

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What are the duties of the American president? Name a few. **sign bills, Commander in Chief, send soldiers to battle, meets with other Heads of State**
2. How often does a presidential election take place? **every 4 years**
3. Which three things must a person be to become president? **at least 35 years old, a natural born citizen, lived in the country for 14 years**
4. How often was Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president? **4 times**
5. What happens if a president vetoes a bill? **it goes back to Congress where it needs a two thirds majority**
6. Name the three branches of government? **legislative, executive, judicial branch**
7. Where does a president mostly work when he is in the White House? **Oval Office**
8. Where is Camp David and what function does it have? **in Maryland, a weekend retreat**
9. The president's official plane is called **Air Force One**
10. How do you become a Supreme Court judge? **you are appointed by the president**
11. The House of Representatives has **435** members and the Senate has **100** members, **2** from each state.
12. What are primaries? elections where people decide who their party's candidate should be
13. What is the Electoral College? **people who actually vote for a president**
14. Why do some people say that the Electoral College system is unfair? **the winner of a state gets all the states' electors and the loser gets nothing**
15. Which state has the largest number of electors? **California**
16. How did George Washington grow up? **on a tobacco plantation**
17. What was Abraham Lincoln's greatest achievement? **he officially ended slavery and stopped America from breaking apart**
18. Why did the southern states break away from the US in the Civil War? **they needed slaves for their plantations**
19. How did Franklin D. Roosevelt spend most of his life? **in a wheelchair**
20. What major crisis did John F. Kennedy have to deal with? **the Cuba crisis**
21. How did JFK's presidential term end? **he was assassinated in Dallas**

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT – KEY

2

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

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

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT – KEY

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.		✓

4

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

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

5

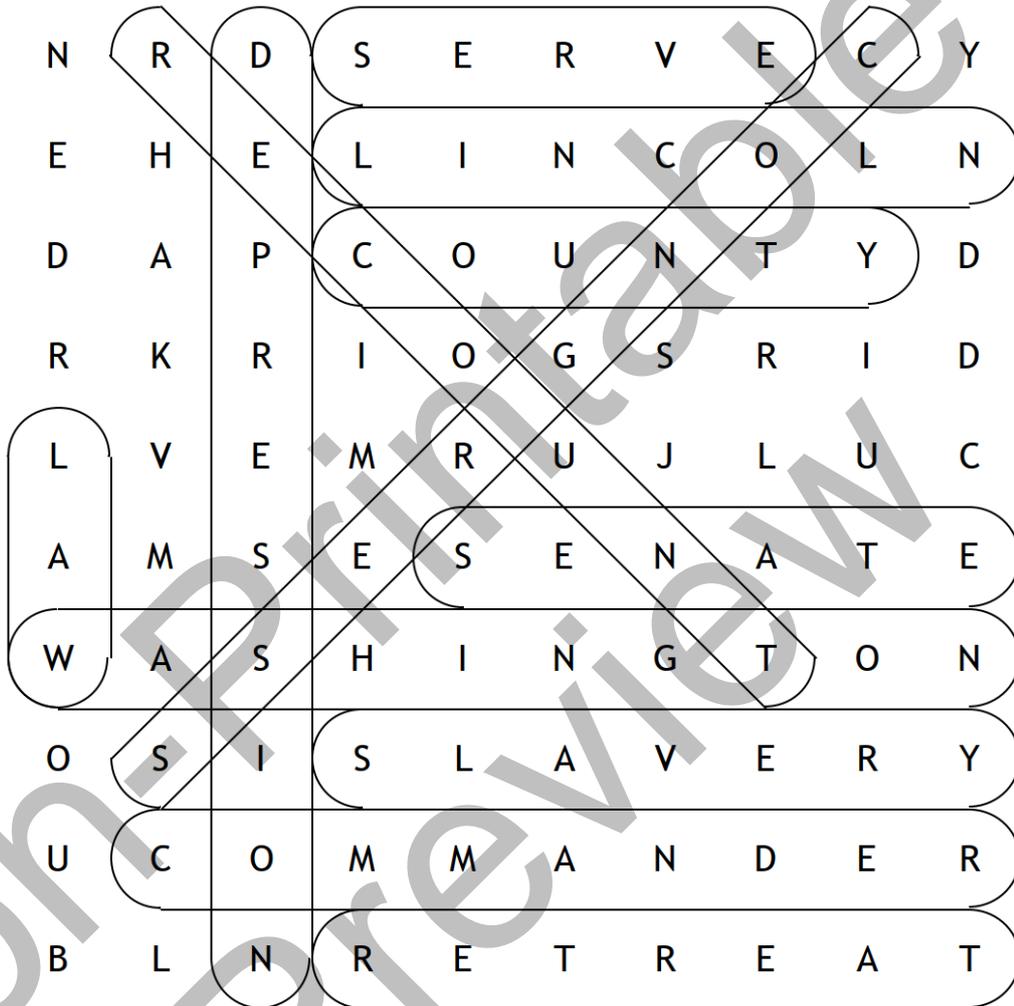
Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.

