

Name _____ Date _____

47 Presidents

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b''

Notes

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.

\n''

2. b'

Notes

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.

\n'

3. b''

Notes

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.

\n''

4. b''

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.

\n''

5. b'

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 term. Congress limited each president to only two terms when it passed the 22nd Amendment in 1947.

\n'

6. b''

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.

\n''

7. b'

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.

\n'

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

8. b”

Notes

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.

\n”