

DID YOU KNOW ...



That John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, exactly fifty years after the very first Independence Day?

That Theodore Roosevelt, not John F. Kennedy, is the youngest president we've ever had?

That Barack Obama is only our sixth brown-eyed president?



Filled with quizzes, games, and the most fascinating facts about the most powerful office on earth, *Presidential Trivia* is the perfect book for everyone from the novice to the history buff. From politics and policy to presidential nicknames and White House pets, *Presidential Trivia* brims with everything you ever wanted to know about our U.S. presidents.

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RICHARD LEDERER

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT KEPT A COW ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN TO SUPPLY HIM WITH FRESH MILK. HE WAS THE LAST PRESIDENT TO DO SO.



- **CALVIN COOLIDGE** owned six dogs, a cat (which would cleave to his clothing as he walked around the White House), two raccoons, a donkey, a goose, a bobcat, a wallaby, two lion cubs, an antelope, and a pygmy hippo during his presidency.
- ★ Two other twentieth-century presidents kept farm animals outside the White House:
 - During **WOODROW WILSON**'s presidency, his wife introduced a flock of sheep to graze on the White House lawn. Their wool was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I. One newspaper inadvertently left out the word *sheep* when it wrote, "Woodrow Wilson's wife grazed on the front lawn of the White House."
- ★ Three U.S. presidents have been the sons of clergymen—**CHESTER A. ARTHUR**, **GROVER CLEVELAND**, and **WOODROW WILSON**.
- ★ **WILLIAM MCKINLEY** was the last president to have fought in the Civil War. **ULYSSES S. GRANT**, **RUTHERFORD B. HAYES** (the only one who was wounded), **JAMES A. GARFIELD**, and **BENJAMIN HARRISON** were the others. McKinley had been an aide de camp to another future president, General Rutherford B. Hayes.
- ★ Both **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** and **FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** served as governor of New York and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

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- ★ At least two of our presidents have had something to say about the art and science of spelling:
 - **ANDREW JACKSON**, whom some accused of being illiterate, observed, "It's a damn small mind that can think of only one way to spell a word."
 - **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** was an enthusiastic champion of simplified spelling. In 1906, he sent his annual message to Congress in simplified spelling. "Nothing escapes Mr. Roosevelt," wrote the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. "No subject is tu hi fr him to takl, nor tu lo for him tu notis."
 - ★ **GEORGE WASHINGTON**, **JOHN ADAMS**, and **THOMAS JEFFERSON** were all avid collectors and players of marbles. **JOHN TYLER** was playing marbles when he learned that he had become president.
- But golf is the sport most associated with American presidents. In fact, sixteen of our past nineteen presidents played golf.
- **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT** was the first president to take up the game.
 - **WOODROW WILSON** was adamant about playing golf year-round and any time of day. He used red balls for snow days and had his caddie tote a large flashlight for play at night. One particular match didn't end until five o'clock in the morning. Wilson claimed that golf was a game of amusement, not competition, and seldom kept score. On several occasions his wife Edith joined him on the links, a rarity for a woman, let alone a First Lady.
 - The most notable golfer among presidents, **DWIGHT EISENHOWER** played golf as many as a hundred



DWIGHT EISENHOWER PLAYED GOLF AS MANY AS A HUNDRED AND FIFTY DAYS A YEAR.

and fifty days a year, often walked the halls with a pitching wedge, and had a putting green installed on the White House lawn. Located at the seventeenth hole at Augusta National Golf Club is a loblolly pine officially called the “Eisenhower Tree.” The former president and club member hit into the tree so often he campaigned to have it cut down, a proposal rejected by the club’s board of governors. The pine has been linked to Eisenhower ever since. When Ike ran for reelection in 1956, there were bumper stickers that quipped, “Ben Hogan for president. If we’re going to have a golfer—let’s have a good one!” In 2009, Eisenhower was posthumously elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame.

