

A Presidents' Day Quiz

Answers

To view the original post on *The Water's Edge*, click [here](#).

- 1) Which president's personal library formed the basis of the Library of Congress?
- A: John Adams
 - B: Thomas Jefferson
 - C: James Madison
 - D: James Monroe

Answer: B. By 1814, Thomas Jefferson had the largest personal collection of books in the United States. Following the [British burning of Washington](#), which destroyed a number of Washington's most prominent buildings including the Library of Congress, Jefferson [sold his collection to Congress](#) for \$23,950 in order to replace what had been destroyed. Unfortunately, much of Jefferson's collection was destroyed in another fire on December 24, 1851.

- 2) Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president, standing at six feet, four inches. Who was the shortest president?
- A: James Madison
 - B: John Tyler
 - C: Millard Fillmore
 - D: Franklin Pierce

Answer: A. It's generally agreed that Madison was the shortest president, though [his exact height is disputed](#). Most historians estimate he was five foot six.

- 3) Where was Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas?
- A: In Dallas with Kennedy
 - B: On Air Force One
 - C: At the Naval Observatory
 - D: In the White House

Answer: A. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson [was riding in a car behind President Kennedy](#) when the president was shot. Johnson was later [sworn in as president](#) aboard Air Force One.

- 4) Why was Theodore Roosevelt blind in his left eye?
- A: A birth defect
 - B: A hunting accident
 - C: River blindness from his travels in Africa
 - D: An injury sustained during a boxing match at the White House

Answer: D. Theodore Roosevelt often boxed with his aides and advisors at the White House, a hobby he started when he was governor of New York. In 1908, Roosevelt lost sight in his left eye after a military aide [hit him in the face](#).

- 5) How many presidents have died in office?
- A: Six
 - B: Eight
 - C: Nine
 - D: Eleven

Answer: B. Eight Presidents have [died in office](#). William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Warren Harding, and Franklin D. Roosevelt died of natural causes. Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy were assassinated.

- 6) Which two presidents are buried at the Arlington National Cemetery?
- A: John F. Kennedy and William H. Taft
 - B: Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy
 - C: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson
 - D: Woodrow Wilson and Richard Nixon

Answer: A. Both [John F. Kennedy](#) and [William H. Taft](#) are buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Eisenhower is buried at the [Eisenhower Presidential Center](#) in Abilene, Kansas. Roosevelt is buried [in the Rose Garden of his home](#) in Hyde Park, New York. Johnson is buried in [Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park](#) in Texas. Wilson is interred in [Washington National Cathedral](#). Nixon is buried at the [Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace](#) in Yorba Linda, California.

- 7) Who was the only president to fight in the American Revolution and the War of 1812?
- A: James Madison
 - B: James Monroe
 - C: John Quincy Adams
 - D: Andrew Jackson

Answer: D. As a teenager, [Andrew Jackson](#) fought with American irregulars during the Revolutionary War. During the War of 1812, Jackson was commissioned as a major general and led the U.S. Army to victory at the [Battle of New Orleans](#).

- 8) Who was the first president to deliver a speech on national television?
- A: Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - B: Harry S. Truman
 - C: Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - D: John F. Kennedy

Answer: B. On October 5, 1947, Harry S. Truman [delivered the first televised presidential speech in the nation's history](#). Truman asked the American people to reduce their food consumption to help Europeans struggling to make ends meet in the wake of World War II.

9) Who was the first president to run against a female candidate?

- A: Ulysses S. Grant
- B: John F. Kennedy
- C: Ronald Reagan
- D: Barack Obama

Answer: A. In 1872, Ulysses S. Grant ran against [Victoria Woodhull](#), the candidate for the Equal Rights Party and the first woman to run for president.

10) Which president won election in a landslide twelve years after he was a vice presidential candidate on a ticket that lost in a landslide?

