

2021 Presidents' Day Quiz

1. Who was the last Civil War veteran to serve as president?

- a) Ulysses S. Grant
- b) Rutherford B. Hayes
- c) Benjamin Harrison
- d) William McKinley

Answer: D. [William McKinley](#). He was one of seven presidents who fought in the Civil War.

2. Ronald Reagan starred in a movie about a Hall-of-Fame baseball player named after which president?

- a) Grover Cleveland
- b) Calvin Coolidge
- c) Herbert Hoover
- d) Harry S. Truman

Answer: A. [Grover Cleveland](#). Reagan played Hall-of-Fame baseball pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander in the 1952 film *The Winning Team*.

3. Which president signed the legislation creating the National Academy of Sciences?

- a) John Quincy Adams
- b) Abraham Lincoln
- c) Theodore Roosevelt
- d) John F. Kennedy

Answer: B. [Abraham Lincoln](#). Lincoln signed the bill that created the National Academy of Sciences on February 20, 1863.

4. Which president led the creation of the National Park System?

- a) Chester A. Arthur
- b) Theodore Roosevelt
- c) Herbert Hoover
- d) Lyndon B. Johnson

Answer: B. [Theodore Roosevelt](#). Nearly 230 million acres of public land were protected during his presidency.

5. Which president published a scholarly paper on the prehistoric Megalonyx, a giant sloth?

- a) Thomas Jefferson
- b) Millard Fillmore
- c) Theodore Roosevelt
- d) Gerald R. Ford

Answer: A. [Thomas Jefferson](#). The paper was published on March 10, 1797. It was titled: "A Memoir on the Discovery of Certain Bones of a Quadruped of the Clawed Kind in the Western Parts of Virginia."

6. Which president developed a mathematical proof of the Pythagorean theorem?

- a) John Quincy Adams
- b) Franklin Pierce
- c) James Garfield
- d) Warren G. Harding

Answer: C. [James Garfield](#). After he graduated from college, Garfield taught mathematics, among other subjects.

7. Which president was an avid birdwatcher?

- a) John Quincy Adams
- b) John Tyler
- c) Theodore Roosevelt
- d) Jimmy Carter

Answer: C. [Theodore Roosevelt](#). He compiled a [list](#) of ninety-three bird species that he spotted around Washington, DC, during his time as president.

8. Which president nominated his son to be an ambassador?

- a) John Adams
- b) William Henry Harrison
- c) George H.W. Bush
- d) Donald J. Trump

Answer: A. [John Adams](#). On June 1, 1797, Adams nominated his son, John Quincy Adams, as minister to Prussia.

9. Who was the first president to take the oath of office outdoors?

- a) John Adams
- b) James Monroe
- c) John Quincy Adams
- d) Millard Fillmore

Answer: B. [James Monroe](#). The ceremony was held on March 4, 1817, in front of what is today the Supreme Court.

10. Which president crossed the Delaware River on Christmas Night 1776 and was wounded the next day at the Battle of Trenton?

- a) George Washington
- b) John Adams
- c) James Madison
- d) James Monroe

Answer: D. [James Monroe](#). Then-Lieutenant James Monroe was eighteen years old when he fought in the Battle of Trenton, one of the pivotal American victories in the Revolutionary War.

11. Which president was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as commander of the U.S. Army after he left office?

- a) George Washington
- b) Andrew Jackson
- c) Ulysses S. Grant
- d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: A. [George Washington](#). He served in the position from July 13, 1798, until he died on December 14, 1799.

12. Benjamin Franklin said which future president was “Always an honest Man, often a wise one, but sometimes, and in some things, absolutely out of his senses”?

- a) George Washington
- b) John Adams
- c) Thomas Jefferson
- d) James Madison

Answer: B. [John Adams](#). In a letter dated December 5, 1811, Thomas Jefferson attributed this characterization of Adams to Franklin.

13. Which future president was rescued by a multinational relief force during the Boxer Rebellion?

- a) William Howard Taft
- b) Herbert Hoover
- c) Theodore Roosevelt
- d) Woodrow Wilson

Answer: B. [Herbert Hoover](#). Hoover and his wife, Lou, were in Tianjin, China, in 1900 when the Boxer Rebellion began and were trapped in the city for more than a month.

14. Which president would have been reelected if his party had won 250 more votes in New York City's state legislative elections earlier that year?

- a) John Adams
- b) John Quincy Adams
- c) Martin Van Buren
- d) Benjamin Harrison

Answer: A. [John Adams](#). Had the Federalist Party picked up 250 votes in New York City's April 1800 legislative elections, it would have won control of the New York legislature. At the time, the state legislature decided who received New York's electoral votes. The Federalists would have given those votes to Adams, enabling him to defeat Thomas Jefferson.

15. Which future president defeated another future president in a race for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives?

- a) James Madison
- b) Rutherford B. Hayes
- c) Gerald R. Ford
- d) George H.W. Bush

Answer: A. [James Madison](#). He defeated James Monroe in a race for a House seat in the first Congress.

16. Which president won office with just a single electoral vote cast against him?

- a) George Washington
- b) James Monroe
- c) Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- d) Ronald Reagan

Answer: B. [James Monroe](#). During the election of 1820, one elector from New Hampshire cast a vote for John Quincy Adams.

17. Which future president boycotted George Washington's memorial service?

- a) John Adams
- b) Thomas Jefferson
- c) James Madison
- d) James Monroe

Answer: B. [Thomas Jefferson](#), who was vice president at the time of Washington's death, was estranged from the man he had served as secretary of state and refused to attend his memorial service.

18. Who was the last president to win more than 53 percent of the popular vote?

- a) George H.W. Bush
- b) George W. Bush
- c) Barack Obama
- d) Joe Biden

Answer: A. [George H.W. Bush](#). In 1988, he won 53.37 percent of the popular vote.

19. Which president lost reelection because he failed to win his home state, where he had once been governor?

- a) Martin Van Buren
- b) Benjamin Harrison
- c) Grover Cleveland
- d) Jimmy Carter

Answer: C. [Grover Cleveland](#). He lost his home state of New York, handing the election of 1888 to Benjamin Harrison.

20. Which president previously served simultaneously as secretary of state and secretary of war?

- a) James Monroe
- b) James Buchanan
- c) William Howard Taft
- d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: A. [James Monroe](#). He served in both positions from October 1814 to February 1815.