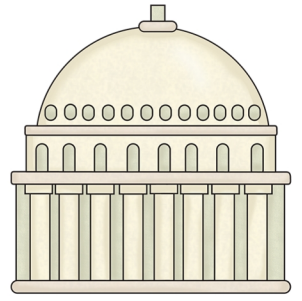


# History of



# President's Day



# Unit Study

**Includes:**

**Language Arts**

**History**

**Geography**

**Math**

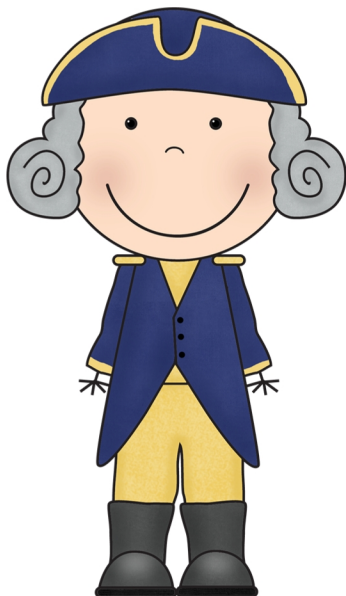
**Science**

**Visual Arts**

**Drama**

**Reading Resources**

**Accompanying George Washington & Abraham Lincoln Unit Study**



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It is my prayer that others are blessed through my [blog](#) and any files I share!!!

~If you ever notice a typo, please let me know, a few slip by me now and then and I certainly want to fix them!

Blessings,  
Annette  
[www.inallyoudo.net](http://www.inallyoudo.net)



# PRESIDENT'S DAY UNIT STUDY

While this unit study is intended for 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades, some of the exercises could easily be tailored for younger children. I have also added some ideas in some of the subjects, to use with older children.

This unit encompasses a variety of daily subjects, including Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies/Geography and Visual Arts. In addition to the printables, you will need a dictionary, access to the internet, a US Atlas/Map (for reference), pennies/quarters, individual bowls or divided plates, cleaning agents (i.e. liquid soap, vinegar, salt, etc.), crayons, construction paper, scissors, glue and craft sticks.

## Language Arts/History

1. Have students read the History of Presidents Day (Handout A, pg 1) and the History of Mount Rushmore (Handout A, pg 2).
2. After reading, have the student(s) define the vocabulary words and answer the questions on Worksheet A1.
3. Use the "If I were President..." writing prompt for older students or for younger students to dictate to you what they would do "If [they] were President..."
4. Match the first and last name of presidents on Worksheet A2 for younger students and Worksheet A3 for older students.
5. Have students (individually or in groups) use [this site](#) to correctly match the President to his nickname on Worksheet A4.

*Additional Activity:* Use the vocabulary word list and the following words as a special Spelling unit. These are just suggestions. Feel free to use words to fit your students' needs and abilities.

President	Elected	Mount Rushmore	White House
Virginia	Illinois	District of Columbia	Washington
Jefferson	Roosevelt	Lincoln	Nixon

## Social Studies/Geography

1. Using the map on Worksheet B, locate and place a star over Washington D.C.
2. Using the map on Worksheet B, locate the state where Mount Rushmore is.
3. Using the map on Worksheet B, locate and label the states where 4 past presidents were born.
4. Color in each state that you located with a different color.

## Math

Use one of the activity/coloring pages for a FUN math exercise.

1. Print and have students follow the directions on this color and counting [US Flag activity](#). (free)
2. Download and print these fun color-by-number [George Washington](#) and [Abraham Lincoln](#) printables. (Sorry, but there is a \$1 per download cost for each. They were so cute though, that I thought it important to include them here!)
3. Try this easy connect-the-dots of a mystery state (South Dakota). Then have the student(s) figure out which state it is!

South Dakota: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/connectdots/mystery/states/southdakota/index.shtml>

Washington D.C.: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/connectdots/mystery/states/dc/index.shtml>

Find more state maps at Enchanted Learning: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/connectdots/mystery/states/>

## Science

*For Preschoolers:* Follow this easy-to-do [coin polishing experiment](#).

