

## Monday

### Did you know?

Abraham Lincoln not only was a great president but also was a great wrestler! He was defeated only once in about 300 matches.



#### Journal prompt:

Everyone has something they're good at. It could be playing a musical instrument, taking care of a pet, or even being a good friend. Abraham Lincoln was good at wrestling. What's something you're good at? How does it make you feel when you do something well?



#### Discussion question:

Lincoln believed that all men were created with certain rights. What does "created with certain rights" mean? Do you think when Lincoln said "men," he meant that women had the same rights? Do you think Lincoln meant that people of all skin colors had the same rights?



#### Research topic:

One of Lincoln's nicknames was The Great Emancipator. Use a dictionary to learn what the word *emancipator* means. Find out what Lincoln did to earn this nickname.



## Tuesday

### Did you know?

President Andrew Johnson educated himself with the help of his wife, who taught him how to write and do arithmetic.



#### Journal prompt:

It was important to Andrew Johnson to learn how to write and do arithmetic. Why do you think it's important for a president to have these skills? What other skills do you think a president should have?



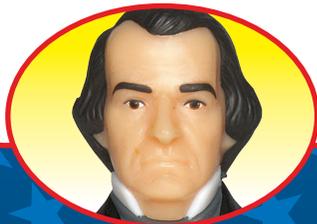
#### Discussion question:

Johnson's last important act as president was to pardon all Southerners who fought in the Civil War and had not yet been pardoned. What does being pardoned mean? Do you think it was important to receive a presidential pardon? Why?



#### Research topic:

Johnson was the first president to be impeached by the US House of Representatives, but the Senate failed to support removing him from office by one vote. Find out and list the steps for Congress to impeach a president.



## Wednesday

### Did you know?

Ulysses S. Grant's real name was Hiram Ulysses Grant. But when he went to the military academy, they thought he was Ulysses Simpson Grant. Afraid he may be teased for his real initials (H. U. G.), he never fixed the mistake.



#### Journal prompt:

As a student, Ulysses S. Grant was embarrassed by the initials of his real name because they spelled the word *hug*. Have you ever worried that you may be teased about something? What should you do if someone teases you?



#### Discussion question:

After Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant in the Civil War, Grant let Lee and his soldiers go on their honor and let them keep their horses for the spring plowing. Why do you think Grant let the soldiers leave and keep their horses? Do you think that helped mend relations between the North and South?



#### Research topic:

After being president, Grant wrote magazine articles and his memoirs to earn money. Find out why Grant needed to earn money. How much money did his memoirs earn? Can you still purchase Grant's memoirs?



## Thursday

### Did you know?

Rutherford B. Hayes was a spelling champ in elementary school. He boasted, "Not one in a thousand could spell me down!"



#### Journal prompt:

Rutherford B. Hayes was proud of the fact that he could spell well. What does it take to be a good speller? How do you prepare for spelling tests? What is the most difficult word you can spell?



#### Discussion question:

As a politician, Hayes lived by his motto "He serves his party best who serves his country best." What do you think he meant? How can serving one's country also serve a political party?



#### Research topic:

Hayes and his wife introduced Easter egg rolling on the White House lawn in 1878. Find out more about this custom. Has every president continued it? What is involved in Easter egg rolling? Who can participate? How are other holidays celebrated at the White House?



## Friday

### Did you know?

James A. Garfield used to entertain friends by writing Greek with one hand while, at the same time, writing Latin with the other.



#### Journal prompt:

*Ambidextrous* means that you can use both hands equally well. President Garfield could write with both hands in two different languages at the same time! Which hand do you write better with? Describe how your writing looks when you use your right hand and then how it looks when you use your left hand.



#### Discussion question:

Before becoming president, Garfield wanted to be a sailor on the Great Lakes. He later was a professor, college president, Civil War general, and US congressman. How do you think these jobs prepared him for the presidency?



#### Research topic:

Garfield was the last of the log cabin presidents. Find out what a typical log cabin home was like in the 1800s. Then find out what type of home the current US president lived in as a child. Write to compare the two.



## Monday

### Did you know?

Chester Arthur traveled widely while president. He visited Florida and Yellowstone National Park and attended the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.



#### Journal prompt:

Do you like to travel, like President Chester Arthur did? If you had a choice, would you rather travel to Florida, Yellowstone National Park, or New York City? Why?



#### Discussion question:

Arthur described the White House as "a badly kept barracks." Before he moved in, he had it redecorated and sold 24 wagonloads of furniture. Do you think each president should be allowed to change the White House? If so, who should pay for the changes?



#### Research topic:

As an attorney, Arthur won a case that allowed black people to ride any streetcar in New York City. Find out what it was like to live in New York City after the Civil War ended. Were all people treated fairly?



## Tuesday

### Did you know?

While president, Grover Cleveland learned he had mouth cancer. To keep it a secret, surgeons removed Cleveland's upper left jaw on a yacht as it steamed up the East River in New York. After that, Cleveland wore a rubber jaw.



#### Journal prompt:

President Cleveland was known for his hard work and common sense. What about you? Are you good at math? Are you a good athlete? Write to describe what you are known for and why.



#### Discussion question:

As president, Cleveland wasn't afraid to say no to requests for farm money, high protective tariffs, and Civil War veterans. Do you think a president should be able to say no to taxpayer requests? Why or why not?



#### Research topic:

Cleveland is the only president to serve two terms that did not directly follow one another. He was elected president in 1884 and then again in 1892. Find out who was elected president in 1888. Why did Cleveland return to office in 1892?



## Wednesday

### Did you know?

Benjamin Harrison was named for his great-grandfather, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



#### Journal prompt:

Benjamin Harrison was named after a respected family member. Are you named after someone? Write to describe how your family picked a name for you.



#### Discussion question:

Harrison wanted people to respect the US flag. He said it should be flown above government buildings and schools. Do you think it's important to respect the US flag? What does the flag represent?



#### Research topic:

When elected, Harrison received fewer popular votes than his opponent but won Electoral College votes. Find out more about the United States Electoral College. Why is it important? Who makes up the college? How do they vote?



## Thursday

### Did you know?

William McKinley's portrait was featured on the \$500 bill. The US Treasury last printed this bill in 1934.



#### Journal prompt:

Since they are no longer printed, \$500 bills, which feature President McKinley, are very rare. What would you do if you found a \$500 bill? Would you spend it? Or would you save it? Why?



#### Discussion question:

McKinley is credited with making the US a world power. What does it mean to be a world power? What responsibilities do you think the United States has in the world today?



#### Research topic:

McKinley preferred to remain neutral in the Cuban rebellion against Spain, but he asked Congress to allow him to declare war on Spain after a US battleship exploded near Havana. When was the Spanish-American War? How long did it last? How did it end?



## Friday

### Did you know?

After his first wife passed away, Theodore Roosevelt spent two years on a ranch in the Badlands, living in his saddle, driving cattle, hunting big game, and even capturing an outlaw.



#### Journal prompt:

While president, Theodore Roosevelt added to the national forests in the West. Do you think it's important to set aside land for forests? Why or why not?



#### Discussion question:

When discussing foreign policy, Roosevelt liked to say "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Do you think Roosevelt actually carried a stick? What do you think the saying means? Do you think his policy is a good one?



#### Research topic:

Roosevelt signed a treaty with Panama granting the US control of a strip of land to dig the Panama Canal. Learn more about the Panama Canal. How long is it? How many years did it take to make it? How has it benefited the United States and other countries?

