

2020 President's Day Quiz

1. Which university can claim the most undergraduates who became president?

- a) Harvard University
- b) Princeton University
- c) University of Virginia
- d) Yale University

Answer: A. [Harvard University](#). Five Harvard undergraduates became president: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy.

2. Which president voted against ratifying the Constitution when he was a delegate to his state's ratifying convention?

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

Answer: D. [James Monroe](#) of Virginia. He believed the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government and lacked sufficient protection of individual rights

3. Which president was the father-in-law of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy?

- a) Andrew Jackson
- b) James K. Polk
- c) Zachary Taylor
- d) Millard Fillmore

Answer: C. [Zachary Taylor](#). His daughter, Sarah Knox Taylor, married Jefferson Davis on June 17, 1835.

4. In how many presidential elections has the winner failed to win the most popular votes?

- a) Two
- b) Three
- c) Four
- d) Five

Answer: D. [Five](#). John Quincy Adams (1824), Rutherford B. Hayes (1876), Benjamin Harrison (1888), George W. Bush (2000), and Donald J. Trump (2016).

5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt won the popular vote four times. Which president won it three times?

- a) Andrew Jackson
- b) Grover Cleveland
- c) Woodrow Wilson
- d) Ronald Reagan

Answer: B. [Grover Cleveland](#). He won the popular vote in 1884, 1888, and 1892. He lost the Electoral College vote in 1888, making him the only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms.

6. Which president was described by his predecessor as “a barbarian who could not write a sentence of grammar and could hardly spell his own name”?

- a) John Adams
- b) Andrew Jackson
- c) Ulysses S. Grant
- d) Donald J. Trump

Answer: B. [Andrew Jackson](#). John Quincy Adams detested Jackson, who he beat in the election of 1824 and then lost to in 1828. Adams made the remark upon declining to attend the ceremony at which Harvard University gave Jackson an honorary doctorate.

7. Which president “gave away” his favorite niece at a wedding to a man who would go on to become president?

- a) John Quincy Adams
- b) Theodore Roosevelt
- c) Warren G. Harding
- d) Harry Truman

Answer: B. [Theodore Roosevelt](#). Eleanor Roosevelt was “given away” by her uncle, Theodore Roosevelt, when she wed Franklin Roosevelt on March 17, 1905.

8. Which sitting president had a daughter who married his secretary of the treasury?

- a) John Quincy Adams

- b) James Garfield
- c) Woodrow Wilson
- d) Lyndon Johnson

Answer: C. [Woodrow Wilson](#). His daughter, Eleanor Wilson, married his secretary of the treasury, William Gibbs McAdoo, in a ceremony in the Blue Room at the White House on May 7, 1914. McAdoo was twenty-six years older than his bride.

9. Which president-elect had a daughter who married the grandson of president?

- a) James Monroe
- b) Andrew Jackson
- c) Grover Cleveland
- d) Richard Nixon

Answer: D. [Richard Nixon](#). On December 22, 1968, Julie Nixon married Dwight “David” Eisenhower II, the only grandson of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

10. Who was the first sitting president to fly in a plane?

- a) Calvin Coolidge
- b) Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- c) Harry Truman
- d) John F. Kennedy

Answer: B. [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). In January 1943, he flew in a Boeing 314 to Casablanca, Morocco, to meet British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The 8,000-mile trip took four days as the plane stopped several times to refuel and to allow FDR to rest.

11. Which president had a cousin who was a chief justice of the Supreme Court—and a political rival?

- a) Thomas Jefferson
- b) Benjamin Harrison
- c) William McKinley
- d) William Howard Taft

Answer: A. [Thomas Jefferson](#). His cousin was John Marshall, the fourth chief justice and the man responsible for the concept of “judicial review.” The two men detested each other.

12. Which president was the first to have his inauguration photographed?

- a) Millard Fillmore
- b) Franklin Pierce
- c) James Buchanan
- d) Abraham Lincoln

Answer: C. [James Buchanan](#). The photo was taken on March 4, 1857, by John Wood, who worked for the Architect of the Capitol.

13. Which president wore a ring that contained a wisp of hair from a dead president's head?

- a) Ulysses S. Grant
- b) Theodore Roosevelt
- c) Woodrow Wilson
- d) Calvin Coolidge

Answer: B. [Theodore Roosevelt](#). The ring was borrowed from Secretary of State John Hay, who served as Lincoln's personal secretary. Roosevelt wore the ring for his 1905 inaugural ceremony.

14. Who was the first president to accept his party's nomination in person?

- a) Calvin Coolidge
- b) Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- c) Harry Truman
- d) John F. Kennedy

Answer: B. [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). FDR broke tradition in 1932 by attending the Democratic Convention, which was held in Chicago. He used his acceptance speech to call for a New Deal.

15. Who was the first president to be baptized while in the White House?

- a) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- b) Gerald Ford
- c) Bill Clinton
- d) Barack Obama

Answer: A. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#). He was baptized on February 1, 1953, as a Presbyterian.

16. Which incumbent president won reelection by the smallest popular vote margin?

- a) Grover Cleveland
- b) Woodrow Wilson
- c) Bill Clinton
- d) George W. Bush

Answer: D. [George W. Bush](#). He won reelection in 2004 by beating John Kerry by just 2.4 percentage points in the popular vote.

17. Which president had a secretary of state who urged him to declare war on France and Spain as a way to distract attention from domestic challenges?

- a) George Washington
- b) James Madison
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) William McKinley

Answer: C. [Abraham Lincoln](#). William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, suggested in 1861 that the Civil War might be avoided "if the Lord would only give the United States an excuse for a war with England, France, or Spain."

18. Which president had a [putting green](#) installed on the grounds of the White House?

- a) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- b) George H.W. Bush
- c) Bill Clinton
- d) Donald J. Trump

Answer: A. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#). He had a 3,000 square-foot putting green installed outside of the Oval Office. Before that, he practiced chip shots on the South Lawn.

19. Who was the first president to write a line of computer code?

- a) Bill Clinton
- b) George W. Bush
- c) Barack Obama
- d) Donald J. Trump

Answer: C. [Barack Obama](#). He coded `moveForward(100)` in JavaScript during an online event aimed at teaching young people how to write computer code.

20. Who was the first president to hold a press conference?

- a) Woodrow Wilson
- b) Warren G. Harding
- c) Calvin Coolidge
- d) Herbert Hoover

Answer: A. [Woodrow Wilson](#). He held the first press conference on March 15, 1913.