*For Elementary Students:* While studying about the Presidents' faces on money, try to clean/shine pennies. Use 5 section trays (or 5 small bowls). Give each child a penny for each section and try different things to try to clean the pennies. Start by asking "What do you use when you need to clean something?" "A: Soap" So, get the liquid soap and have them rub it on the penny. Try different substances for each section like: ketchup, mustard, juice, & vinegar and salt. Then draw the 5 sections on a piece of paper with pictures of each substance tried. When you are finished, talk about which pennies came out shiny. Then glue a shiny or dull penny in each section to show what happened. Then each child has something to take home and tell their parents about. (If you teach in a classroom, feel free to divide your students up into small groups for this activity! Allow each one of them to take turns "cleaning" the coin(s).)

*Older Students* can research and discuss the "science" of politics.

## Visual Arts

Pick one, two or all of the following to do throughout the unit study.

*For Preschoolers:*

- 1) Print and color one or more of these [Historic Places Coloring Sheets](#).
- 2) Do this fun craft stick [US Flag activity](#).

*For Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grades:*

- 1) Older students would also like this craft stick [US Flag activity](#).
- 2) To reinforce the names of all the presidents, make this fun (and easy) [apple tree with leaves](#) that represent each president. Label each leaf with a different president's name.
- 3) Have students draw a self-portrait on one side and complete "If I were President..." on the other side like [this](#).

Find more fun President's Day crafts [here](#).

## Drama

Learn about the First Inauguration [here](#). Help younger students write an inauguration speech and have them "deliver" it to the class (or Dad) as if they were taking office. Have older students write an inauguration speech and "deliver" it to the class (or Dad) as if they were taking office.

## Additional Activities

Have a birthday party for the presidents! Bake cookies or a cake and decorate it with red, white and blue icing and/or sprinkles. Make this [red, white and blue punch](#) for added fun!

## Extra Reading

Barber, James David. [Presidents \(Eyewitness Books\)](#). DK Publishing, 2008.

Cronin, Doreen. [Duck for President](#). Atheneum, 2004.

Stier, Catherine. [If I Ran for President](#). Albert Whitman and Co, 2007

---...[If I Were President](#). Albert Whitman and Co, 1999.

DiPucchio, Kelly S. [Grace for President](#). Hyperion, 2008.

Marciano, John Bemelmans. [Madeline at the White House](#). Viking, 2011.

Grace, Catherine O. [The White House: An Illustrated History](#). Scholastic, 2003.

Rockwell, Anne. [President's Day](#). HarperCollins, 2009.

Jordano, Kimberly. [Celebrating President's Day: What is a President](#). Creative Teaching, 1999.

McNamara, Margaret. [President's Day: Robin Hill School Ready-to-Read](#). Simon Spotlight, 2010.

Find more books on this reading list [here](#).



# The History of President's Day

President's Day began in 1800, following the death of George Washington in 1799. February 22nd, his date of birth, became an annual day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was deemed the most important figure - thus far - in American history. Even though his birthday was recognized for most of the 1800's, it wasn't made an official federal holiday until 1879, when President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into effect (with the help of Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas). At first, the holiday only applied to the District of Columbia, but was later expanded to the entire country in 1885. Washington's Birthday joined only FOUR other nationally recognized bank holidays - Christmas, New Year's Day, Independence Day and Thanksgiving. It was also the first national holiday recognizing the life of an individual.

It wasn't until the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was proposed in the late 1960's that people began commonly calling it President's Day. The Act officially took effect in 1971, after President Richard Nixon officially signed it in 1968. Even though people have come to call it President's Day, it is still officially Washington's Birthday. It is believed to be combined by the public to include both Washington's birthday (Feb 22nd) and Lincoln's birthday (Feb 12th) since it falls directly between them on the 3rd Monday of February. However, it is still listed as Washington's Birthday on official calendars.

