

# presidents of the *United States of America*

I was the seventh president of the United States and I was known as a "common man president"

**Andrew Jackson**



# Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

In this magazine, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Andrew Jackson's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

Can you solve the puzzle?

President Jackson had a pet and we need to find out it's name and what kind of animal it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this magazine carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

One you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

## Meet Andrew Jackson

Next time you have **A** 20 dollar bill, take a look at the man with wavy hair. His name is Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president, and he was responsible for making America a more **democratic** place. Before Jackson was president, the only peo**P**le who could vote were wealthy men who owned a lot of land. Jackson felt this was unfair, so he fought to allow more men, including those who were poor, to vote and make their voices heard.

Jackson also changed what people wanted from their presidents. Prior to Jackson, Americans elected mostly wealthy, well-educated presidents. Americans respected them, but didn't feel a connection to them. Jackson was different—he had grown up poor and had never gone to college. He wa**A**s blunt, honest, and he never shied away from a fight. Since so many people identified with him, he is regarded as the first "**common man** president."

Andrew Jackson was known for being tough. He was nicknamed "Old Hickory," because hickory trees are known for being strong and durable. As a general and as president, he did things that made him very popular, but also very cont**R**oversial. Even today, people still debate whether Jackson made America a better place, but everyone agrees that he was one of the most important U.S. presidents.



## Interesting Facts

- He is the only president to be held as a **prisoner-of-war**.
- He is the first president to ride a train.
- He is the first president to be the target of an assassination attempt.
- He is the only president to pay off the entire national debt.
- He is the first president to install indoor toilets at the White House.



# Young Andrew



Andrew Jackson lived a tough life right from birth. His father, also Andrew, died in a logging accident before he was born, so his family had to survive without him. The American Revolution broke out when Andrew was eight years old and made life hard for his family. He lost his oldest brother Hugh, who died after fighting the British in 1779.

At the age of 13, Andrew joined the fight with his brother, Robert, and was captured by the enemy. While imprisoned, a British officer ordered him to shine his boots. Young Andrew courageously refused, angering the officer who then slashed him on the face with his sword. This left Andrew with lifelong scars, but he never regretted standing up to the officer.

Andrew and Robert both got smallpox while in prison. They were released and Andrew recovered, but Robert didn't and he died. Meanwhile, Andrew's mother Elizabeth was serving as a nurse for American soldiers. Unfortunately, she got cholera and also died. Andrew had lost his entire family by the age of 14 and was now an orphan.

## Did You Know?

Andrew Jackson was born on March 15, 1767 in the Waxhaws region of the Carolinas.

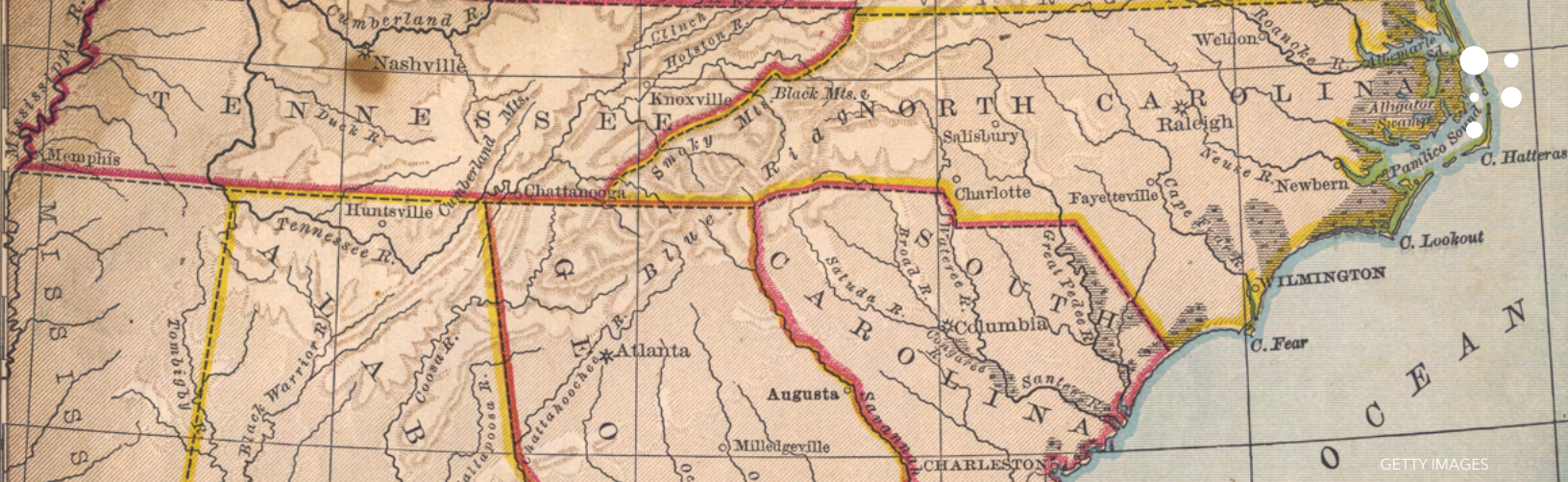
It isn't clear if he was born on the North Carolina or South Carolina side of the border.

