

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT – EXERCISES

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What are the duties of the American president? Name a few. _____

2. How often does a presidential election take place? _____
3. Which three things must a person be to become president? _____

4. How often was Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president? _____
5. What happens if a president vetoes a bill? _____

6. Name the three branches of government? _____

7. Where does a president mostly work when he is in the White House? _____

8. Where is Camp David and what function does it have? _____

9. The president's official plane is called _____
10. How do you become a Supreme Court judge? _____
11. The House of Representatives has _____ members and the Senate has _____ members,
_____ from each state.
12. What are primaries? _____

13. What is the Electoral College? _____

14. Why do some people say that the Electoral College system is unfair? _____

15. Which state has the largest number of electors? _____
16. How did George Washington grow up? _____

17. What was Abraham Lincoln's greatest achievement? _____

18. Why did the southern states break away from the US in the Civil War? _____

19. How did Franklin D. Roosevelt spend most of his life? _____
20. What major crisis did John F. Kennedy have to deal with? _____

21. How did JFK's presidential term end? _____

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2

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	environment			part of a state that has its own small government
B	law			place where you can go to, where it is quiet and safe
C	assassinate			to go somewhere for the first time and find out about new things
D	retreat			what people believe or think
E	elect			full of energy and new ideas
F	ballot			nature and the world around us
G	unusual			a person who measures and maps out land
H	county			different from what is normal
I	judge			to choose someone by voting for them
J	opinion			to murder a very important person
K	explore			time when there are not many jobs and people do not have enough money to spend
L	settler			to talk someone into doing something
M	slave			system of rules that a country has
N	depression			piece of paper which you vote on
O	advisor			someone who is owned by another person and works for them for little or no money
P	dynamic			someone who lives in a place where not many people have lived before
Q	bill			to put your name on a document
R	surveyor			person who can help you and who knows a lot about many things
S	convince			person who is in control of a courtroom
T	sign			plan for a new law which is discussed in Congress

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3

TRUE or FALSE – Put a check into the correct box.

	T	F
Only a person born in the United States can become president.		
The Cabinet is elected by the people during the presidential election.		
Only Congress can remove a president from office.		
To become a president, you must have lived in the US for 35 years.		
When the president vetoes a bill it can never become law.		
The president's most important task is to make laws for the country.		
The American president has special protection called the Secret Service.		
The president spends most of his working hours in Camp David.		
Air Force One is the president's official plane.		
An American president can only serve two terms.		
In the Senate there are two representatives from each state.		
Both Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were killed while in office.		
Texas has the most members in the House of Representatives.		
The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by Congress.		
Party conventions start off the election year.		
Presidential elections take place in November.		
The candidate who wins a state in the election gets all its electors.		
A candidate needs a majority of 538 electors to become president.		
Many candidates often concentrate on winning the big states		
You never become president without winning the popular vote.		
The American voting system is over 200 years old.		
The new president is inaugurated on January 20 th after the election.		
On January 6, 2021, hundreds of Trump supporters stormed the White House.		

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4

The American President – Put the lines into the correct order.

_____ Cabinet meetings. Presidents live and work in the White
 _____ Even though the Secret Service protects them,
 _____ House, mostly in the Oval Office. On weekends they
 _____ **1** American presidents are busy people. They meet
 _____ travels around in his own airplane – Air Force One.
 _____ relax and spend time with their family. The President
 _____ a few presidents have been assassinated in office.
 _____ advisors and politicians every day and often have
 _____ often go to a small retreat called Camp David, where they

5

Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.

