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Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Barack Obama, 44th U.S. President**

Barack Obama was the first African-American president of the United States. He was elected in 2008. He spent some of his childhood in Indonesia. Then he went to school in Hawaii.

Obama studied law. While he was a student, he was chosen to be the president of the *Harvard Law Review*. It was a great honor. He was the first African American to hold this position.

He worked as a lawyer. But he wanted to help the poor. So, he decided to go into politics. He thought that this would help him make the most impact. He was elected as an Illinois state senator. He worked in that role for eight years. At the

same time, he taught law part-time at a college.

Next, Obama ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate. He won. He became a U.S. senator in 2005. But he did not serve his whole four-year term. Just two years later, he ran for president. He had to step down as senator to be the U.S. president.

Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. This prize is given each year. It goes to a person who works for peace. He gave the \$1.4 million prize to ten charities.

**Check Your Understanding**

- Where did Obama spend some of his childhood?
  - Kenya
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Illinois
  - Indonesia
- Of these events, which happened second?
  - Obama earned a law degree.
  - Obama was a state senator.
  - Obama was president of the *Harvard Law Review*.
  - Obama was a U.S. senator.
- Why did Obama step down from serving as a U.S. senator?
  - He wanted to return to being president of the *Harvard Law Review*.
  - He wanted to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
  - He wanted to go back to teaching law.
  - He could not hold two political positions at the same time.
- What did Obama do with the Nobel Peace Prize money?
  - He used it to fund a new government program.
  - He gave it to Harvard Law School.
  - He donated the money to several charities.
  - He sent it to Indonesia.

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# Answer Key (cont.)

page 138 Dr. Seuss, Children's Author

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c

page 139 Leif Ericson, Discoverer of North America

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. d

page 140 Barack Obama, 44th U.S. President

1. d
2. a
3. d
4. c

page 141 Oral Lee Brown, Philanthropist

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

page 142 Deborah Sampson, First U.S. Female Soldier

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. b

page 143 Jackie Robinson, Baseball Legend

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. d

page 144 The Fathers of Flight

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

page 145 Charles Shulz and the *Peanuts* Gang

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. c

page 146 Christopher Reeve, A Super Man

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

page 147 Sacagawea, Explorer

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. b

page 148 Dr. Edward Jenner, Smallpox Pioneer

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

page 149 Grandma Moses, Artist

1. a
2. d
3. d
4. c

page 150 Ida Lewis, Lime Rock Lighthouse Keeper

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. d

page 151 Crime-Fighting Granny

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b

page 152 Louis Armstrong, Jazz Legend

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. c

page 153 Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b

page 154 Walt Disney Changes Entertainment

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. c

page 155 Zhang Yin, Rich Recycler

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. b

page 156 Heroic Chiune Sugihara

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. a

page 157 Harry Houdini, Master Magician

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

page 158 Dat So La Lee, Basket Weaver

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b

page 159 Joe Loius, the Brown Bomber

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. a

page 160 Supermex, the Pro Golfer

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. d

page 161 The Female Moses

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. d

page 162 Brave Irena Sendler

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

page 163 Golda Meir, Israel's Heroine

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. b

page 164 Franklin Chang-Díaz, Astronaut and Physicist

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c

page 165 The Tale of Beatrix Potter

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. d

page 166 Fannie Farmer Changes Cooking

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. a

# Presidents

- ◆ George Washington was the first president of the United States. He was from the state of Virginia and resided in beautiful Mt. Vernon.
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States. He was from the state of Virginia and built his beautiful home, Monticello, there.
- ◆ Andrew Jackson was the seventh president of the United States. He was born in South Carolina, but he retired to his beautiful Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee.
- ◆ Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. He was born in Kentucky, but he later moved to Indiana.



Please match these presidents with their nicknames, their wives, and the wars in which they participated.

**Clues:**

1. The two earliest presidents had wives with the same first name, came from the same state, and were key figures in the same war.
2. Rachel Donelson Robards was still married to Captain Robards when she married “Old Hickory,” though she thought she was divorced. Her husband fought in a war that took place in the early 19th century.
3. The most recent of these presidents participated in the American Civil War, and he was not known as the “Father of Our Country.”
4. The “Sage of Monticello,” also referred to as the “Man of the People,” was a lawyer, inventor, architect, draftsman of the Declaration of Independence, and a patriot of the American Revolution.
5. Martha Skelton was not married to the “Father of Our Country,” nor did her husband fight in the War of 1812.

