

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

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Hail to the Chief

By Debbie Vilardi

Debbie Vilardi is an author of poetry, lesson plans and works of fiction.

Goal: To learn about the United States presidents from George Washington through William McKinley

*Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.

Before Beginning:

- Look at the cover illustration. How many presidents can you identify? What do you know about them? Next, look at the table of contents. What do you know about the presidents listed? Why do you think you know more about some of the presidents than others?
- Read the note and sidebar on page 2. It is said that anyone can grow up to be president of the United States. Can you? Would you want to?

"The Presidency" by Meg Chorlian (Page 3)

Comprehension:

1. Why were the Articles of Confederation replaced?
2. What is meant by "a system of checks and balances"?
3. What are the three branches of government called and which people or groups are part of each?
4. What are the president's responsibilities?
5. Why could some presidents expand the powers of the presidency?

Research: Articles of Confederation, Constitutional Convention, Revolutionary War, King George II

"Mapping It" (Pages 4-5)

Comprehension:

1. Why were many of the early presidents born in the eastern United States?
2. Which presidents, if any, were born in the state you live in?
3. Who was the oldest person to become president?
4. Who was the youngest?
5. Who was president for the longest time?
6. Which presidents served for one year or less?
7. How many presidents served more than one term, four years, in office?

The majority of the remainder of this issue is devoted to articles on individual presidents. For each president, answer as many of the following questions as possible.

Vocabulary: impeached

Comprehension:

1. What years was he in office?
2. Which party did he belong to?
3. What prior service or life experience helped qualify him for the presidency?
4. What were his goals as president?
5. Did he succeed with these goals? Why or why not?
6. Who were his major rivals and why?
7. What were some of the most important events during his time as president?
8. What factors made these events important?
9. What decisions did he make to help the nation navigate these events?
10. How did the people feel about these decisions?
11. What laws did he sign or veto and why?
12. What were the purposes and effects of these laws?
13. What were the impacts of these laws?
14. How did the two party system impact his presidency?
15. How many terms did he serve?
16. How and why did he leave office?
17. What is the lasting legacy of his presidency?

Research: Whiskey Rebellion, Proclamation of 1790, Continental Congresses, Declaration of Independence, XYZ Affair, Quasi-War, Alien and Sedition Acts, Chief Justice John Marshall, Louisiana Territory, Corps of Discovery, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, War Hawks, War of 1812, Fort McHenry, Treaty of Ghent, Monroe Doctrine, Missouri Compromise, nullification, Second U.S. Bank, Compromise Tariff, Indian Removal Act, Jacksonian Democracy, Republic of Texas, Daniel Webster, Preemption Act, Webster-Ashburton Treaty, manifest destiny, Department of Interior, Oregon Territory, U.S.-Mexican War, Mexican Cession, Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, Compromise of 1850, Fugitive Slave Law, Kansas-Nebraska Act, "Bleeding Kansas", Confederate States of America, Civil War, Morrill Act of 1862, Homestead Act, Emancipation Proclamation, John Wilkes Booth, Reconstruction, Schuyler Colfax, Union Pacific Railroad, Whiskey Ring, Hamilton Fish, Yellowstone, Pendleton Act, Interstate Commerce Commission, Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Tariff Act of 1890, Spanish-American War

Writing Activity: Select a political party from this list: Federalist, Democratic-Republican, Whig, Democrat, and Republican. Write a history of the party and its beliefs. How did these beliefs evolve over time? How many presidents were or are in this party? If it no longer exists, include information about its decline.

Discussion: Many amendments to the Constitution were passed during these years. Why was each proposed? How did they change the nation? Which do you feel had the greatest impact?

"Rising to the Top" by Will Bremen (Pages 14-15)

"Getting Personal" by Will Bremen (Pages 22-23)

"Trivia Quiz" by Will Bremen (Pages 32-33)

Complete the activities.

“Did You Know?” by Chris Ware (Pages 24-25)

Research: Dolley Madison, Gilbert Stuart, Abigail Fillmore, Lucy Hayes, White House Egg Roll, Francis Cleveland, Caroline Harrison, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

“Going Global” by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 40-41)

Research: Benazir Bhutto, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Lech Walesa

Activities for the Entire Issue: Research one of the presidents listed.

1. Create a detailed timeline of his life including the important moments of his presidency.
2. Write a biography of this president and share it with your class. Include information on how his background led him to decide to run for office and led the people to vote for him as well as the effects his presidency had on his future and the future of the nation.
3. Write a persuasive essay explaining why this president was a good president. If you have selected William Henry Harrison, or another president who was only briefly in office, explain why you believe he would have been a good president. Use your essay to defend your president in a debate with a classmate.