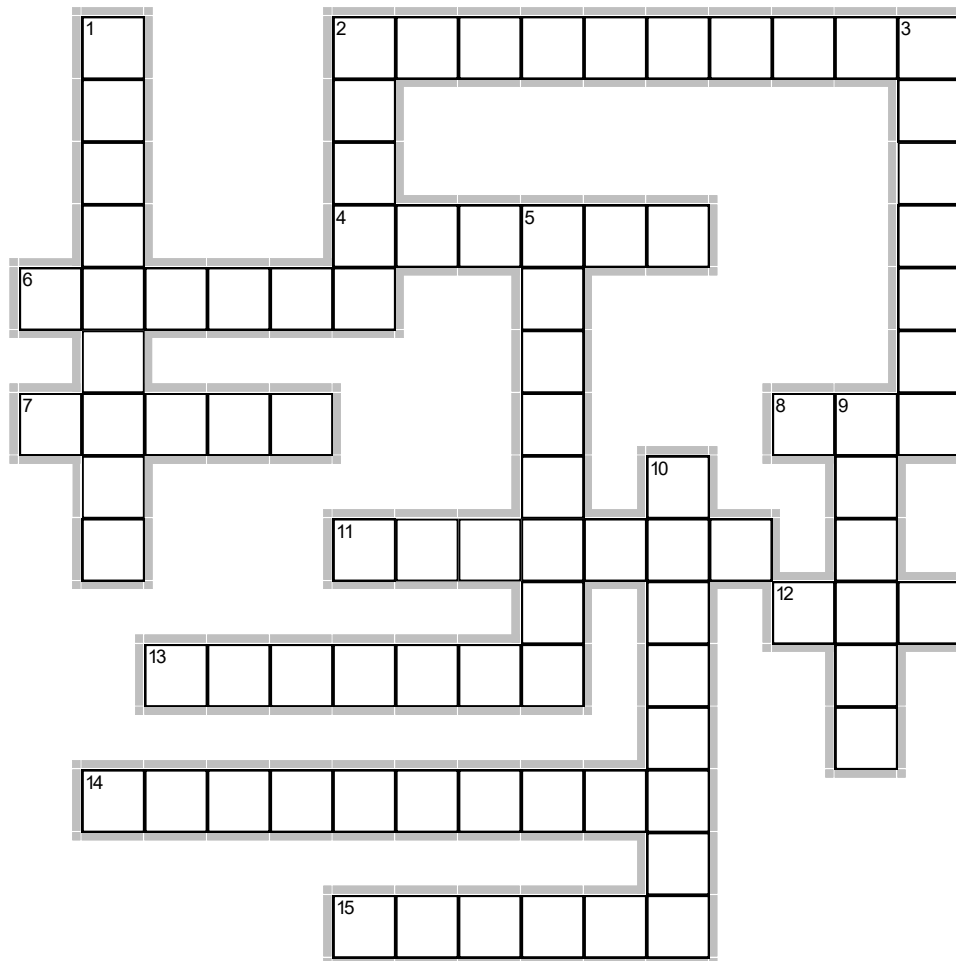
A	When Americans go to the polls			that is passed by Congress.
B	The American president is the Head of the State			are appointed by the President.
C	A president can veto a bill			he spends some weekends relaxing at Camp David.
D	The Cabinet is a group of people			passes laws for the country.
E	Although the president does most of his work in the Oval Office			who should become the presidential candidate.
F	The legislative branch of government			who their Vice President will be.
G	Judges on the Supreme Court			they vote indirectly for a president.
H	At the party convention the presidential candidate announces			who advise the president on various issues.
I	Party primaries decide			concentrate on large states with many electors.
J	In their campaign, candidates often			who meets with leaders of other countries.

6

Look for 12 words about the American President (→ ← ↗ ↘ ↓) and mark them.