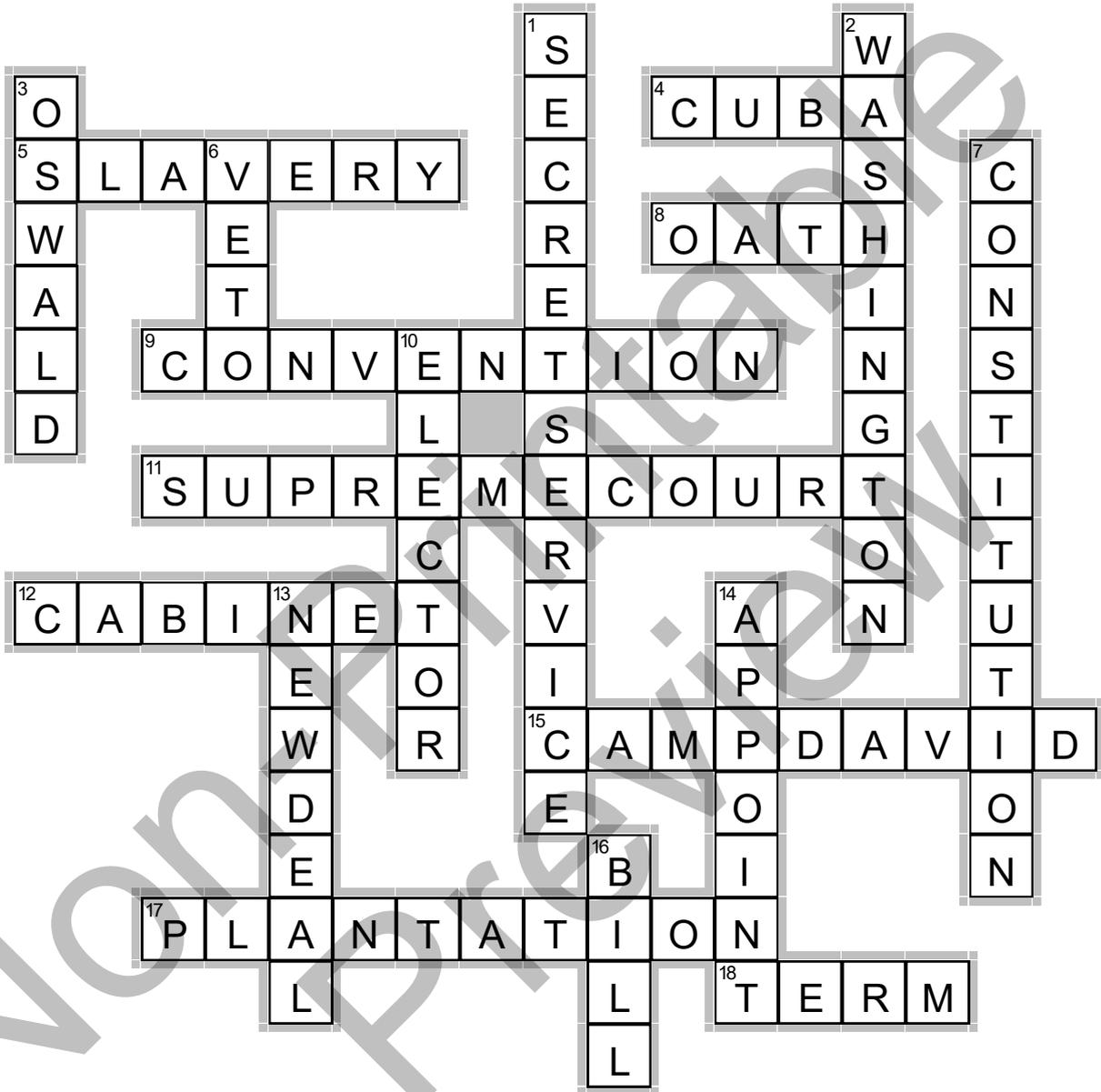
A	When Americans go to the polls	C	that is passed by Congress.
B	The American president is the Head of the State	G	are appointed by the President.
C	A president can veto a bill	E	he spends some weekends relaxing at Camp David.
D	The Cabinet is a group of people	F	passes laws for the country.
E	Although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

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT – KEY

6

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





9

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) slavery** and stopped America from **(2) breaking** 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) childhood** 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) ploughing** the fields and growing corn.