- A: Benjamin Harrison
- B: Teddy Roosevelt
- C: Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D: Richard Nixon

Answer: C. In [1920](#), FDR was the Democratic Party's vice presidential nominee on a ticket headed by James M. Cox. Warren Harding won that election with 61 percent of the popular and 404 of 531 electoral votes. In [1932](#), Roosevelt headed the Democratic ticket and won 57.3 percent of the popular vote and 472 of 531 electoral votes. [Four years later](#), FDR did even better, winning 60.7 percent of the popular vote and 523 of 531 electoral votes.

11) What language did Lou Henry Hoover and Herbert Hoover often speak in order to keep their conversations private?

- A: Latin
- B: German
- C: Mandarin Chinese
- D: French

Answer: C. The Hoovers often [conversed in Mandarin](#) to prevent eavesdropping by White House aides. The couple learned Mandarin while living in Tianjin, China, where Herbert had worked as a mining engineer. Lou [knew more of the language](#) than her husband.

12) Which president never married and selected his niece to be first lady?

- A: James K. Polk
- B: James Buchanan
- C: Andrew Johnson
- D: Warren G. Harding

Answer: B. James Buchanan was the only president who never married. His niece, [Harriet Lane](#), handled the duties of first lady for him.

13) Which first lady said, "I know what's best for the president. I put him in the White House. He does well when he listens to me and poorly when he does not."

- A: Edith Wilson
- B: Florence Harding
- C: Eleanor Roosevelt
- D: Pat Nixon

Answer: B. [Florence Harding](#) was very [involved](#) in her husband's political career and [acted as an advisor to him](#).

14) Which first lady had a pet raccoon?

- A: Helen Taft
- B: Florence Harding
- C: Grace Coolidge
- D: Lou Henry Hoover

Answer: C. Grace Coolidge had [a pet raccoon named Rebecca](#). The Coolidges loved animals. They had a [zoo at the White House](#). Its inhabitants included dogs, cats, a canary, a goose, a donkey, a bobcat, a wallaby, a black bear, a pygmy hippo, and two lion cubs named Tax Reduction and Budget Bureau.

15) Which first lady was the first to hold a college degree?

- A: Abigail Adams
- B: Lucy Hayes
- C: Eleanor Roosevelt
- D: Jacqueline Kennedy

Answer: B. Lucy Hayes was [the first first lady to earn a college degree](#). She received a degree in liberal arts from Cincinnati Wesleyan Female College in 1850.

16) How many first ladies were both a president's wife and the mother of a president?

- A: One
- B: Two
- C: Three
- D: None

Answer: B. [Abigail Adams](#), wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams, and [Barbara Bush](#), wife of George H.W. Bush and mother of George W. Bush, are the only two first ladies to both marry and give birth to a president.

17) The National First Ladies' Library and Museum is housed in which first lady's childhood home?

- A: Caroline Harrison
- B: Ida McKinley
- C: Alice Roosevelt
- D: Helen Taft

Answer: B. Ida McKinley's family home in Canton, Ohio, houses the [National First Ladies' Library and Museum](#).

18) Who was the youngest first lady?

- A: Martha Jefferson
- B: Rachel Jackson
- C: Frances Cleveland
- D: Lucy Hayes

Answer: C. [Frances Cleveland](#) was the youngest first lady at just twenty-one years old. She was twenty-seven years younger than her husband, Grover. He proposed to her in the spring of 1885, shortly after he was inaugurated for his first term as president. They were [married](#) on June 2, 1886, in the Blue Room at the White House. They honeymooned in the Catoctin Mountains in Maryland.

19) Who was the only first lady born outside of the United States?

- A: Martha Washington
- B: Martha Jefferson
- C: Louisa Adams
- D: Rachel Jackson

Answer: C. [Louisa Adams](#), first lady to John Quincy Adams, was born in London, England to an English mother and an American father. She did not go to the United States until four years after she married John Quincy.

20) Which first lady ran the White House after her husband suffered a stroke?

- A: Julia Grant
- B: Florence Harding
- C: Edith Bolling Galt Wilson
- D: Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson

Answer: C. After President Woodrow Wilson suffered a stroke in September 1919, [Edith Bolling Galt Wilson](#) reviewed every document that went to her husband and determined who could visit him.