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

Crossword 1

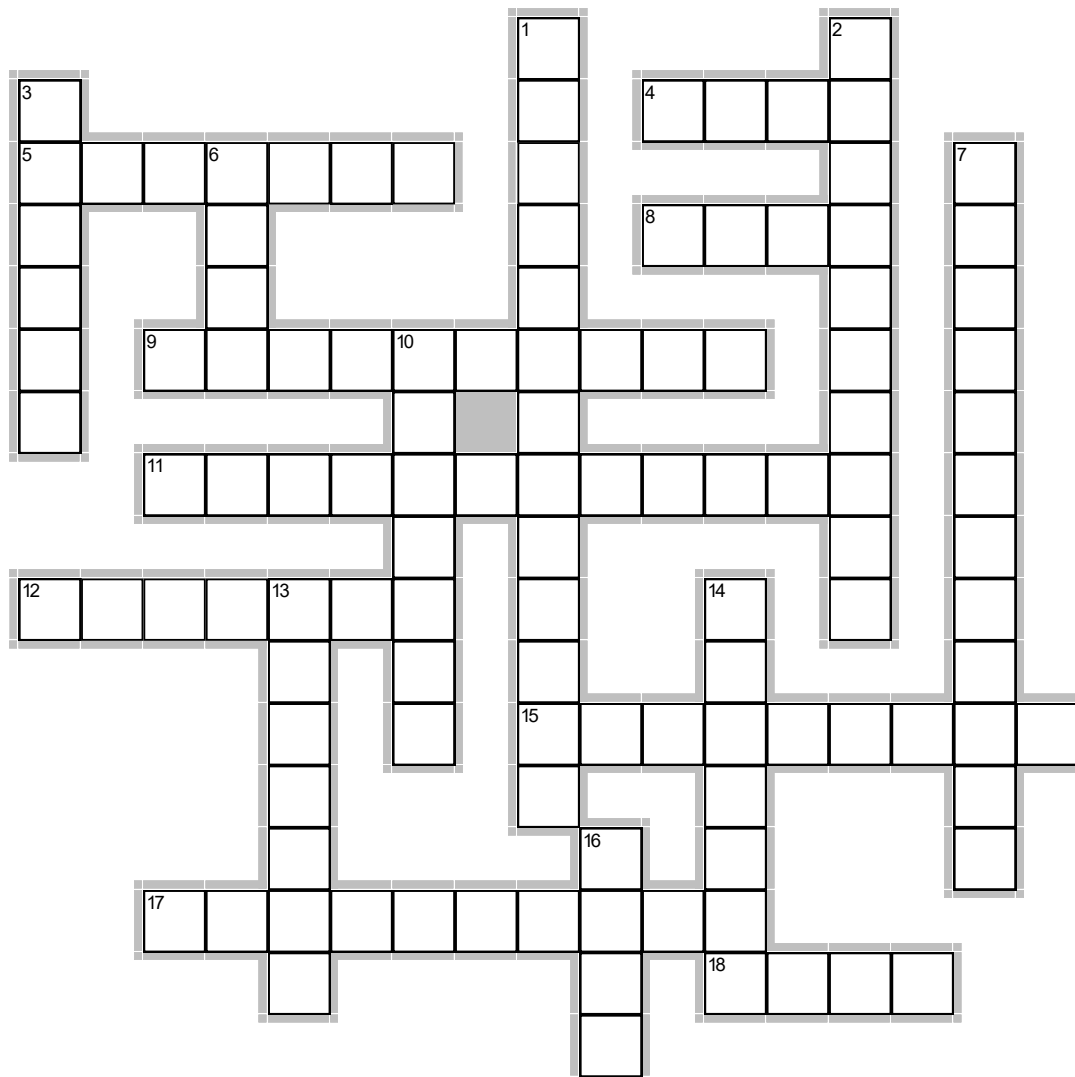


Across

2. state with the most electors in the Electoral College
4. to save someone from a dangerous situation
6. piece of paper or a card on which you vote
7. book that a new president puts his hand on
8. American president during World War II (short word)
11. building where House of Representatives and Senate meet
12. the money you pay to the government for the country's needs
13. American president during the Civil War
14. place where the president works most of the time (2 words)
15. city in which John F. Kennedy was assassinated

Down

1. party elections from June to January (plural)
2. place where a judge and a jury decide if a person has committed a crime
3. someone who knows a lot and tells the president what to do
5. movement to get a person elected as president
9. a period of ten years
10. the House of Representatives and the Senate together are ____