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

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln won the **(7) presidential** elections for the Republican party. It was a time of **(8) crisis** 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) broke** away from the North and formed their own army. It became the bloodiest war in American history.

On January 1st 1863, Lincoln **(10) declared** that all slaves in America were free. But nothing really changed for them. They kept on working for white **(11) landowners** in the Southern states for the next decades. As the war went on, the Northerners won many **(12) battles**—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) attended** 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) stay** 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) **election**.

At the end of the (2) **primaries** the big parties organize meetings, called (3) **conventions**. Delegates get together and select the candidate that received the most votes in the primaries. The winner then holds a speech and (4) **introduces** 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) **concentrate** on the big states because they have more (6) **electoral** votes. On Election Day, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the American people elect their president.

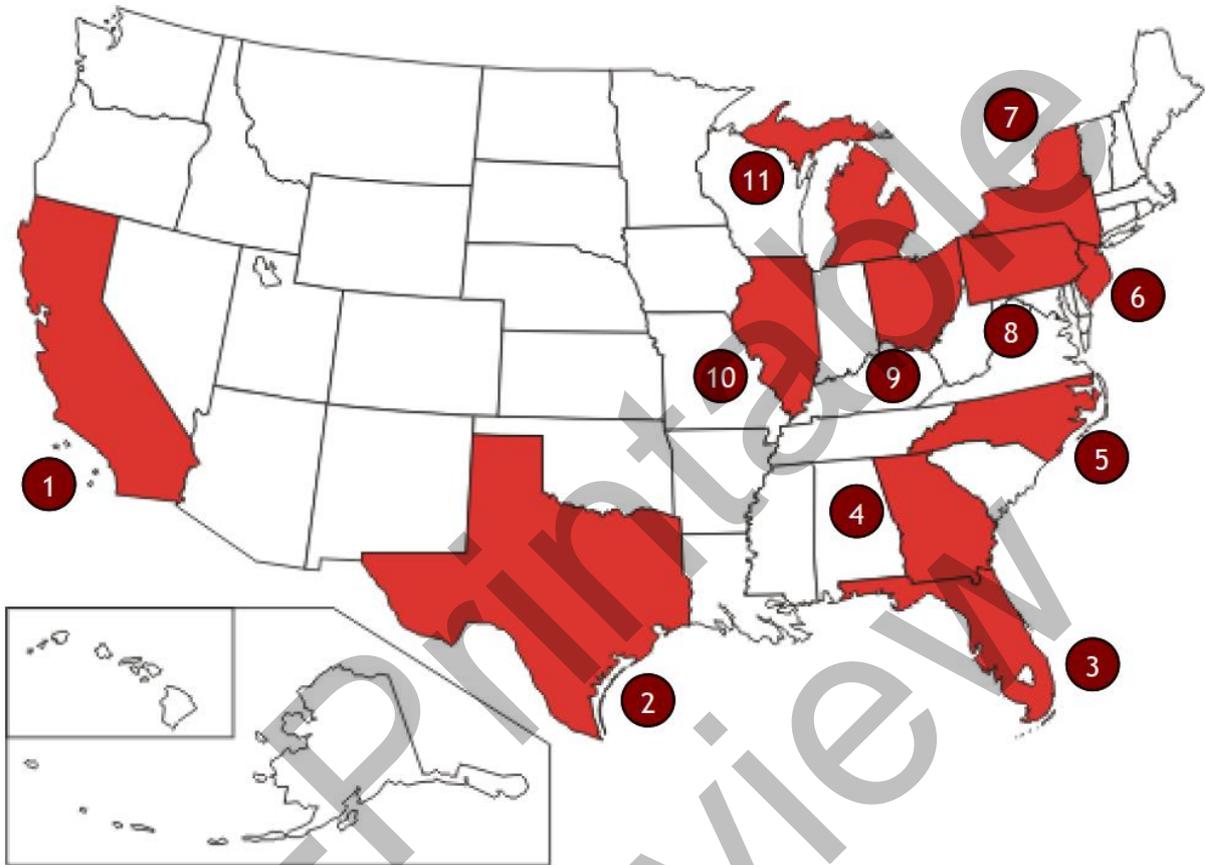
In December, the Electoral College meets and officially selects the President. They vote for the candidate who has won their (7) **state** in the presidential election. A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win.

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

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 **California**
- 2 **Texas**
- 3 **Florida**
- 4 **Georgia**
- 5 **North Carolina**
- 6 **New Jersey**
- 7 **New York**
- 8 **Pennsylvania**
- 9 **Ohio**
- 10 **Illinois**
- 11 **Michigan**

12

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

Which president...

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