So, why not call it President's Day officially? Well, it's not for lack of trying! The name shift has been proposed several times, but has been refused each time. It was a point of contention for many lawmakers, especially those from Washington's home state of Virginia and was eventually dropped from discussion. Although Washington and Lincoln remain the two most recognized American leaders, President's Day is popularly recognized as a day to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of all America's past and current chief executives (Presidents). This is still a major objection many lawmakers have, because they feel that grouping George Washington and Abraham Lincoln together with less successful presidents minimizes their legacies and the reason for the day.

Even though Nixon's official order called it Washington's Birthday, it was the retail chains and business world that began calling it President's Day to boost sales after the Christmas rush died down. It is one of the most popular 3-day sales weekends to date! By the mid-1980's it was commonly known to Americans as President's Day; and by the early 2000's, as many as 25 of the states had changed the date on their calendars to say President's Day. Some states who called it President's Day have added their own figures to celebrate - such as Alabama who chooses to celebrate Washington and Thomas Jefferson (who was actually born in April).

\*\*For the sake of this unit, we will introduce students to some of the more influential presidents of our time (by name only). I have two mini units dedicated specifically to Washington and Lincoln to help you learn more about them individually. You can find them [here](#) under Mini Unit Studies.

# The History of Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore, named for the New York lawyer Charles E. Rushmore, is located just north of Custer's State Park in South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest. In 1884, Rushmore traveled to the Black Hills to inspect mining claims and asked a local man the name of the nearby mountain; to which he replied that it never had a name before. From then on it was known as Rushmore Peak – later Rushmore Mountain or Mount Rushmore.

South Dakota's state historian, Doane Robinson, was seeking ways to increase tourism traffic to the Hills in the early 1920's. His original idea was sculpting "the Needles" (several giant natural granite pillars) into the shape of historic heroes of the West included Red Cloud, a Sioux chief as an option. Robinson contacted an American sculptor of Danish descent, Gutzon Borglum, in 1924. Luckily Gutzon was on the outs with the group who had commissioned his current project (a sculpture of Robert E. Lee) and soon abandoned the project. Borglum, however, suggested the subject bring more national attraction, so he proposed George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Later he would add Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt, in recognition of their contributions to the birth of democracy and growth of the United States.

It wasn't until a year later in August 1925 the Borglum officially designated Mount Rushmore as the desired site of the sculpture. Even though local Native Americans and environmentalists voiced their opposition to the mountain, calling it a desecration of the natural landscape, Robinson continued raising funds for the project. He was assisted by Rapid City Mayor John Boland and Senator Peter Norbeck, among others.

Borglum used new (back then) methods, including dynamite and pneumatic hammers to blast through the tons of rock quickly and sculpt the large faces. He also used more precise (and traditional) tools such as chisels and drills. Over the years, around 400 workers removed 450,000 tons of rock from the mountain, which has never been hauled away and still remains at the base of the mountain. Even though the work was labor some and dangerous, remarkably no lives were lost during the entire process.

There were five dedication ceremonies held for the mountain. The head of Washington was dedicated on July 4, 1930. When workers realized the original site of Jefferson's head, to the right of Washington, was too weak it was moved to the left and dedicated in August 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the ceremony for Jefferson's dedication. Lincoln's head was dedicated in September 1937 and Theodore Roosevelt – FDR's fifth cousin – was dedicated in July 1939. Unfortunately, Borglum died in March 1941, before the final dedication ceremony on October 31, 1941. His son, Lincoln, was left to complete the final touches of the project in time for the final dedication.

Mount Rushmore, also known as the "Shrine of Democracy," has become one of the most iconic images of America and an international tourist attraction – far exceeding the expectations of Robinson. The National Park Service, which maintains Mount Rushmore, record upwards of 2 million visitors per year!

Handout A 2

© [www.inallyoudo.net](http://www.inallyoudo.net)

Information from <http://www.history.com/topics/presidents-day> and <http://www.history.com/topics/mount-rushmore>

# President's Day Unit Study

Define the following vocabulary words.

