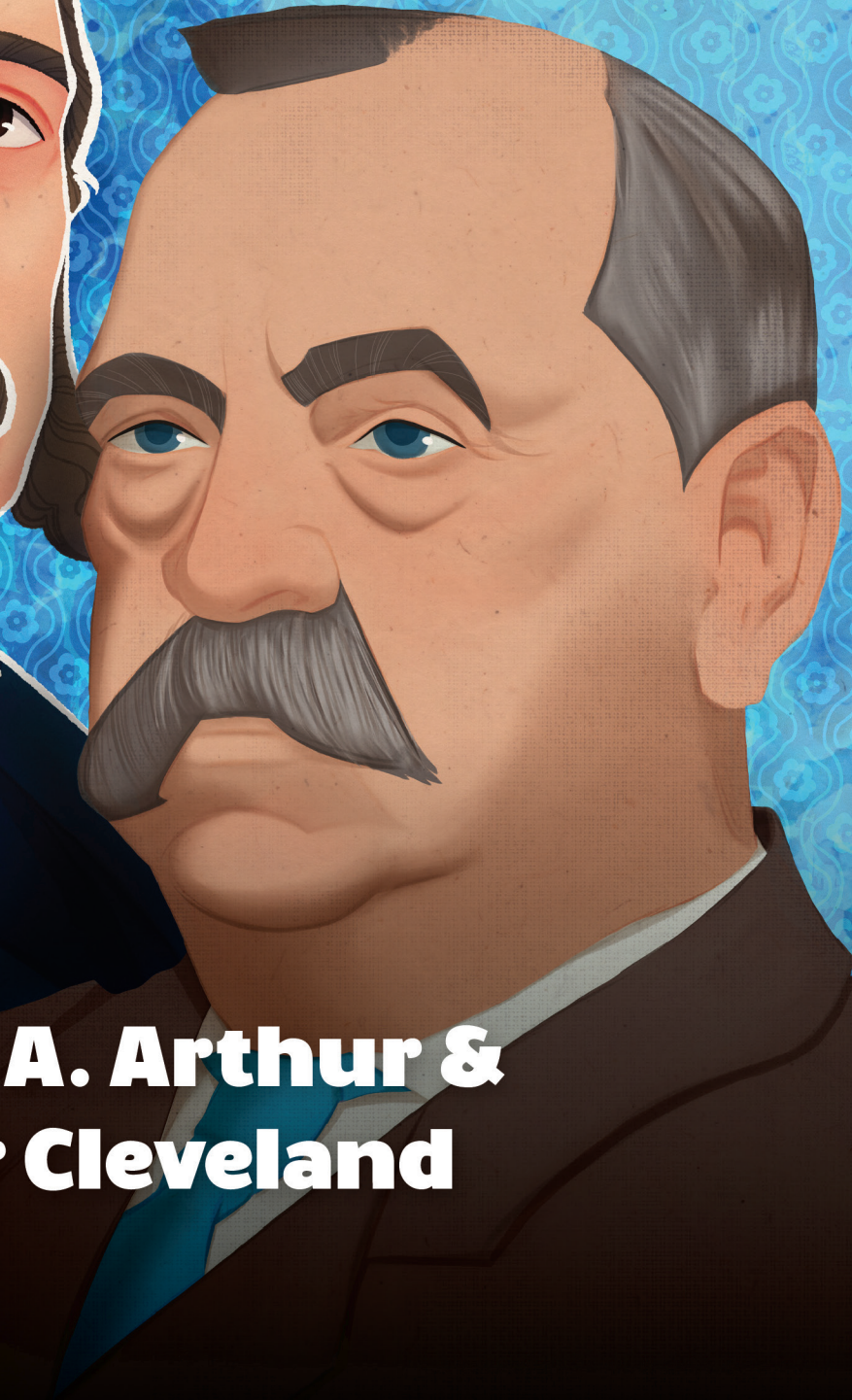


# Presidents

of the

*United States of America*



**Chester A. Arthur &  
Grover Cleveland**



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**presidents**  
of the

*United States of America*

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# Chester A. Arthur

"I served as the 21st President of the United States and fought against corruption in the government."



# Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

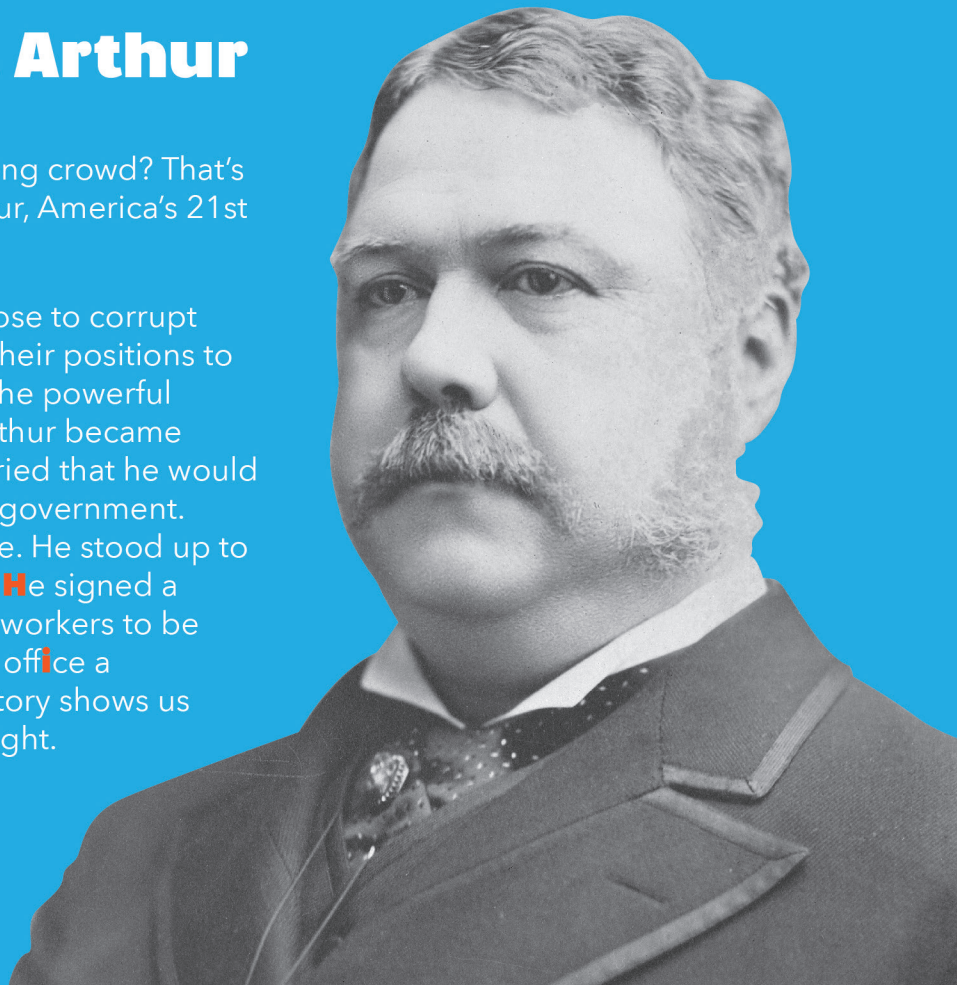
Since his wife Nell died before he became president, there was no First Lady during his presidency. Someone else, however, performed many of the duties of the First Lady in Nell's place. We need your help to find out who she was. Your task is to help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

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

## Meet Chester A. Arthur

Have you ever hung out with the wrong crowd? That's what happened with Chester A. Arthur, America's 21st president.

For much of his career, Arthur was close to corrupt people in government who abused their positions to attain power and money, especially the powerful politician Roscoe Conkling. When Arthur became president in 1881, many people worried that he would introduce **corruption** into the entire government. Instead, Arthur did the exact opposite. He stood up to his old friends and led with integrity. **H**e signed a major law that required government workers to be more honest and trustworthy. He left off**i**ce a respected man. Chester A. Arthur's story shows us that it's never too late to do what **i**s right.



