

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# 47 Presidents - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The president of the United States is the head of state and head of government. The president leads the executive branch of the federal government, the branch of government that is responsible for making sure that laws are carried out. The president's other duties include appointing the heads of cabinets and judges to the Supreme Court. Finally, the president is also the commander-in-chief of the US Armed Forces. Congress reserves the right to declare war, but the president has the final say in military plans.

Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A. The President's Cabinet

B. The History of the Supreme Court



C. The Role of the US President

D. Past Presidents

*This passage describes the role of the US president, including the president's duties and how he or she works with other branches of government.*

2. Before taking office as first president of the United States, George Washington played a leading role in the American Revolution. He led the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and presided over the convention that drafted the Constitution. In 1778, Washington was the unanimous choice of the electors for president. He served two terms in office and then voluntarily didn't run for a third. He set a precedent of only serving two terms that every president followed until FDR.

What is the purpose of the underlined sentence in the passage above?



- A. It supports the claim that Washington played a major role in the American Revolution.
- According to the passage, "Before taking office as first president of the United States, George Washington played a leading role in the American Revolution." The underlined sentence provides specific examples of how Washington played a large role: he "led the Continental Army" and "presided over the convention that drafted the Constitution."*
- B. It introduces the Constitutional Convention before describing it in more detail.
- C. It sets up a contrast between Washington's achievements and those of other presidents.
- D. It supports the claim that Washington was more skilled as a soldier than as a politician.

3. William Henry Harrison didn't serve as president for very long. He died of pneumonia after 32 days in office, making him the shortest-serving president in history. Some historians have blamed Harrison's pneumonia on the fact that Harrison delivered his Inaugural Address in freezing temperatures, without wearing a coat or hat. Harrison set a record that still stands today with his near two-hour speech.

Which detail from the passage best shows why some historians believe Harrison contracted pneumonia?

A. "William Henry Harrison didn't serve as president for very long."



B.

"...Harrison delivered his Inaugural Address in freezing temperatures, without wearing a coat or hat."

*This detail describes the conditions under which Harrison gave his Inaugural Address. According to the passage, "many historians have blamed Harrison's pneumonia" on the fact that he gave his speech under these conditions.*

C. "Harrison set a record that still stands today..."

D. "He died of pneumonia after 32 days in office, making him the shortest-serving president in history."

4. Abraham Lincoln was the first of four US presidents assassinated while in office. Lincoln was shot while watching a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, on April 14, 1865. Both James Garfield and William McKinley died from gunshot wounds. And John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas.

According to the passage, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated { }.

A. after James Garfield

B. after John F. Kennedy



C.

while watching a play

*The sentence "Lincoln was shot while watching a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, on April 14, 1865" supports this answer.*

D. while riding in a motorcade

5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt served longer than any other president in American history. He served as president from March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945. Roosevelt served three full 4-year terms and died just three months into his fourth <sup>^^</sup>term<sup>^^</sup>. Congress limited each president to only two terms when it passed the 22nd Amendment in 1947.

What does the word "term" mean in the passage above?



A.

The length of time during which something happens

*According to the passage, FDR "served as president from March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945...three full 4-year terms," dying three months into his "fourth term." Details like "served as president," "from March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945" and "4-year" show that in this passage, "term" means "the length of time during which something happens." Here, it refers to the length of time that a president is elected for.*

B. A part of the school year

C. A word for something that only people who have a certain hobby might know

D. The part of an agreement that must be followed if the agreement is to be kept

6. On August 9, 1974, Richard Nixon became the only president to resign. He was facing impeachment and removal from office following a political scandal. After Nixon's resignation, Vice President Gerald Ford automatically took over as president without being elected. Ford had not been Nixon's original vice president. He took over as vice president when Spiro T. Agnew resigned from office over charges unrelated to Nixon's scandal. Nixon used the power of the 25th Amendment to make Ford the new vice president.

Based on the passage, Gerald Ford {}.

- A. was the only person to serve as vice president before serving as president
- C. was a more effective president than Richard Nixon

- B. became involved in the same political scandal as Richard Nixon



D.

- served as both president and vice president without being nationally elected

*According to the passage, "After Nixon's resignation, Vice President Gerald Ford automatically took over as president without being elected." In addition, "Ford had not been Nixon's original vice president." After Spiro Agnew resigned, "Nixon had used...the 25th Amendment to make Ford the new vice president." These details show that Ford took over both the vice presidency and the presidency through means other than a national election.*

7. Although our first president, George Washington, selected the site for the White House in 1791, he wasn't the first to live there. The distinction of being the first White House resident goes to our second president, John Adams. After eight years of construction, Adams and his wife Abigail moved into the unfinished house in 1800. The residence was designed by an Irish-born architect and built mostly by enslaved African Americans. It was rebuilt after a British attack in 1814 and later underwent technological changes, like the addition of electricity.

What does the word "resident" mean in the passage above?

- A. A person who designs new technologies      B. A person who picks the location for a house to be built
- C. A person who lives in a certain place      D. A person who designs a structure to be built



C.

A person who lives in a certain place

*According to the passage, although George Washington selected the site for the White house, "he wasn't the first to live there." The first "White House resident" was John Adams, who "moved into" the house with his wife in 1800. The details "to live there" and "moved into" show that "resident" means "a person who lives in a certain place."*

8. In 2008, Barack Obama became the first African-American president of the United States. One of the landmarks of his presidency was the passage of the Affordable Care Act, a health care law that's often referred to as "Obamacare." Obamacare changed several aspects of health insurance. It set up online health insurance marketplaces where people could buy insurance plans. During his presidency, Obama also worked to restore a relationship with Cuba. For the previous 54 years, the US did not have a strong relationship with Cuba due to Cuba's allegiance in the Cold War. Obama got rid of some restrictions on trade and travel between the US and Cuba.

Which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely agree with?

- A. The Affordable Care Act created good and necessary changes to health insurance.
- B. The Affordable Care Act should not have been called "Obamacare."
- C. The relationship between the US and Cuba changed under President Obama.
- D. President Obama should not have attempted to restore the US's relationship with Cuba.



- C. The relationship between the US and Cuba changed under President Obama.

*According to the passage, "During his presidency, Obama also worked to restore a relationship with Cuba. For the previous 54 years, the US did not have a strong relationship with Cuba...Obama got rid of some restrictions on trade and travel between the US and Cuba." These details show that the author would agree with the statement that "The relationship between the US and Cuba changed under President Obama."*