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected: \_\_\_\_\_

White House: \_\_\_\_\_

District of Columbia: \_\_\_\_\_

## True or False:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Presidents Day was first celebrated in 1800, following George Washington's death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. President Lincoln's birthday was the first holiday celebrating an individual (person).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. President's Day is only celebrated in Washington D.C.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. President Nixon signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in to effect in 1968, but it didn't take affect until 1971.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. President's Day is a day to celebrate all presidents (past and present) and their accomplishments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mount Rushmore is named after past president Charles E. Rushmore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mount Rushmore is located in the Black Hills National Forest, which is located in the state of North Dakota.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Gutzon Borglum was commissioned by Doane Robinson to sculpt the enormous faces of the 4 presidents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. It took nearly 1,400 workers almost 25 years to complete the entire project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mount Rushmore is also known as the "Shrine of Democracy."

Write down as many words as you can from **PRESIDENTS DAY**.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

# President's Name Match (PreK - 2)

1. George
2. Jackson
3. Truman
4. John F.
5. Nixon
6. Theodore
7. Jimmy
8. George W.
9. Barack
10. Lincoln
11. Clinton
12. Ronald

- A. Carter
- B. Obama
- C. Andrew
- D. Reagan
- E. Washington
- F. Abraham
- G. Kennedy
- H. Bill
- I. Richard
- J. Bush
- K. Roosevelt
- L. Harry S.

# President's Name Match (3-5)

---

1. John Quincy
2. Dwight D.
3. James K.
4. George H.
5. Jimmy
6. Andrew
7. Herbert
8. James
9. Bill
10. Chester
11. James
12. Lyndon B.
13. Calvin
14. Warren
15. Rutherford
16. Theodore
17. Richard
18. Franklin
19. Gerald
20. Martin
21. Barack
22. William
23. Harry S.
24. Thomas
25. Woodrow
26. Abraham
27. Franklin D.
28. Andrew
29. George
30. William Howard
31. James
32. John
33. Millard
34. John F.
35. Ulysses S.
36. George W.
37. John
38. Grover
39. Zachary
40. Ronald
41. William Henry
42. James A.
43. Benjamin

- A. Roosevelt
- B. Bush
- C. Filmore
- D. Madison
- E. Pierce
- F. Lincoln
- G. Cleveland
- H. Adams
- I. Coolidge
- J. Wilson
- K. Hoover
- L. Monroe
- M. Truman
- N. Nixon
- O. Johnson
- P. Ford
- Q. Adams
- R. Grant
- S. Washington
- T. Eisenhower
- U. Harrison
- V. Buchanan
- W. Van Buren
- X. Harding
- Y. Johnson
- Z. Clinton
- AA. Polk
- BB. Tyler
- CC. McKinley
- DD. Taylor
- EE. Jackson
- FF. Carter
- GG. Reagan
- HH. Obama
- II. Bush
- JJ. Kennedy
- KK. Jefferson
- LL. Hayes
- MM. Arthur
- NN. Roosevelt
- OO. Taft
- PP. Garfield
- QQ. Harrison