He was the first president to be born in a **log cabin**.



GETTY IMAGES





## Quote

"It is to be regretted  
that the rich and  
powerful too often bend  
the acts of government  
to their selfish  
purposes."

July 10, 1832



## Duels

Jackson had a quick  
temper and participated  
in several **duels**. In 1806,  
Jackson challenged a man  
named Charles Dickinson  
to a duel after he had  
insulted him and his wife.  
During the duel, Dickinson  
shot Jackson in the chest.  
Jackson held his ground  
and shot and killed  
Dickinson. Jackson carried  
the bullet in his chest for  
the rest of his life.

## Rise to Power

As painful as these losses were, Jackson wouldn't let them stop him from succeeding in life. America was a new independent nation, full of opportunity. Jackson **N** took advantage of this, becoming a lawyer and moving to a new frontier town in what was then considered the west, called Nashville, Tennessee. He made enough money to buy land and slaves. He also fell in love with and married a woman named Rachel Robards.

America's first war as an independent nation was the War of 1812. Jackson became famous when he left his life in Nashville to become a general and fight the invading British. During the **B**attle of New Orleans in January 1815, Jackson led a **ragtag** group of unlikely soldiers: they included not just regular soldiers, but also **Native Americans**, former slaves, and even pirates. Most people expected Jackson's men would lose to the British, who were better trained and had a larger force. Jackson proved them wrong. His men surprised the enemy with intense cannon and rifle fire. It was an overwhelming victory, which helped keep the United States independent and free from the threat of the British. Jackson became a national hero. Many **A**mericans wanted him to become president.

Jackson ran for president in 1824. Even though he won the popular vote, he lost in the **Electoral College** to John Quincy Adams. He and his supporters felt they had been cheated and he ran again in 1828, this time winning. Sadly, his wife died shortly after the election of a heart attack.



PUBLIC DOMAIN



# Seventh U.S. President

As president, Jackson introduced a new idea, called Jacksonian Democracy, where the people, especially the common man, would play a bigger role in the country's political system. He fought for laws that allowed all white men, including the "common man," to vote.

At the time, the federal government kept its money in a national bank. Jackson felt that the bank was an enemy of the people. He believed that its leaders used government money to help rich people while everyone else suffered. In response, Jackson took the government's money out of the bank, causing it to collapse.

Jackson made a very controversial decision when he forced Native American groups to leave their lands in the southern United States and move west of the Mississippi River. Many whites wanted to settle on the Natives' lands and both sides often fought each other over territory. There were no perfect solutions to the problem, especially since the government didn't have the resources to stop the settlers and prevent the violence. President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830, which allowed him to negotiate with the natives to move them.

## Quote

*"The bank... is trying to kill me, but I will kill it."  
July 8, 1832*

## Adopted Children

Although Jackson fought against Native Americans and is known for removing them from their homelands, he did adopt and raise one, a boy named Lyncoya, as his own son. Jackson found Lyncoya on the battlefield in 1813, sent the boy to Jackson's home in Tennessee, and provided him with an education.

Unfortunately, Lyncoya died at the age of 16 of tuberculosis.

He felt that removing the natives was the most humane option available because they would be protected from the white settlers, but many natives were upset they were forced to leave places their ancestors had lived in for hundreds of years. Thousands of them died during the move due to starvation and illness. Many natives now refer to the trip as the "Trail of Tears."

## Cheese at the White House

A dairy farmer in New York gave President Jackson a giant, 1,400-pound cheese.

Jackson let it age at the White House for two years and then invited the public to eat it in 1837. It was gone in two hours, but the smell of cheese remained in the White House for a long time.

