



We celebrate Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 17. This holiday began as a tribute to President George Washington and was scheduled near his birthday, Feb. 22. In fact, the official name of the federal holiday is still Washington’s Birthday.

This week, The Mini Page celebrates Presidents Day by getting to know some of our former presidents a little bit better. (The number next to each president’s name shows the order in which he served.)

George Washington (1)

- Washington was the only president to have a state named after him.
- He gave the shortest inauguration speech ever, 133 words, at his second inauguration in 1793.
- Washington did not have wooden teeth. His teeth were made of the best materials available at the time.



Like many people in Washington’s day, he had many dental problems. His set of teeth (above) was made of ivory.

John Tyler (10)

- Tyler had more children than any other president. He was the father of 15! He was married twice. He had eight children by his first wife, Letitia, and seven by his second wife, Julia.



Theodore Roosevelt (26)

- Roosevelt was our youngest president, taking office at age 42.
- He had six children. The family had pets including a bear, a lizard, guinea pigs, a pig, a one-legged rooster, a barn owl and a rabbit.



While Roosevelt was president, a toymaker started making bears, calling them “Teddy.”

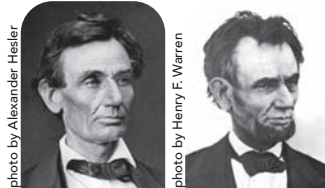
William Henry Taft (27)

- Taft was the biggest president. He weighed more than 300 pounds.
- He later became chief justice of the Supreme Court.



Abraham Lincoln (16)

- Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard. He did not wear it for long, only for the last four years of his life. An 11-year-old girl, Grace Bedell, wrote him a letter suggesting that he grow one.
- Lincoln was the tallest president. He was 6 feet 4 inches tall. He weighed 180 pounds.



Franklin D. Roosevelt (32)

- Roosevelt was the only president elected for four terms. He was a distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt (26). He was the first president to fly in an airplane while in office. He also loved the hobby of stamp collecting.



Ronald Reagan (40)

- Reagan was the only Hollywood star and the third-oldest man ever elected to the office of president. He was 69 when he was elected to his first term.
- Reagan was also the first president to wear a bulletproof vest, a hearing aid and contact lenses.



Jimmy Carter (39)

- Jimmy Carter was the first president to be born in a hospital.
- He was also the first president to walk from the Capitol to the White House after his inauguration.



Richard Nixon (37)

- Richard Nixon was the first president to make a telephone call to the moon.



Resources

- On the Web:
- bit.ly /MPpresidents

- At the library:
- “Our Country’s Presidents” by National Geographic

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of presidents are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BEARD, BIRTHDAY, CARTER, CHILDREN, DAY, FEBRUARY, FRANKLIN, INAUGURATION, IVORY, JUSTICE, LINCOLN, NIXON, PRESIDENTS, REAGAN, STATE, TAFT, TEDDY, TEETH, TYLER, WASHINGTON.

I V O R Y P U T E D D Y J N E
O N O X I N R K X N R U F C C
T A F T A V F E B R U A R Y I
R N O T G N I H S A W M E Q T
E N O V N E R D L I H C H B S
T F R A N K L I N L D Y A D U
R I T Y L E R N A G A E R M J
A I N A U G U R A T I O N J U
C L I N C O L N Z Y E T A T S
T E E T H Q Y A D H T R I B S

Cook’s Corner

Black Bean Vegetable Soup

You’ll need:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 (14-ounce) cans vegetable stock
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes

What to do:

- Heat olive oil and cook onion, carrots and garlic until onion is translucent.
- Add cumin and chili powder, stirring for 1 minute until mixed.
- Add stock, pepper and 1 can black beans; heat until boiling. Meanwhile, puree remaining can of beans and tomatoes in a blender until smooth. Add to soup mixture.
- Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Serves 4.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. little town (7) _____

2. part of a tree with leaves (6) _____

3. easy (6) _____

4. prairie plant (9) _____

5. center (6) _____

6. frozen water on roof’s edge (6) _____

7. buddy (6) _____

MIDSISSLE

FRI TALL VILL ICI

AGE CLE END BRA

DLE NCH GRA MP

Mini Jokes

George: What was Abraham Lincoln’s nickname when he was an infant?

Theodore: Babe Lincoln!

Eco Note

The expansion of beaver ranges into a warming Arctic means there are now more beaver ponds across the region, transferring more heat to the surrounding soil and thawing more long-frozen ground, a new report says. Human-caused climate change has already allowed more shrubs and woody plants to grow at high latitudes, making the Arctic region more inviting to the toothy dam-builders. Data show there are more than 850 new beaver ponds on Alaska’s Seward Peninsula, near Nome.

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about our president.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

KidSpot

THE KUIZ KIDS

Several of our friends have names that contain a hidden 3-letter word. We’ve taken out those words and listed them on the right. Can you name our friends?

1. H _____ ony

2. _____ elope

3. Sa _____ nah

4. Abra _____

5. Gr _____

6. Ri _____ do