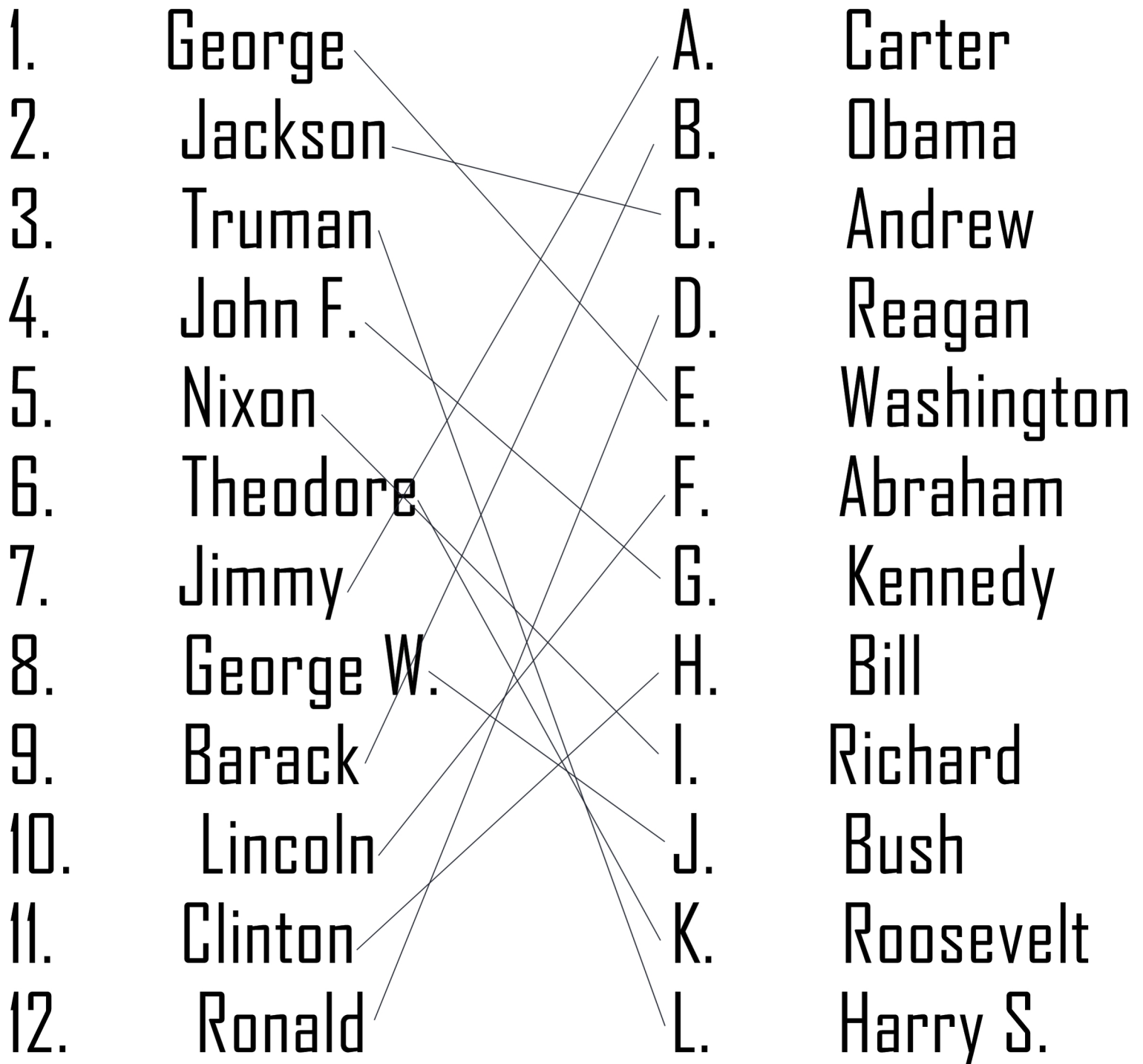
# President's Nickname Match (2-5)