## Interesting Facts

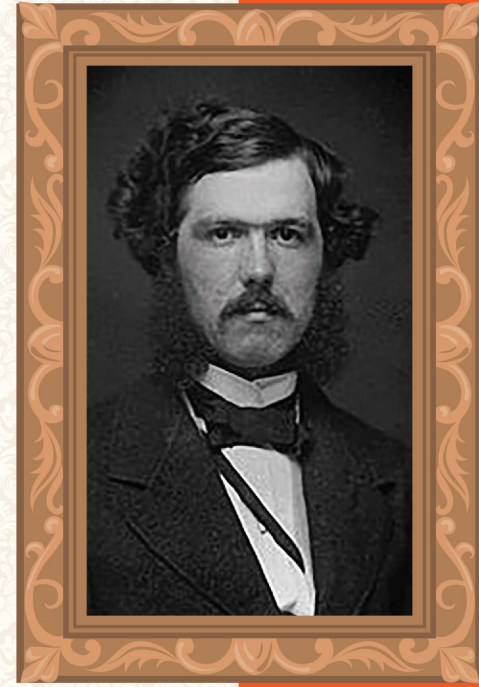
- He was nicknamed the "Gentleman Boss."
- He was a member of the Republican Party.
- He was the first president to take the oath of office in his own home.
- He was the second president to take office because of the assassination of his predecessor.
- He was the first president who was born in Vermont.

## Young Chester

Chester Alan Arthur was born on October 5, 1829, in Fairfield, Vermont. He was the fifth of William and Malvina's children.

His father, William, was a **minister** who traveled around New York State looking for a church he could pastor. Young Chester spent much of his childhood going from town to town with his family. In each location, he would make new friends but would then have to start over with every move.

In 1845, when Chester was 15, he enrolled in Union College in Schenectady, New York. He was an average student there and loved pulling pranks on his classmates.

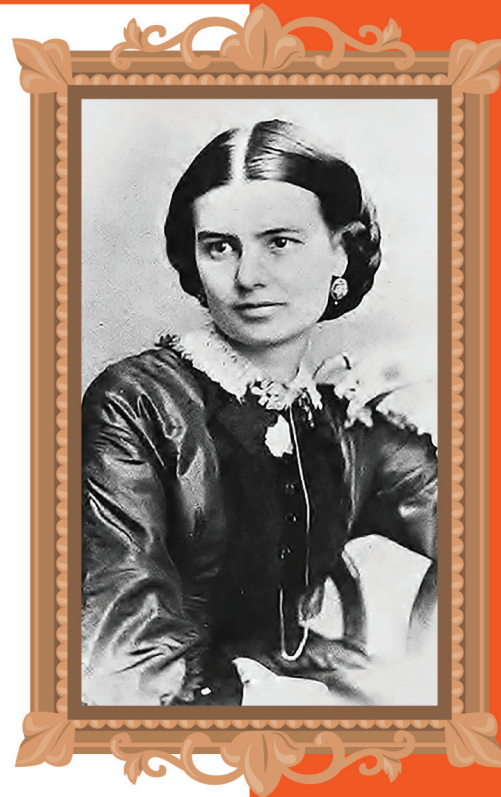


## Early Career

After graduating from college in 1848, Arthur became a teacher. He decided, however, that he wanted to become an attorney, so he passed the bar in 1854 and got a job as a law clerk in New York City.

Like his father, Arthur hated slavery. As a lawyer, he worked on several cases defending black Americans. In one of his cases, he helped defend a woman named Elizabeth Jennings, who had been forced out of a New York streetcar because she was black. Thanks to Arthur's work, Jennings was awarded **compensation** for her treatment. It was a major victory against racial discrimination.

Arthur also met a lovely woman named Ellen Herndon, nicknamed Nell, who was a cousin of one of his friends. She was also an excellent singer. The two fell in love and married in October of 1859. They eventually had three children, although one died in childhood.



## Rise to Power

During the Civil War, Arthur served as a **quartermaster** general for the New York militia. His job was to organize housing and supplies for hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Arthur impressed everyone with his efficiency and reliability and was promoted to brigadier general. He gained a reputation as an excellent administrator.

When the war ended, Arthur went back to practicing law and became a wealthy man. He also became close friends with powerful politician Roscoe Conkling, the **party boss** of the New York Republican Party. Conkling, who was a congressman and, eventually, a senator, controlled New York politics through **patronage**. Although many people considered Conkling a corrupt politician, Arthur benefited from their friendship. With Conkling's help, Arthur was appointed to the **lucrative** position of Collector of the Port of New York in 1871, serving until 1878. This meant Arthur managed thousands of agents and a massive amount of government money. Arthur himself had a salary that was close to what the President of the United States made.

Things changed, however, when Republican Rutherford B. Hayes became president in 1877. At the time, the Republicans were divided between **Stalwarts** (people like Conkling and Arthur who supported patronage) and **Half-Breeds** (people like Hayes who supported reforming the government to reduce corruption). The new president wanted to take on corruption in the government, so he fired Arthur from his job.