Across

4. Communist island that threatened the US in the 1960s
5. the system of having people work for others for little or no money at all
8. a very serious promise a president makes
9. party meeting at the end of primaries to decide who will be the presidential candidate
11. highest court in the US (two words)
12. group of people who are in charge of different departments of government
15. place where a president goes to over the weekend to get some rest
17. a large farm
18. time during which a person is president

Down

1. group of people who protect the president (two words)
2. last name of first American president
3. last name of Kennedy's assassin
6. power that a president has to say no or not sign a document
7. set of rules which a country is ruled by
10. member of the Electoral College
13. President Roosevelt's plan to help the economy and create jobs (2 words)
14. to choose someone for a job or an official position
16. plan for new law that is discussed in Congress

9

Abraham Lincoln - Complete the text with the words from the box. There are more words you will not need.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest presidents in American history. He helped end (1) _____ stopped America from (2) _____ apart in the Civil War(1861—1865). He was also the first president to be murdered in office.

Lincoln grew up in Kentucky in the early 19th century. During his (3) _____ his family moved to Indiana and then to Illinois. As a young man, Lincoln was tall and thin. He had dark skin and his hair was black. He did all kinds of work, like cutting wood or (4) _____ the fields and growing corn.

In Illinois, Abe started to get interested in (5) _____. He was a great speaker and people liked to listen to him. Lincoln started studying law and became a successful (6) _____.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln won the (7) _____ elections for the Republican party. It was a time of (8) _____ in America. Slavery was a big problem. The Southern states needed slaves to work on their big farms and the people in the North were against slavery. In 1861 the American Civil War started. The Southern states (9) _____ away from the North and formed their own army. It became the bloodiest war in American history.

On January 1st 1863, Lincoln (10) _____ that all slaves in America were free. But nothing really changed for them. They kept on working for white (11) _____ in the Southern states for the next decades. As the war went on, the Northerners won many (12) _____ —the most famous one was at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On April 9th 1865 the South gave up and the war was over.

Five days later Lincoln (13) _____ a theatre performance in Washington. Shortly after 10 o'clock he was shot in the head by John Booth, a famous actor. Lincoln died a few hours later. Many people say that Lincoln was America's most important president. He ended slavery and helped America (14) _____ one country.

attended
battles
breaking
broke
childhood
crisis
declared
explained
history
landowners
law
lawyer
ploughing
politician
politics
presidential
slavery
stay

10

How America Elects A President . Choose the correct word for each blank.

The election year starts in January with primaries in many states. Republican and Democrats vote for the candidate that they want to see in the November **(1)** _____.

At the end of the **(2)** _____ the big parties organize meetings, called **(3)** _____. Delegates get together and select the candidate that received the most votes in the primaries. The winner then holds a speech and **(4)** _____ his Vice-Presidential candidate.

From August to November the presidential candidates from both parties travel all across America and try to get the people to vote for them. They **(5)** _____ on the big states because they have more **(6)** _____ votes. On Election Day, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the American people elect their president.