- Despite a bad back and lack of practice, **JOHN F. KENNEDY** often shot in the mid to high seventies.
- **RICHARD NIXON** scored a hole in one on Labor Day 1961 at the Bel Air Country Club in Los Angeles. **DWIGHT EISENHOWER** aced the par-three thirteenth hole at Seven Lakes Country Club.
- **GERALD FORD** hit many a stellar golf shot in pro-am tournaments (and a hole in one in the Memphis Open), but he became best known for peppering galleries with wild hooks and topped liners that occasionally met somebody’s limb or head. Ford was often paired with comedian Bob Hope, who stoked the president’s reputation when he called him “the man who made golf a contact sport”

and “the most dangerous driver since Ben-Hur.” Hope once zinged, “It’s not hard to find Jerry Ford on a golf course—you just follow the wounded.” On another occasion Hope quipped, “Whenever I play with him, I usually try to make it a foursome—the president, myself, a paramedic, and a faith healer.” He added, “I’m comfortable playing with [Ford] as long as my caddie and I have the same blood type.”

- **GEORGE H. W. BUSH** and **GEORGE W. BUSH** come from a prominent golfing family that includes H. W.’s grandfather, George Herbert Walker, founder of the Walker Cup tournament, and H. W.’s father, Prescott Bush, who served as head of the USGA.
- ★ **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT** and **JOHN F. KENNEDY** are the only two presidents to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

★ Since the start of the twentieth century, only three men have become president without having held major elective office—**WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**, **HERBERT HOOVER**, and **DWIGHT EISENHOWER**.

★ **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** and **RONALD REAGAN** were each responsible for the success of two major commercial products:

- Early in 1903, a stuffed animal then known as “teddy’s bear” began to gain what would become enormous and enduring popularity. The manufacturers, Rose and Morris Michtom, who ran a novelty store in Brooklyn, claimed that they received permission from **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** to create and distribute the toy. Roosevelt used the bear as a symbol in his successful 1904 presidential election. Now, more than a century later, children still hug their adorable teddy bears.

- **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** was prone to asthma attacks as a child and, on doctor's orders, began drinking coffee to arrest these onslaughts. Over time, he grew to love coffee. In 1907, the president took a drink of coffee at an exhibition booth and, when offered a second cup, he exclaimed, "Delighted! It's good to the last drop!" Maxwell House brand coffee took their motto from that exclamation, and it remains theirs even to this day, a century later.
- **RONALD REAGAN** generated booming sales of two products: hearing aids, because he used one, and jelly beans, because he told reporters he liked them.
- ★ Given the high-stakes gamble of being president, it's no surprise that at least six of our twentieth-century presidents have played the game of poker:
 - The first president who we are sure played poker was **GROVER CLEVELAND**. He was an especially

hard-working president and took time off on many a Sunday afternoon to play the game. "My father used to say that it was wicked to go fishing on Sunday," he once explained, "but he never said anything about draw-poker."

- **WARREN G. HARDING's** advisers were known as the Poker Cabinet because they frequently played poker together while liquor flowed freely despite Prohibition. Harding played at least twice a week and once gambled away a priceless set of White House china dating back to the administration of **RUTHERFORD B. HAYES**.
- Because of paraplegia brought on by his polio, **FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** was unable to relax by taking long walks or playing golf or tennis. But he often had dinner with his poker-playing pals and then adjourned to a marathon session of cards. His favorite game was seven-card stud. Among the

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT OFTEN HAD DINNER WITH HIS POKER-PLAYING PALS.

regulars were the Vice President, Speaker of the House, Attorney General, Secretary of Commerce, and at least one Supreme Court Justice. The President's secretary, "Missy" LeHand, served cocktails and often played in the game. One of the rules was that nobody could discuss anything serious at the evening poker sessions. The only thought was how to outfox the other players.

- Roosevelt selected as his last vice president another poker player. **HARRY S. TRUMAN** was playing poker when he found out that he had become president. Truman was known as an excellent poker player, and "The buck stops here" became the famous slogan of his administration. (The "buck" actually refers to a betting marker in poker.)



In office for just a few months, Truman had to decide whether or not to drop the atomic bomb on Japanese cities in order to bring World War II to a close. To help him focus during the decision-making process, Truman engaged in an almost continuous game of pot-limit poker aboard the presidential yacht, the *Williamsburg*. Often all three branches of government were represented at the poker table. The group would board the ship Friday afternoon and sail the Potomac until Sunday afternoon.

- Born a Quaker, **RICHARD NIXON** remained unfamiliar with any form of gambling until his