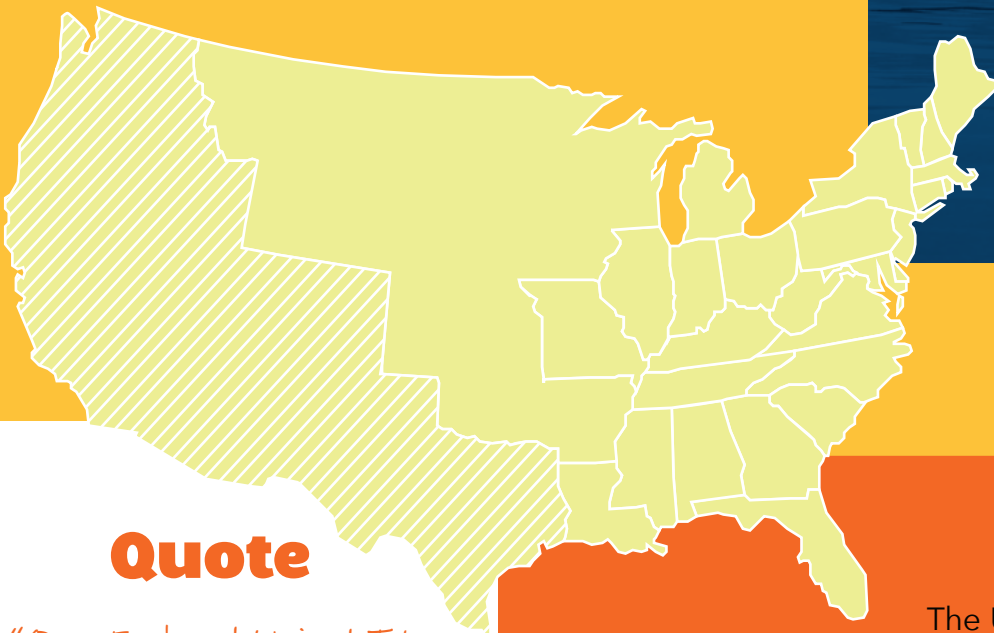




# Presidential Leadership

Jackson believed that every state had to respect federal law, or laws set by the national government in Washington DC. If any state could ignore a law, he felt, then every state could ignore it, and the whole country would split apart. When South Carolina tried to ignore a law that imposed a **tariff**, Jackson threatened military action. South Carolina backed off. This action helped prevent the country from splitting apart, but the **Disagreements** between the federal and state governments would be one of several issues that led to the **Civil War**.

Jackson was re-elected in 1832. By then, he was the leader of a new party, the **Democratic Party**. Opposing it was the **Whig Party**. After serving two terms, Jackson decided to leave the White House. His vice president, Martin Van Buren, was elected to replace him.



## Quote

"Our Federal Union! It must be preserved!"  
April 13, 1830.

# Political Parties

## Democratic

The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies that expanded power to the common man.

## Whig

The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported tariffs and building canals and roads to boost the economy.

Map of United States during Andrew Jackson's presidency

## National Debt

The United States has had a **national debt** for a long time. The last time it was fully paid off came during Andrew Jackson's presidency. He felt that having a debt prevented the United States from being fully independent. No president since Jackson has been able to pull off this feat.

# Retirement

Andrew Jackson retired back home to Tennessee to his home, known as the Hermitage. He was still very popular with the American people and remained active in politics. He helped convince Texas to join the United States and his close friend, James K. Polk, was elected president in 1844. By then, his health began to fail. He died of heart failure on June 8, 1845.



## Quote

*"Eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty... you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing."*  
Farewell address  
March 4, 1837

## Controversial Legacy

Modern critics of Jackson often focus on his Native American policies and that he was a southern slaveholder without discussing his contributions to the country. His heroic victory at the Battle of New Orleans inspired millions of Americans and he left the country a more democratic place where more people could help shape its future.

Although the Trail of Tears led to great hardship for Native Americans, Jackson didn't have many good options and believed he was providing a pathway for many indigenous cultures to survive. Lastly, by strengthening the authority of the national government, he delayed the American Civil War long enough so that a new president, Abraham Lincoln, had enough resources to keep the country united.