Even worse, in January of 1880, his wife Nell died of pneumonia at the age of 42. Arthur was heartbroken and devastated. He never remarried.

## Quote

*"Men may die, but the fabrics of our free institutions remain unshaken."  
- September 1881*

4

Presidents of the United States of America: Chester A. Arthur

## Timeline

- 1862 Became Quartermaster General for New York Militia
- 1871 Appointed Collector of the Port of New York
- 1878 Fired from Collector of the Port of New York
- 1880 Wife, Nell, died
- 1880 Ran for Vice President of the United States under James Garfield
- 1881 Became President of the United States

## Patronage

Patronage is when a politician appoints or hires a person to a government job as a reward for their loyalty. Many people felt patronage led to the appointment of corrupt and unqualified people to government jobs. Others, however, felt that the most corrupt people in the government were members of the civil service, and patronage allowed public officials to remove them.

### What do you think?

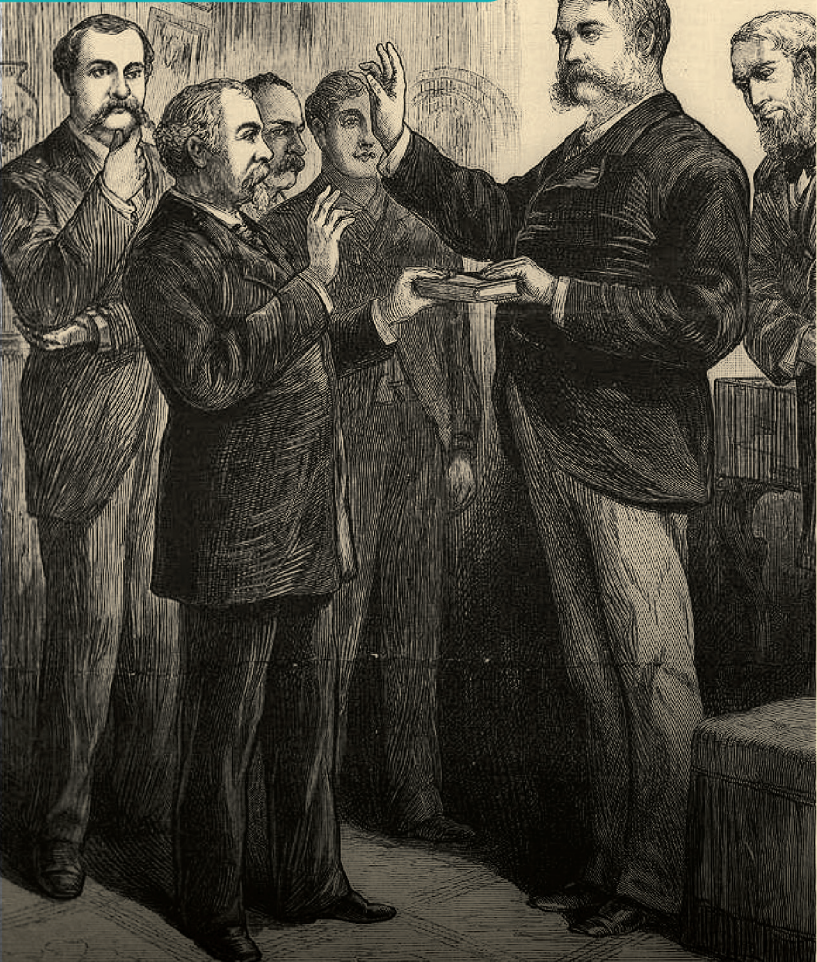
Grab a separate piece of paper and write down your thoughts.

# The 1880 Presidential Election

Conkling and Arthur were angered by Hayes's actions. In the 1880 presidential election, they hoped that former President Grant could win back the White House, since he was a close friend of Conkling's and supported patronage. At their national convention, however, the Republicans rejected Grant as their nominee for president in favor of Congressman James A. Garfield, who was friendly to the Half-Breeds. The Half-Breeds knew they needed Conkling's support to unify the Republicans and win the presidency, so they nominated Arthur as Garfield's vice presidential running mate. They went on to defeat Democratic candidates Winfield Hancock and William English in the general election.



