in March 1877.
12. Grover Cleveland, who was devoted to Frances Folsom, the daughter of his bosom friend Oscar Folsom—so devoted that he married her when she was twenty-one.
13. Andrew Jackson. Both of his parents were born in Ireland.
14. Martin Van Buren, reared in the mostly Dutch town of Kinderhook, New York.
15. They all stayed throughout his entire term. Pierce was the only president who never made a single change in his cabinet.
16. Grover Cleveland, who as sheriff of Erie County, New York, himself sprang the trap to hang *two* men.
17. John Tyler, who was not only a citizen of the Confederate States of America, but had been elected to its Congress.
18. Woodrow Wilson, with a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, among his many other degrees. (Several presidents, by the way, have had *honorary* doctorates bestowed upon them.)
19. George Washington, in his first year as president. (Recall that this was *before* the U.S. capital was on the Potomac.)
20. James Garfield. Even more remarkably, he could write Greek with one hand and Latin with the other.
21. Harry Truman.
22. James Earl Carter, always called (and sworn in as) "Jimmy."