Presidents	Nicknames				Wives				Wars			
	Man of the People	Honest Abe	Father of Our Country	Old Hickory	Martha Skelton	Mary Todd	Rachel Robards	Martha Custis	Civil War	War of 1812	Revolutionary War	Revolutionary War
George Washington												
Thomas Jefferson												
Andrew Jackson												
Abraham Lincoln												











# Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States

The date was January 20, 2009. A record-breaking number of people stood huddled in the cold in Washington, D.C. They were gathered at the Capitol building. They were there to watch the inauguration of the first African American president of the United States. Cheers went up from the crowd after Barack Obama put his hand on the Bible and was sworn in as the 44th president.

When he was a child, few would have guessed that Obama would one day be the president of the most powerful nation in the world. His parents had met and married while in college. His mother, Ann Dunham, was from Kansas. His father, also named Barack Obama, was from Kenya. Their marriage did not last long, and the elder Obama returned to Africa. Obama only met him once when he was ten years old. Ann married a man from Indonesia and took her young son to live there. Obama lived and attended school in Indonesia for several years. Then, his mother's second marriage fell apart.

Obama grew up in Hawaii. He attended a private school and got an excellent education. When he was old enough, he went to college. After he graduated, he worked as a community organizer. A community organizer is someone who gets people together to discuss problems and potential solutions. Once the people have formed a group, the organizer finds the right person(s) in the government to address the group's **grievances**. Obama worked in Chicago, Illinois. He had some minor successes. Even so, he felt like he wasn't making enough of an impact in the lives of the poor. He believed that being in politics would enable him to make the reforms he longed to see happen. So he left his job. He went to Harvard University to earn a law degree.

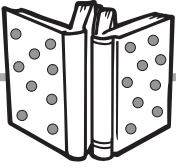
While a student there, Obama received an honor. He was chosen to be president of the *Harvard Law Review*. He was the first African American to hold this position. The *Harvard Law Review* is a journal. It has articles about legal issues. They are written by professors and students. Becoming president practically guaranteed Obama a career as a high-paid lawyer. But he had other plans. He married Michelle Robinson, another lawyer, in 1992. Just four years later, he quit practicing law to be an Illinois state senator. He served in that role for eight years. At the same time, he taught law part-time at a college in Chicago.



**Barack Obama**

Then, Obama set his sights higher. He ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate and won. He took the oath of office in January 2005. But he did not serve out his four-year term. Just two years later, he announced that he was running for the highest office in the nation. He had to step down as senator in November 2008 when he won the U.S. presidency.

The citizens of Illinois were sad to lose their senator. But they were proud that once again a man who represented their state would lead the nation. What other president came from Illinois? Abraham Lincoln. If Lincoln were alive today, he would've been proud when Obama said, "There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America."



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# Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States

**Directions:** Darken the best answer choice.

1. Where did Obama grow up?

- Ⓐ in Kenya
- Ⓑ in Hawaii
- Ⓒ in Illinois
- Ⓓ in Indonesia

2. The word **grievances** means

- Ⓐ worries.
- Ⓑ complaints.
- Ⓒ tax problems.
- Ⓓ diseases.

3. Of these events, which happened second?

- Ⓐ Obama earned a law degree.
- Ⓑ Obama was a state senator.
- Ⓒ Obama was a community organizer.
- Ⓓ Obama was a U.S. senator.

4. Reread the last line. Why would Abraham Lincoln have been pleased with what Obama said?

- Ⓐ Lincoln came from Illinois, too.
- Ⓑ Lincoln also graduated from Harvard University.
- Ⓒ Lincoln had fought to keep the United States as one nation.
- Ⓓ Lincoln had black, Latino, and Asian cabinet members.

5. With which of these issues would a community organizer help?

- Ⓐ arresting the people who sell drugs
- Ⓑ enrolling children in public school
- Ⓒ shoveling snow from sidewalks
- Ⓓ finding ways to connect the unemployed with jobs

6. Why did Obama resign from being a U.S. senator?

- Ⓐ He wanted to return to his position as president of the *Harvard Law Review*.
- Ⓑ He was asked to be a community organizer and felt he could make a greater impact in that role.
- Ⓒ He wanted to go back to teaching law.
- Ⓓ He could not hold two political positions at the same time.

# Answer Key

**page 17**

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. D

**page 21**

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. A
6. B

**page 25**

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. A

**page 29**

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. B

**page 33**

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. A

**page 37**

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. B

**page 41**

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. A

**page 45**

1. D
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. C

**page 49**

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. D

**page 53**

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. D

**page 57**

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A

**page 61**

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. A

**page 65**

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. A

**page 69**

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. A

**page 73**

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. D

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1. B
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. C

**page 81**

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. C

**page 85**

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. D

**page 89**

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. A

**page 93**

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. A