President Arthur sworn in at his home



## Assassination

Chester Arthur was now the Vice President of the United States—the second highest-ranking official in the country. It was the perfect job for Arthur—he had a high status position without too much responsibility. All of that, however, would change on July 2, 1881 when a disturbed man named Charles Guiteau shot President Garfield at a train station in Washington, D.C. Guiteau had tried to get a job from Garfield. When the president refused, Guiteau grew angry and decided to assassinate him. Upon firing at Garfield, he yelled, "I am a Stalwart of the Stalwarts! Arthur is president now!"

Although Garfield lived on for several weeks, an infection eventually killed him on September 19, 1881. Chester Arthur was now the 21st President of the United States.



# President

Americans didn't expect much from Arthur. They were suspicious because he came from a corrupt **political machine**. To their surprise, Arthur ended up being a principled and confident national leader. Since America was rising as a world power, Arthur knew it needed a world-class navy, so he fought for the building of gunboats and steam-powered warships.

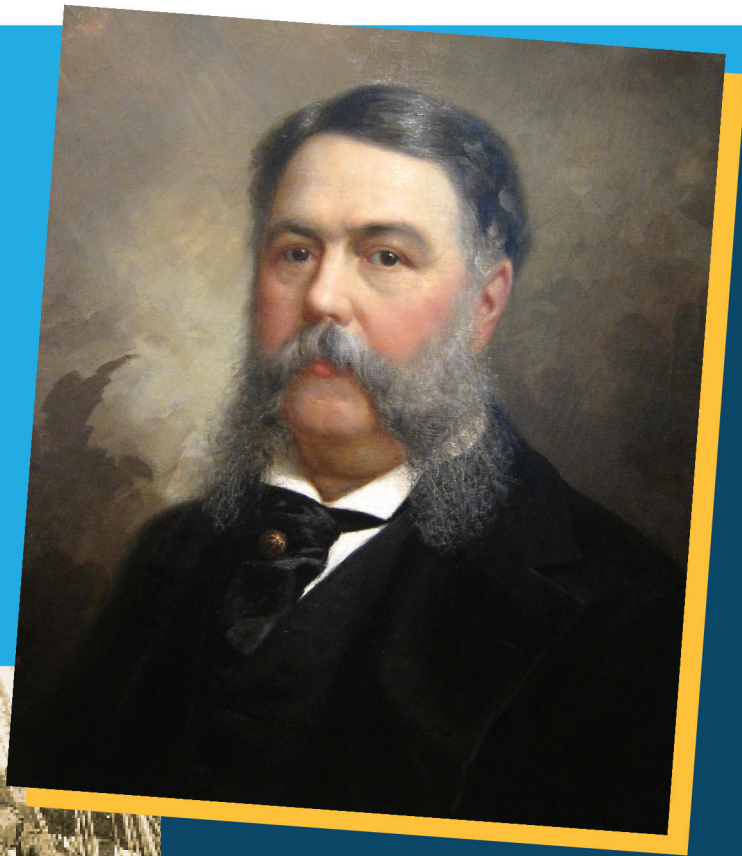
When Congress passed a bill to stop allowing people from China to enter the United States for 20 years, Arthur vetoed it. He felt it was unfair to Chinese people. Congress passed it again, but

this time, thanks to Arthur's efforts, the ban's length was reduced from 20 years to 10 years. It is known as the **Chinese Exclusion Act**.

People were most surprised when Arthur defied his mentor, Roscoe Conkling. In 1883, he went against Conkling's wishes and signed the **Pendleton Civil Service Act**, one of the most important **civil service reform** laws in American history. It ensured that many jobs in the government would be filled by people who were qualified—not just because they knew a powerful boss like Conkling.

## Quote

*"There are very many characteristics which go to make a model civil servant. Prominent among them are probity, industry, good sense, good habits, good temper, patience, order, courtesy, tact, self-reliance..."*  
- December 1881



## Quote

*"We have no wish for foreign conquest."*  
- December 1883





## A Man of Fine Taste

Chester Arthur was known to have been a man of elegant and refined taste. He enjoyed hosting lavish parties, complete with fine food and wine, while socializing with the most prominent figures of society. He dressed well and was rumored to have owned 80 different pairs of pants.

When Arthur moved into the White House, he was disappointed to find it in poor condition, so he got Congress to approve the equivalent of over a million dollars today to refurbish the place. He hired one of the most famous designers in New York City, Louis Comfort Tiffany, to redecorate the White House.