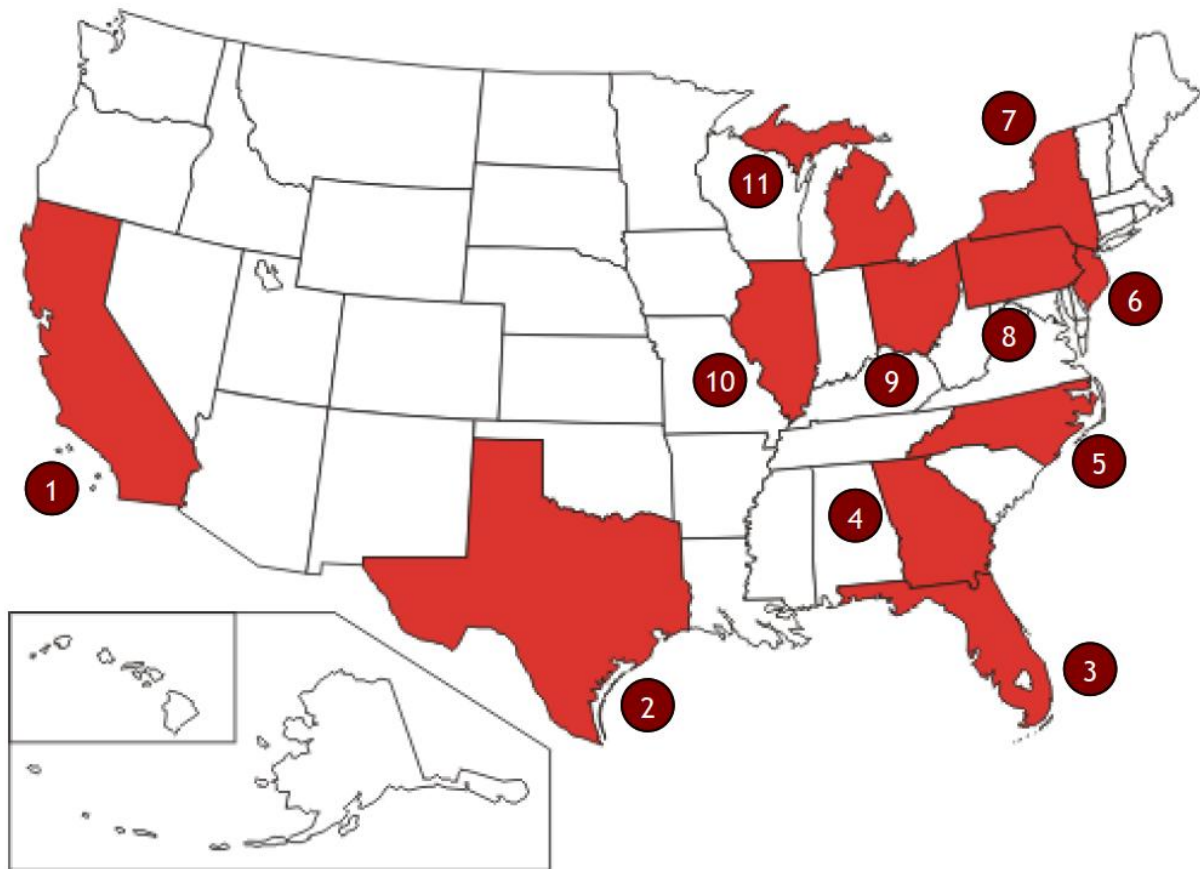
In December, the Electoral College meets and officially selects the President. They vote for the candidate who has won their **(7)** _____ in the presidential election. A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win.

The new president begins his **(8)** _____ on January 20th of the following year, **(9)** _____ Day. He puts his hand on the Bible and takes **(10)** _____.

1	vote	election	meeting	convention
2	year	convention	campaign	primaries
3	conventions	elections	votes	inaugurations
4	receives	informs	introduces	declares
5	meet	determine	travel	concentrate
6	electoral	democratic	presidential	polling
7	county	state	city	government
8	time	office	seat	term
9	Independence	Election	Convention	Inauguration
10	a promise	an oath	a swear	a word

11

Look up the names of the 11 states with the most electoral votes !



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

11

Fill in the names of the four presidents (Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Kennedy) in each question.

Which president...

came from a rich Irish family?	
threatened to start a war with the Soviet Union?	
died shortly after he was reelected?	
came from a family of plantation owners?	
grew up in Kentucky and Illinois?	
fought against communism?	
abolished slavery?	
was a surveyor?	
was president for more than two terms?	
was shot in Dallas, Texas?	
became a successful lawyer before he was president?	
helped write the American constitution?	
was young, dynamic, and good-looking?	
started a new programme to help the American economy?	
was in a wheelchair for most of his life?	
was commander of the American army?	
declared war on Japan?	
became a war hero because he rescued his boat crew?	
led a war against his own country?	
has his name on the one-dollar bill?	
won the Republican nomination in 1860?	