

BEFORE YOU READ

KET

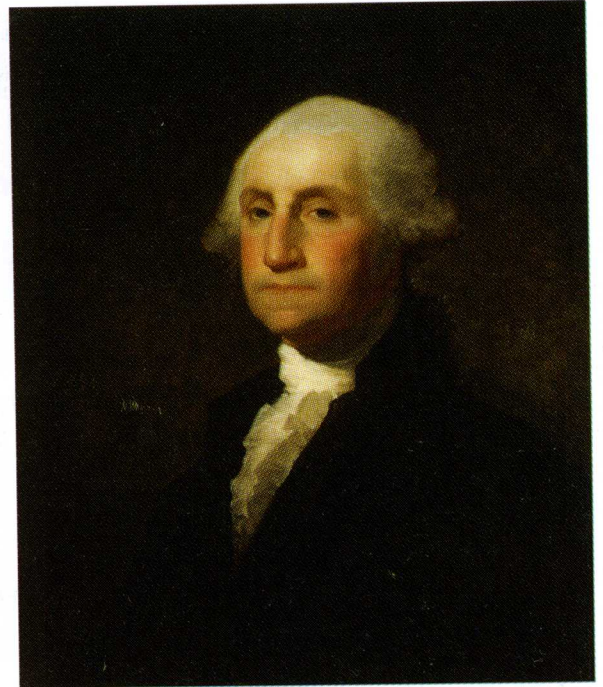
1

12

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Ten about Presidents' Day and complete the table.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

- 1 George Washington was born on February in
- 2 At the age of twenty he became a with the army.
- 3 The War of Independence started in and ended in
- 4 George Washington was the of the American
- 5 In 1789, he became the of the United States.
- 6 He died in He was years old.



2


GLOSSARY CHECK

You can find definitions of the following words in the glossary on pages 4-5. Check any words that are new or that you do not understand.

- colony/colonists
- slavery/slaves
- to make a speech



Presidents' Day

In the United States people celebrate Presidents' Day on the third  Monday of February. This festivity celebrates the birthdays of two great presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

George Washington

George Washington was born on 22 February 1732 in Virginia. At this time America was still a British colony.

At the age of twenty Washington became a soldier with the British army and fought against French colonists in America. In 1759 he married, and became the owner of a big plantation.¹ He also became interested in politics.

1. **plantation** : a big farm.

In 1765 the American colonists began to protest against Great Britain. They did not want to have British laws and pay taxes ¹ to the British king, George III: they wanted America to become an independent nation. This was the beginning of the American Revolution.

1. taxes : you have to pay this money to the government.



George Washington
(1824)
by Rembrandt Peale

The American War of Independence lasted from 1775 until 1783. For all this time Washington was the colonists' leader and commander of the American army.

Washington became the first president of the United States in 1789. He was dedicated and honest, and was president until 1797, when he chose not to accept a third Presidency. He retired from public life and two years later, in 1799, he died at the age of sixty-seven.



Abraham Lincoln

Another great president, Abraham Lincoln, was born on 12 February 1809 in Kentucky. As a child Lincoln only went to school for about a year, but he loved reading and studying: he wanted to learn.

When he was a young man Lincoln decided to enter politics in Illinois and also to study law. In 1836 he became a lawyer¹ in Springfield, Illinois. He also continued in politics, and in 1837 he became a member of Congress,² representing the state of Illinois.

Lincoln became the sixteenth president of the United States in 1861. At this time the question of slavery divided the North and the South of the United States: the South wanted slavery but the North did not. This was the most important cause of the American Civil War. This terrible war lasted from 1861 to 1865, and more than 600,000 soldiers died before the North won.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a very important victory for the North. It lasted three days in July 1863, and 40,000 soldiers died. On 18 November 1863 Lincoln went to Gettysburg to open the

1. **lawyer** : this person advises people about the law.

2. **Congress** : elected group of people, similar to Parliament in Britain. The American Congress makes laws.



Abraham Lincoln greeting African Americans by an unknown artist.

National Cemetery at the place of the battle. He gave a famous speech, called 'The Gettysburg Address', expressing the principles of democratic government. In his speech Lincoln used, for the first time, the famous expression 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.'

Soon after the end of the war, on 14 April 1865, Lincoln and his wife went to the theatre in Washington, DC. A man called John Wilkes Booth, a member of a Southern plot, shot and killed him. Lincoln was only 56 years old.

Presidents' Day is a national holiday. Many people put the American flag outside their homes, and some go to visit Washington's home in Virginia, or Lincoln's home in Illinois.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KET

Read the text below and choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

George Washington was born (0) **B**... Virginia and lived on (1) family's plantation. He became a soldier (2) fought in the British army during a war against the French.

The American colonists chose Washington to be the (3) of their army during the American Revolution. The colonists (4) the war against Britain and America became an independent nation. George Washington became the first President of the United States of America.

Abraham Lincoln only went to school (5) a year, but he wanted to learn so he continued to read many books. Later he decided to enter politics. He also became a famous lawyer. People liked and respected (6) He was President of the United States during the American Civil War. The North fought (7) the South. President Lincoln passed a law against slavery. (8) called it the Emancipation Proclamation. The North won the Civil War in 1865.

0 **A** on

B in

C at

1 **A** him

B he

C his

2 **A** and

B but

C yet

3 **A** director

B leader

C teacher

4 **A** won

B wins

C winning

5 **A** from

B to

C for

6 **A** his

B him

C he

7 **A** against

B to

C at

8 **A** She

B He

C It

PROJECT ON THE WEB

Let's find out about some presidents of the United States.

Your teacher will give you the correct web-site address.

Choose a president and click on his name.

Prepare a fact file on the president and present it to the class.

2 Complete the notes in the table about the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. When you finish, make full sentences using the Past Simple. If you chose a different president for your project on the Web, make a similar table with information about him.

Abraham Lincoln

Date	What happens
.....	works as a lawyer
.....	becomes congressman
1861
1861-65
.....	man assassinates President Lincoln at the theatre

3 Rewrite these sentences in the correct order. There is an example at the beginning.

- a. celebrate/Presidents' Day/February/Americans/in
 Americans celebrate Presidents' Day in February.....
- b. taxes/about/The colonists/protested

- c. a/Washington/did/presidency/accept/third/not

- d. fire/studied/the/by/Lincoln/in/evenings/the

- e. the/was/Lincoln/during/Civil War/President

- f. passed/slavery/He/law/a/against

- g. homes/of/Many/Presidents/these/visit/Americans/the/two

4 Have fun with this crossword puzzle!

Across

- 3. The capital city of the United States of America is, DC.
- 4. A big battle of the American Civil War.
- 8. Lincoln only went to school for a year, but he wanted to
- 9. Young George Washington lived on a
- 11. Lincoln was born in the state of

Down

- 1. George Washington was the of the colonists.
- 2. George Washington was born in the state of
- 5. Presidents' Day is celebrated in this month.
- 6. President Lincoln passed a law against
- 7. The name of the British king during the American Revolution.
- 10. Lincoln's job before he became President.