Red Room, White House, 1890



## Retirement

Arthur could have sought the 1884 Republican nomination and run for his own term as president, but he was suffering from a kidney disease and needed to rest. He didn't actively seek the nomination. That year, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to succeed him.

Arthur retired to New York City, where he continued to practice law. Less than two years after leaving office, on November 18, 1886, he died at the age of 57.

## Word Search

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

Arthur  
Chester  
Compensation  
Corruption  
Half Breeds  
Lucrative  
Minister  
Mutton Chops  
Party Boss  
Patronage  
Quartermaster  
Republican  
Stalwarts

## Legacy

Few Americans today remember anything about Chester Arthur. He is most famous for his fancy **mutton chops**. He deserves to be remembered, however, for so much more.

When Arthur became president, many Americans had low expectations for him. They knew he came from a corrupt political machine and expected him to continue in his corrupt ways. Instead, he surprised everyone by signing one of the biggest civil service reform laws in history, helping to clean up the government. He was a firm and principled leader who helped build America's Navy. Perhaps Mark Twain said it best when he said, "it would be hard to better President Arthur's administration."



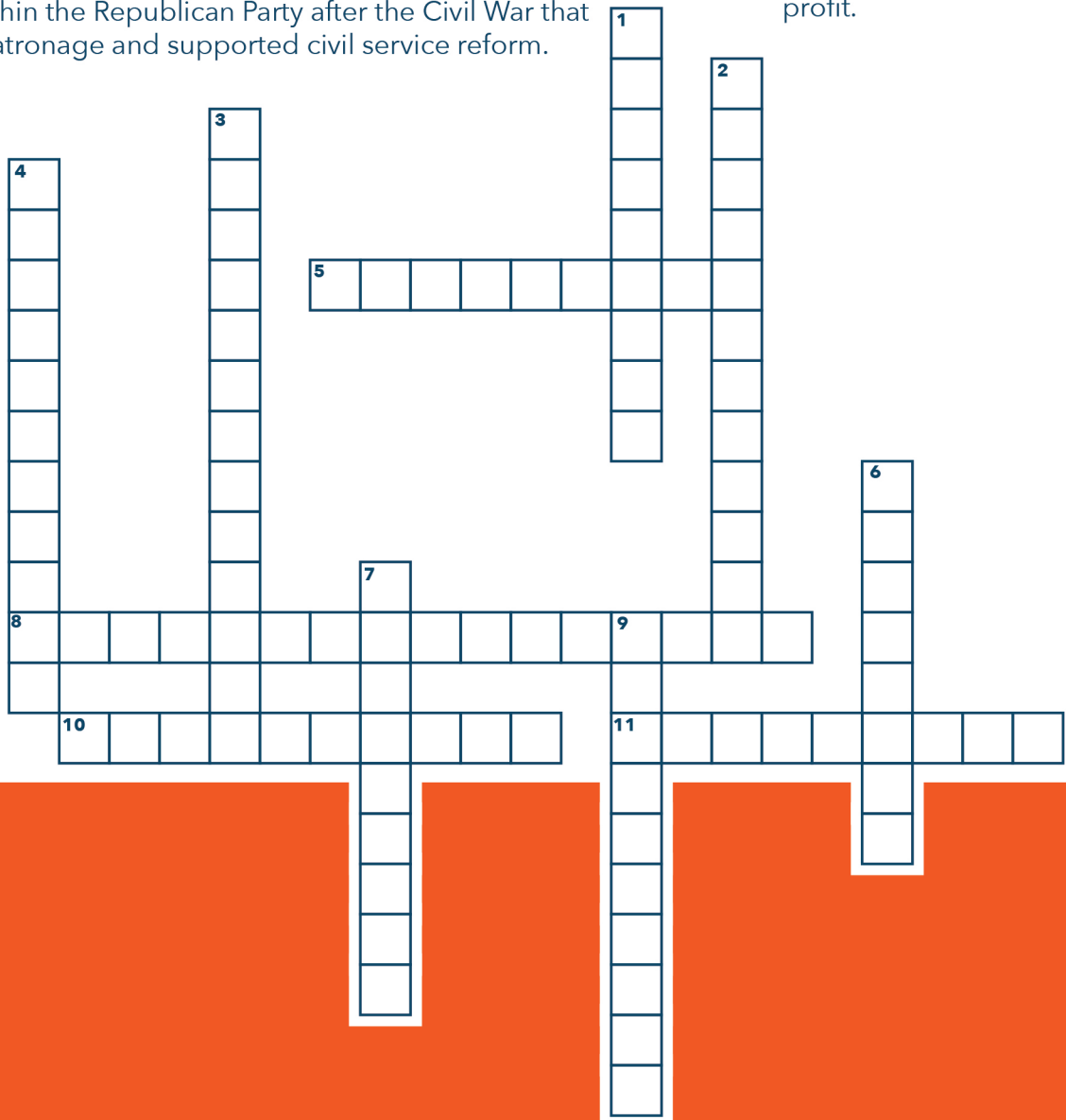
# Cross Word

## Down:

1. A group within the Republican Party after the Civil War that strongly supported black American rights and the use of patronage.
2. A payment to make up for an injury or some type of harm committed.
3. A military officer responsible for providing housing, clothes, food, and supplies for soldiers.
4. Facial hair on the side of a man's face.
6. A person who performs religious (usually Christian) ceremonies.
7. A person who has gained political power through corrupt activities, such as stealing government money or bribing politicians.
9. A group within the Republican Party after the Civil War that opposed patronage and supported civil service reform.

## Across:

5. When a politician appoints or hires a person to a government job as a reward for their loyalty.
8. An organization, usually led by a boss or group, with powerful political influence over a city or area.
10. Dishonest, often illegal, activity where an individual seeks selfish gain.
11. Producing much wealth or profit.





# Glossary

**Corruption:** Dishonest, often illegal, activity where an individual seeks selfish gain.

**Minister:** A person who performs religious (usually Christian) ceremonies.

**Compensation:** A payment to make up for an injury or some type of harm committed.

**Quartermaster:** A military officer responsible for providing housing, clothes, food, and supplies for soldiers.

**Party Boss:** A person who has gained political power through corrupt activities, such as stealing government money or bribing politicians to vote a certain way.

**Patronage:** When a politician appoints or hires a person to a government job as a reward for their loyalty. Many people felt patronage led to the appointment of corrupt and unqualified people to government jobs. Others, however, felt that the most corrupt people in the government were members of the civil service, and patronage allowed public officials to remove them.

