

**Presidential Trivia!**

**1/20/21**

**Inauguration of Joseph Biden**

**as our**

**46<sup>th</sup> U.S. President**

*Celebrate Together*

*With*

*U.S. & Israeli*

*“Presidential”*

*Trivia and Fun Facts!!!*

1.

**Which president owned a distillery and was known for distributing liquor?**





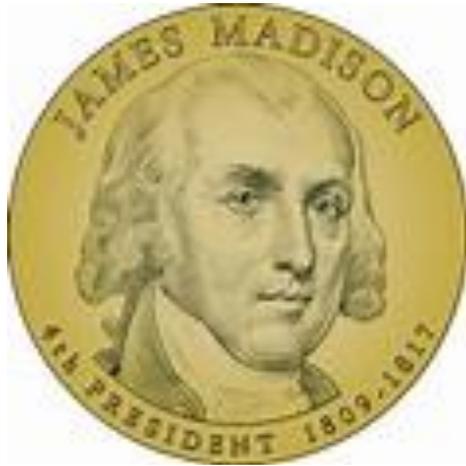
George Washington! He really enjoyed his whiskey and brandy. In addition to being a founding father and our first president, Washington was a very popular liquor distributor in the early years of our country!

Some of the famous liquors he distributed were whiskey, apple brandy, and peach brandy from his Mount Vernon distillery.

**2.**

**Who was the first elected president to graduate from Princeton University?**





James Madison.

Madison was in the first graduating class at Princeton University in 1771!

He was exceptionally bright, completing the 4 year course of study in just 2 years. Think about whether you remember any other interesting facts about Madison... we may "see" him again a bit later...

3.

**Who was the first US president to receive a speeding ticket?**





Ulysses S. Grant, the 18<sup>th</sup> president of the states! He was actually given a \$20 speeding ticket (for riding his horse and buggy WAY too fast down a street in Washington, D.C.). This was a LOT of \$\$ for the era!!!!

It would be interesting to know how fast he was going for such a high fine!

4.

**What foreign capital was named after James Monroe?**



The capital of Liberia, “Monrovia,” was named after US president James Monroe, because he helped to free the slaves in Liberia.



5.

**Which US president had a  
penchant for skinny-  
dipping?**



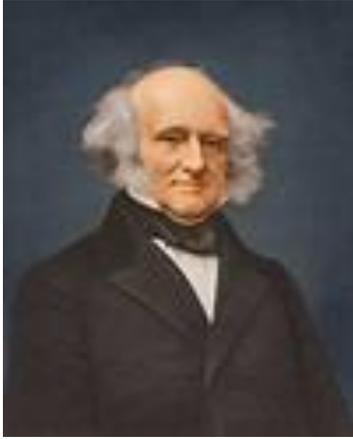


John Quincy Adams! While quite serious in his presentation, Adams enjoyed skinny-dipping regularly, and he did not take any breaks from it while he was president! His location of choice was the Potomac River. He would venture there early in the morning for a swim “au naturel.”

6.

**Which US president was the first to be a US citizen?**





Contrary to popular belief, our founding fathers, while much revered, were not “grandfathered” into citizenship!!!

Martin Van Buren was the first to be a United States citizen. All previous presidents were born as British subjects.

7.

**Who was the youngest  
president in US history?**

The youngest president in American history was NOT John F. Kennedy, as is often misperceived given his youthful

appearance and untimely death at the hands of a murderous assassin. Nor was it Barack Obama, whose first presidential campaign in 2008 found support among the nation's youth. It wasn't Bill Clinton, either, whose indiscretions with a White House intern nearly cost him his job.

The youngest president, Theodore Roosevelt, was thrust into office following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901. He was only seven years older than the constitutional requirement that the White House occupant be at least 35 years old. Roosevelt's leadership ability, however, defied his youthful age.

8.

**Which US president had the shortest life span?**





John F. Kennedy. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States. He was assassinated on Friday, November 22, 1963, at 12:30 p.m. Central Standard Time in Dallas, Texas, while riding in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza. He was 46 years old.

Much of the “baby boomer” generation that grew up with JFK as their president can immediately recall and discuss where they were when JFK was shot, and their experience that day, as it was a defining experience of that era. This is much in the way that following “Gen X” members remember where they were when the *Challenger* exploded, and how younger adults recall their experience on 9/11.

**9. What future president was the  
ONLY US senator from a  
Confederate state to remain in  
Congress after secession?**



Andrew Jackson.

