

2024 Presidents' Day Quiz

Question & Answer

1. Who was the first sitting president to enter a war zone that had no active U.S. military presence?
 - a. James Monroe
 - b. William McKinley
 - c. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - d. Joe Biden

Answer: [Joe Biden](#). Biden visited Kyiv in February 2023 after taking a ten-hour train ride from Poland to the capital of Ukraine.

2. Who was the first, and so far only, sitting president to be arrested?
 - a. James Monroe
 - b. James Buchanan
 - c. Ulysses S. Grant
 - d. Donald Trump

Answer: [Ulysses S. Grant](#). In 1872, Grant was arrested at the corner of 13th and M streets NW in Washington, DC, for speeding in his horse-drawn carriage.

3. Who was the first president to host a state dinner for a foreign head of state?
 - a. James K. Polk
 - b. Ulysses S. Grant
 - c. Woodrow Wilson
 - d. Harry S. Truman

Answer: [Ulysses S. Grant](#). In 1874, Grant hosted the king of Hawaii, which was then a sovereign country, for dinner.

4. How many presidents never had a vice president?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four

Answer: [Four](#). John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, and Chester A. Arthur did not have a vice president during their time as president. All four men were vice presidents who became president on the death of the president. Until the ratification of the Twenty-fifth Amendment in 1967, the United States did not have a procedure for filling a vice-presidential vacancy.

5. Who is the only president to also have been the president of a labor union?
 - a. Warren G. Harding
 - b. John F. Kennedy
 - c. Ronald Reagan
 - d. Barack Obama

Answer: [Ronald Reagan](#). Reagan was the president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1947 to 1952 and again from 1959 to 1960.

6. Which president cast his first vote for president when he voted for himself as president?
 - a. James Madison
 - b. Zachary Taylor
 - c. Grover Cleveland
 - d. Lyndon B. Johnson

Answer: [Zachary Taylor](#). Taylor was a career army officer who did not vote for president until he ran himself. Taylor said he did not want to vote against someone who might be his commander in chief.

7. Which president went to college with Nathaniel Hawthorne and was present at Hawthorne's death?

- a. John Adams
- b. Martin Van Buren
- c. Franklin Pierce
- d. Andrew Johnson

Answer: [Franklin Pierce](#). Pierce and Hawthorne met at Bowdoin College in Maine and became fast friends. In 1864, Pierce joined an ailing Hawthorne on a tour of New Hampshire's White Mountains. The two stopped at a local inn, where Hawthorne died in his sleep. Pierce found the body.

8. Which president was such a skilled poker player that he once won \$1,500 with a pair of deuces?
- a. Thomas Jefferson
 - b. James K. Polk
 - c. Rutherford B. Hayes
 - d. Richard M. Nixon

Answer: [Richard M. Nixon](#). The nation's thirty-seventh president sharpened his poker skills while serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Nixon used his winnings from playing poker to help bankroll his first run for Congress.

9. Which president regularly took two-hour naps after lunch and averaged eleven hours of sleep at night?
- a. John Quincy Adams
 - b. Millard Fillmore
 - c. Calvin Coolidge
 - d. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: [Calvin Coolidge](#).

10. Which president was a Rhodes Scholar?
- a. Benjamin Harrison
 - b. Woodrow Wilson
 - c. John F. Kennedy
 - d. Bill Clinton

Answer: [Bill Clinton](#). Clinton was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968 to pursue graduate studies at Oxford University.

11. Which president is credited with saving college football?
- a. Rutherford B. Hayes
 - b. Theodore Roosevelt
 - c. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - d. George H. W. Bush

Answer: [Theodore Roosevelt](#). In the early 1900s, more than a dozen college students died each year playing football. In 1904, Roosevelt, whose son was injured playing football for Harvard, began pushing colleges to reform the game. Those efforts produced radical changes to the rules and the creation of the forerunner organization to the NCAA.

12. Who was the first president to appear in a movie?
- a. Grover Cleveland
 - b. William Howard Taft
 - c. Ronald Reagan
 - d. George W. Bush

Answer: [Grover Cleveland](#). Cleveland appeared in the 1896 silent film *A Capital Courtship* signing a bill into law.

13. Who is the only president to be sworn in by his nickname?
- a. John Quincy Adams
 - b. James Buchanan
 - c. Warren G. Harding

- d. Jimmy Carter

Answer: [Jimmy \(James\) Carter](#).

14. Which president was sworn into office in his own home?

- a. Chester A. Arthur
- b. Theodore Roosevelt
- c. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- d. Gerald D. Ford

Answer: [Chester A. Arthur](#). Arthur was at his New York City home when President James A. Garfield died on September 19, 1881, two-and-a-half months after being felled by an assassin's bullet. Arthur took the oath of office the next day.

15. How many presidents wore beards while in office?

- a. Three
- b. Five
- c. Eight
- d. Ten

Answer: [Five](#). Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Benjamin Harrison all wore beards.

16. Two presidents were on the winning national ticket four times. One was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Who was the other?

- a. Martin Van Buren
- b. Rutherford B. Hayes
- c. Herbert Hoover
- d. Richard M. Nixon

Answer: [Richard M. Nixon](#). Nixon was elected vice president in 1952 and 1956. He was elected president in 1968 and 1972.

17. Who was the first president to never have owned an enslaved person?

- a. John Adams
- b. Andrew Jackson
- c. Abraham Lincoln
- d. Rutherford B. Hayes

Answer: [John Adams](#). Twelve of the first eighteen presidents owned enslaved people. Ulysses S. Grant was the last person to own an enslaved person to become president.

18. How many sitting presidents have won a Nobel Peace Prize?

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. Three
- d. Five

Answer: [Three](#). Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Barack Obama each won a Nobel Peace Prize while in office. Jimmy Carter won a Nobel Peace Prize two decades after leaving office.

19. Since 1990, which president won office with the highest share of the popular vote?

- a. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- b. Lyndon B. Johnson
- c. George W. Bush
- d. Joe Biden

Answer: [Lyndon B. Johnson](#). Johnson won the 1964 election with 61.1 percent of the popular vote.

20. George Washington won the Electoral College unanimously both times he ran for president. Which president came within one vote of winning the Electoral College unanimously?

- a. James Monroe
- b. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- c. Barack Obama
- d. Joe Biden

Answer: [James Monroe](#). Monroe won 231 of the 232 Electoral College votes that were up for grabs in the election of 1820. A New Hampshire elector cast his vote for John Quincy Adams, Monroe's secretary of state and the winner of the election of 1824.