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- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Quincy Adams       | A. Old Tippecanoe                   |
| 2. Dwight D. Eisenhower    | B. Old Pop                          |
| 3. James K. Polk           | C. The Preacher President           |
| 4. George Washington       | D. Wobbly Willie                    |
| 5. Jimmy Carter            | E. Father of the Constitution       |
| 6. Andrew Jackson          | F. Poppy                            |
| 7. Herbert Hoover          | G. Grand Old Man                    |
| 8. James Madison           | H. Little Blue Boy                  |
| 9. Bill Clinton            | I. Old Man Eloquent                 |
| 10. James Monroe           | J. General Ike                      |
| 11. Lyndon B. Johnson      | K. Tricky Dick                      |
| 12. Calvin Coolidge        | L. Napoleon of the Stump            |
| 13. Warren G. Harding      | M. The Accidental President         |
| 14. Rutherford B. Hayes    | N. The Great Communicator           |
| 15. Theodore Roosevelt     | O. The Little Magician              |
| 16. Richard Nixon          | P. Father of His Country            |
| 17. Franklin Pierce        | Q. The Professor                    |
| 18. Gerald Ford            | R. His Accidency                    |
| 19. Martin Van Buren       | S. The Last of the Crooked Hats     |
| 20. Barack Obama           | T. Old Rough and Ready              |
| 21. William McKinley       | U. Berry                            |
| 22. Harry S. Truman        | V. Big Steve                        |
| 23. Thomas Jefferson       | W. Young Tippecanoe                 |
| 24. Woodrow Wilson         | X. Sleeping Beauty                  |
| 25. Abraham Lincoln        | Y. Slick Willie                     |
| 26. Franklin D. Roosevelt  | Z. The Peanut Farmer                |
| 27. Andrew Johnson         | AA. Old 8 to 7                      |
| 28. George H. Bush         | BB. The Do-Nothing President        |
| 29. William Howard Taft    | CC. Apostle of the Constitution     |
| 30. James Buchanan         | DD. Junie                           |
| 31. John Adams             | EE. Seward                          |
| 32. Millard Fillmore       | FF. Haberdasher Harry               |
| 33. John F. Kennedy        | GG. The Rough Rider                 |
| 34. Ulysses S. Grant       | HH. American Caesar                 |
| 35. George W. Bush         | II. Old Hickory                     |
| 36. John Tyler             | JJ. The Atlas of Independence       |
| 37. Grover Cleveland       | KK. Purse                           |
| 38. Zachary Taylor         | LL. The Tailor the Tennessee Tailor |
| 39. Ronald Reagan          | MM. Silent Cal                      |
| 40. William Henry Harrison | NN. The Great Emancipator           |
| 41. James A. Garfield      | OO. The Boss                        |
| 42. Benjamin Harrison      | PP. Winnie                          |



# President's Name Answers (PreK - 2)

- |     |           |    |            |
|-----|-----------|----|------------|
| 1.  | George    | A. | Carter     |
| 2.  | Jackson   | B. | Obama      |
| 3.  | Truman    | C. | Andrew     |
| 4.  | John F.   | D. | Reagan     |
| 5.  | Nixon     | E. | Washington |
| 6.  | Theodore  | F. | Abraham    |
| 7.  | Jimmy     | G. | Kennedy    |
| 8.  | George W. | H. | Bill       |
| 9.  | Barack    | I. | Richard    |
| 10. | Lincoln   | J. | Bush       |
| 11. | Clinton   | K. | Roosevelt  |
| 12. | Ronald    | L. | Harry S.   |
- 

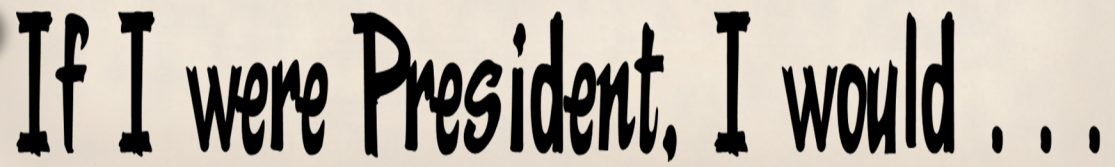
# President's Name Answers (3-5)

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1. John Quincy (Q or H)
2. Dwight D. (T)
3. James K. (AA)
4. George (II)
5. Jimmy (FF)
6. Andrew (EE or O)
7. Herbert (K)
8. James (D or L or V)
9. Bill (Z)
10. Chester (MM)
11. James (D or L or V)
12. Lyndon B. (Y)
13. Calvin (I)
14. Warren (X)
15. Rutherford (LL)
16. Theodore (NN)
17. Richard (N)
18. Franklin (E)
19. Gerald (P)
20. Martin (W)
21. Barack (HH)
22. William (CC)
23. Harry S. (M)
24. Thomas (KK)
25. Woodrow (J)
26. Abraham (F)
27. Franklin D. (A)
28. Andrew (EE or O)
29. George (II)
30. William Howard (OO)
31. James (D or L or V)
32. John (BB or H)
33. Millard (C)
34. John F. (JJ)
35. Ulysses S. (R)
36. George W. (B)
37. John (BB or H)
38. Grover (G)
39. Zachary (DD)
40. Ronald (GG)
41. William Henry (QQ)
42. James A. (PP)
43. Benjamin (U)







# Signed