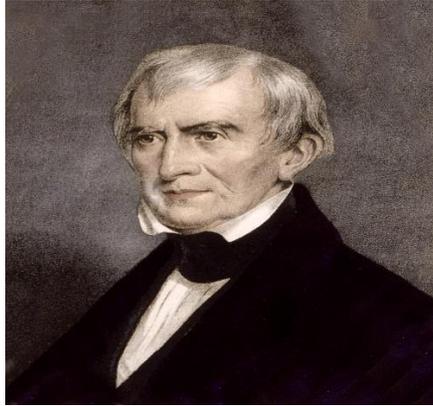


Jackson had had a long and storied career by this time and was the lone “holdout”!

**11.**

**Which US president holds  
the record for the shortest  
time served?**





William Henry Harrison. Harrison was elected into office in 1841, becoming the 9th US president. However, he never made it past his first month in office. He became gravely ill from some kind of respiratory illness.

Those who attended his inauguration ceremony noted that he delivered a lengthy speech on a chilly day without wearing a coat or jacket. Some have speculated that this may have led to pneumonia, and consequently, an unexpected death.

12.

**Which US president never  
got married?**



James Buchanan. He never had a First Lady with him at the White House.

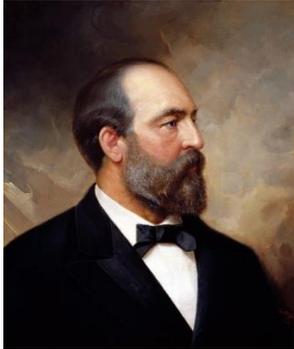
Buchanan, the 15th president, was actually briefly engaged to be married when he was 28 years old. However, it seems that Buchanan wasn't ready for marriage, leading to an end to the engagement not long after.

Buchanan never married, making him the only US president to remain a bachelor all his life.

12.

**Who was the first left-handed US president?**





James A. Garfield! All of our left-handed participants today may be interested to know that the 20th president of the United States was also the first left-handed president. He was also partially ambidextrous, meaning he could perform other motor tasks using both his left and right hand fairly equally.

Garfield was also a bit of a Renaissance man. He spoke both English and German and he was also familiar with classic languages such as Latin and Greek. Sadly, he is more often remembered as the second US president to be assassinated, rather than for his unique talents.

13.

**Who was the 5<sup>th</sup> president of  
the United States?**





In addition to being celebrated in Monrovia, Liberia, James Monroe was also the fifth president of the United States, having served in office from 1817 to 1825.

Many people assume Abraham Lincoln was the fifth president because he appears on the \$5 bill. **Lincoln was actually the 16<sup>th</sup> president!!!**

**14.**

**Who was the first US president to hold a press conference on television?**





While television existed already, John F. Kennedy was the very first president to hold a press conference on television.

**15.**

**Who was the first US president to give his inaugural address without written/typed notes or a teleprompter of any kind?**



Franklin Pierce. And his was a doozy!

When Pierce became our 14<sup>th</sup> president in 1853, his speech was a whopping **3,319 words** in total. He gave his entire inaugural address from *memory, without the aid of notes*.

That would be unheard of today.

**15.**

**Who was the first US president to call the presidential residence in Washington, D.C. the “White House”?**





Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to call his residence in Washington, D.C. the “White House.” Prior to his term, it had been called the Executive Mansion or the President’s House.

**16.**

**Who was the  
smallest/shortest president  
in US history?**





James Madison: While he had a large presence academically at Princeton and in his political career, this came in a “petite” package!!! James Madison was the shortest and lightest president. Some historical accounts mentioned his poor health as a youth attributing to his size. He stood 5 feet, 4 inches and weighed about 100 pounds.

**17.**

**Who was the first American president to name a person of African-American descent to his cabinet?**





Lyndon B. Johnson. Exactly 55 years ago, on Jan. 13, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson made history when he appointed Robert C. Weaver as the secretary of the newly created Department of Housing and Urban Development. This made Weaver the first African-American member of the US federal Cabinet.



Robert C. Weaver

**18.**

**Who was the first president to appoint a woman to the cabinet? How about the first Jewish woman?**



Frances Perkins was the first woman to serve in the Cabinet. She was appointed as the secretary of labor in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Frances Perkins

The first Jewish woman to serve in the cabinet was Madeleine Albright. In 1993, Clinton appointed her to the position of US ambassador to the United Nations. She held that position until 1997, when she succeeded Warren Christopher as secretary of state. Albright served in that capacity until Clinton left office in 2001.