**Lucrative:** Producing much wealth or profit.

**Stalwarts:** A group within the Republican Party after the Civil War that strongly supported black American rights and the use of patronage.

**Half-Breeds:** A group within the Republican Party after the Civil War that opposed patronage and supported civil service reform.

**Political Machine:** An organization, usually led by a boss or group, with powerful political influence over a city or area. They are often considered corrupt.

**Chinese Exclusion Act:** A law signed by President Arthur in 1882 that banned Chinese workers from immigrating into the United States for 10 years. Thanks to Arthur's work, the length of time had been reduced from 20 years to 10 years.

**Pendleton Civil Service Act:** A law signed by President Arthur in 1883 that ensured government workers would be hired based on their qualifications, or merit, and not on their political connections. It is considered one of the most important civil service reform laws in American history.

**Civil Service Reform:** Government laws and actions in the late 19th and early 20th century that were intended to reduce corruption in the federal government and allow for public officials to be hired based on their abilities and merit.

**Mutton Chops:** Facial hair on the side of a man's face.

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**Images:** Getty Images, WikiCommons, FreePix

## Answers:

**CROSSWORD:**

**WORD SEARCH:**

**PERSON WHO FULFILLED THE FIRST LADY DUTIES: HIS SISTER MARY**

# Grover Cleveland

"I was the 22nd and 24th President of the United States, and I am the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms."





# Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

President Cleveland's friends gave him a nickname because he had a big belly, but we need to find out what it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

---

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

## Meet Grover Cleveland

Have you ever felt pressured by other people to do something you didn't think was right? This happened often to one of our presidents, Grover Cleveland. People wanted him to make the government more powerful and spend more taxpayer money. As a public official, however, Cleveland stood by his principles. He strongly believed that the people should be free to live their lives the way they wanted without the government telling them what to do. When he was president, he refused to give more power to the government even when politicians pressured him to do so.



Cleveland served as president **d**uring the **Gilded Age**, a time when America was rapidly growing into a very powerful country. Many politicians were abusing their power and stealing government money. The American people elected Cleveland president twice because they felt that, unlike other leaders, he could be trusted with political office.

Unlike other two-term presidents, Cleveland didn't serve them in a row—after his first term in the White House, he was defeated when he ran for re-election but won another term four years later.