# Word Search

N Z V V V H V Q T Z O N P S J  
X D E M O C R A T I C Q Z M A  
I V P M W V P Z W F Z L Z A U  
V O A R J L A R R N D Y M N E  
P T A R I F F C J K O J Y Y P  
I L Q P O S T H J H O J H W M  
S O C O M M O N M A N C D J G  
L G W I B R E N H P J F H D S  
R C T Q V O B N E H U Q O L L  
U A U Y X I Z G D R M C R V R  
C B G F I G L J Q P O H K A U  
O I W T L P N W K F Q F H I G  
V N H V A C B C A U R D W H P  
X E I X U G Y R H R X U P A T  
Z Y G F C Y X W Z D R E G O R  
N E G L M O T F Q Q V L R W J

DUEL

TARIFF

LOG CABIN

PRISONER OF WAR

COMMON MAN

DEMOCRATIC

WHIG

RAGTAG

CIVIL WAR



## Pop Quiz

How old was Andrew Jackson when he became an orphan?

A. 12  
B. 45  
C. 7  
D. 14

What state did Jackson move to after retiring from the presidency?

A. Alaska  
B. Tennessee  
C. Georgia  
D. New York

What political party was Jackson a member of?

A. Republican  
B. Democratic  
C. Whig  
D. Constitutional

Jackson was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ President?

A. Common Man  
B. Green Thumb  
C. Orphan  
D. Fighter

What was the battle that made Jackson famous?

A. Battle of Bunker Hill  
B. Battle of Gettysburg  
C. Battle of New Orleans  
D. Battle of Iwo Jima

What institution did Andrew Jackson close?

A. Library of Congress  
B. Kindergartens  
C. Hospitals  
D. National Bank

What war did President Jackson fight in as a general?

A. Civil War  
B. War of 1812  
C. French-American  
D. Revolutionary

What did Jackson install in the White House?

A. Elevators  
B. Mirrors  
C. Toilets  
D. Fireplaces

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

# Word Scramble

NTEAVI AAMRCNEI



LEERLCATO GLOELCE

Two rows of empty boxes for writing numbers. The first row contains 10 boxes, and the second row contains 8 boxes.

# ALNIONAT DBET



HTEIW HSEUO



AKJNSOC

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CESHEE

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# RHONAP

OCMONM NMA

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐    ☐ ☐ ☐

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

# Glossary

**Democratic:** When people in a system are more equal and can participate in the government, such as voting.

**Common Man:** An ordinary man without high social status or significant wealth; usually comprising the majority of a country's population.

**Log cabin:** A house made out of tree logs that became a symbol in the 19th century of humble beginnings in America.

**Prisoner-of-war:** A person who has been captured and imprisoned by the enemy during a war.

**Ragtag:** A group that is disorganized and full of different people.

**Native American:** People whose ancestors lived in North America before European settlers arrived.

**Electoral College:** The group of people that, according to the U.S. Constitution, elect the president and vice president of the United States.

**Tariff:** A tax on something being bought or sold to a customer in another country.

**Civil War:** The conflict in the United States from 1861 to 1865 between the Union government and the Confederacy, which wanted to break away from the Union and start a new, independent country.

**Democratic Party:** The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies that expanded power to the common man.

**Whig Party:** The party formed in the early 19th century in the United States that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported tariffs and building canals and roads to boost the economy.

**Duel:** A contest where two people settle a disagreement with weapons, such as guns, in the presence of other people.

**National Debt:** The total amount of money that a country's government owes by borrowing from others.

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**Images:** Wikicommons, Getty, Pixelbay, Unsplash

# Answers

N Z V V V H V O T Z O N P S J  
X D E M O C R A T I C Q Z M A  
I V P M W V P Z W F Z L Z A U  
V O A R J L A R R N D Y M N E  
P T A R I E F C J K O J Y Y P  
I L Q P O S T H J H O J H W M  
S O C C O M M O N M A N C D J G  
L G W I B R E N H P J F H D S  
R C T Q V O B N E H U Q O L L  
U A U Y X I Z G D R M C R V R  
C B G F I G L J Q P O H K A U  
O I W T L P N W K F Q F H I G  
V N H V A C B C A U R D W H P  
X E I X U G Y R H R X U P A T  
Z Y G F C Y X W Z D R E G O R  
N E G L M O T F Q Q V L R W J

**ANSWERS - POP QUIZ:**

1. D, 2. B, 3. B, 4. A, 5. C, 6. D, 7. B, 8. C

**WORD SCRAMBLE:**

NATIVE  
AMERICAN,  
ELECTORAL  
COLLEGE,  
NATIONAL DEBT,  
WHITE HOUSE,  
JACKSON,  
CHEESE, ORPHAN,  
COMMON MAN