Madeleine Albright

**Israel**  
**“Presidential”**  
**Trivia!!!!**

**1.**

**Chaim Herzog is a much-loved former Israeli president. While this is a lesser-known fact, his wife, Aura Herzog, had a famous brother-in-law.**

**Who was he?**

Aura Herzog's sister Shoshana was married to Abba Eban!!!



Abba Eban was involved in the founding and early politics of Israel. During his career, Eban was Israeli foreign affairs minister, education minister, deputy prime minister, and ambassador to the United States and to the United Nations. He was also vice president of the United Nations General Assembly and president of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

**2.**

**Founded so recently (in 1948), Israel has had far fewer presidents than the United States. How many presidents has Israel had in total to date?**

Sometimes people get Israeli presidents and prime ministers confused. Israel has had a total of 10 presidents. They are:

• David Ben-Gurion
• Chaim Weizmann
• Yitzhak Ben-Zvi
• Zalman Shazar
• Ephraim Katzir
• Yitzhak Navon
• Chaim Herzog
• Ezer Weizman
• Moshe Katsav
• Shimon Peres
• Reuven Rivlin ( <i>Incumbent</i> )

**3.**

**Which woman served as  
acting president of Israel in  
2007 and why?**



Dahlia Itzik, prior Knesset speaker.

Itzik had previously served in several ministerial positions, and on May 4, 2006 became the first female speaker of the Knesset. She served as president of Israel in an interim capacity from January to July 2007 serving for Moshe Katsav during his leave of absence. On January 25, 2007, Israeli President Moshe Katsav took a three-month leave of absence, and on July 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, resigned the office in a plea bargain for several criminal charges, which he later rejected - vowing he would prove his innocence in court. Katsav was later convicted of two counts of rape, obstruction of justice and other charges. As the speaker of the Knesset stands first in line of succession, this made Itzik acting president during Katsav's leave.

**Itzik served as the official head of state until Shimon Perez formally took over on July 15, 2007.**

**4.**

**Who was the first US  
president to travel specifically  
to visit Israel?**



Richard Nixon, visited Israel on June 16-17, 1974.

This is the first visit ever to have been paid by an American president to the State of Israel. It symbolizes the unique relationship, the common heritage, and the close and historic ties, that have long existed between the United States and Israel.



5.

**Can you name another US  
president who has visited  
Israel?**

Clinton, Carter, Obama, and  
both “Bushes” have all  
visited Israel, some multiple  
times. Trump has also visited  
Israel.

**6.**

**Which Israeli president was beloved by Israelis and Egyptians alike, and even warmly welcomed by Anwar Sadat?**



Yitzchak Navon, Israel's 5<sup>th</sup> president!

Another fun fact, this president was a prolific author and writer of both plays and books! Navon was highly educated and was fluent in Hebrew, Arabic, English, Spanish, Ladino and Yiddish.

7.

**What is Prime Minister  
Benjamin Netanyahu's  
favorite dessert?**



## Ice Cream!!



The Proof? Benjamin Netanyahu's office spent 10,000 shekels on ice cream in 2012, according to his 2012 budget report. This report was a source of MUCH controversy, complaint, and investigation! Clearly, it is his favorite treat of choice. President Netanyahu's favorite flavor is pistachio, and Mrs. Netanyahu prefers vanilla.

**8.**

**What are the luckiest names  
for an aspiring Israeli  
president?**

<b>Presidents of Israel Since 1948</b>	<b>Term in Office</b>
David Ben-Gurion	May of 1948
<b>Chaim Weizmann</b>	1948-1952
<b>Yitzhak Ben-Zvi</b>	1952-1963
Zalman Shazar	1963-1973
Ephraim Katzir	1973-1978
<b>Yitzhak Navon</b>	1978-1983
<b>Chaim Herzog</b>	1983-1993
Ezer Weizman	1993-2000
Moshe Katsav	2000-2007
Shimon Peres	2007-2014
Reuven Rivlin ( <i>Incumbent</i> )	2014-Present

Politicians hoping to become Israel's president should go by the names of either **Yitzhak** or **Chaim** – with only 10 presidents in Israel's short history, there have been 2 Yitzhaks and 2 Chaims in the role since the establishment of the state!

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Debbie Schwartz

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