During Cleveland's second term, the **economy** experienced a major **d**epression. People wanted Cleveland to make the government more powerful to address the situation, but he refused because he feared it would harm the country. Although Cleveland left the White House as an unpopular president, many still respected him for doing what he believed was right while in office.

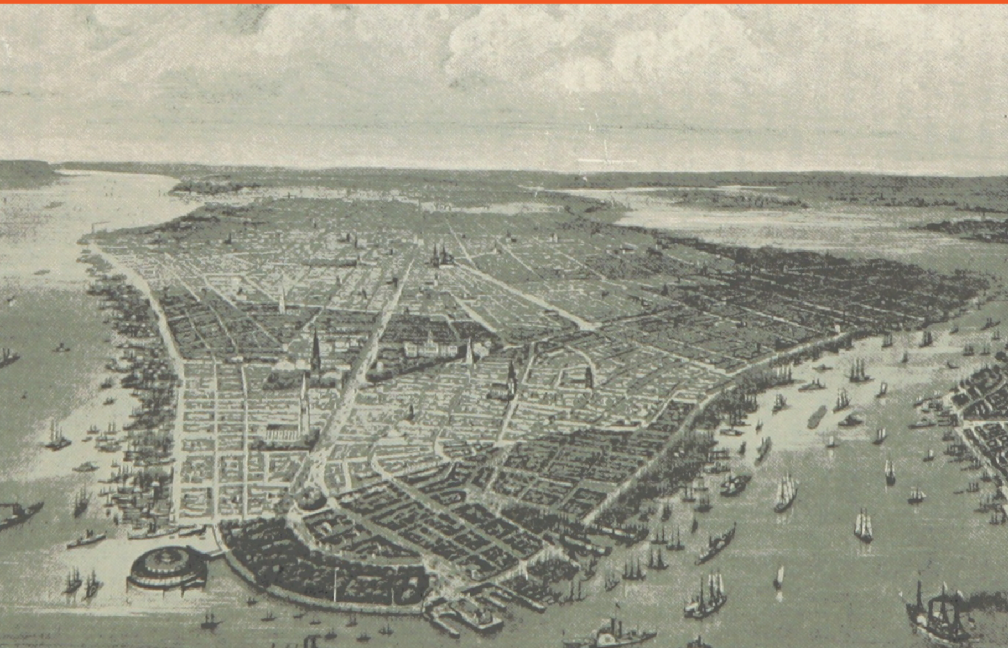
# Young Grover

Stephen Grover Cleveland was born on March 18, 1837, in Caldwell, New Jersey. He came from a big family and was born right in the middle—the fifth of nine children. His father, Richard Cleveland, was a church minister. Young Grover spent most of his childhood in central New York. He loved having fun, pulling pranks on others, and playing sports outdoors.

Grover went to school like most kids, but this changed when he was 16. His father died of a stomach ulcer, which meant Grover had to find a job to support his mother and siblings. It was a difficult time for the Cleavelands, but Grover found a job as a teacher at the New York Institute for the Blind in New York City. One of his coworkers, Fanny Crosby, later wrote, “He seemed a very gentle, but intensely ambitious boy, and I felt that there were great things in store for him.”

## Quote

*“Whatever you do, tell the truth.”  
- July 1884*



## Interesting Facts

- He was born with the name Stephen Grover Cleveland, but he went by Grover.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He was distantly related to Moses Cleaveland, who founded the city of Cleveland, Ohio.
- Since he had the reputation of being honest, he was nicknamed “Grover the Good.”
- He is the only president (as of 2023) to serve two non-**consecutive** terms.
- He is the first president to be married in the White House.
- He is the first president to have a child (his daughter Esther) born in the White House.
- He is the first president to be filmed.

# A Rapid Rise to the Presidency

Even though Cleveland couldn't afford going to college, he decided to become a lawyer. At the time, it wasn't necessary to go to law school to become a lawyer—one could learn how to practice law by working at a law firm, which Cleveland did after moving to the City of Buffalo in Erie County, New York. He did, however, have to **pass the bar** to officially be a lawyer, which he did in 1858, when he was 22 years old.

Cleveland gained a reputation for being a hardworking, honest attorney. He also enjoyed socializing with others and going hunting and fishing. The people of Erie County were impressed by his work and elected him as their sheriff in 1870. Cleveland served for a few years and returned back to his law practice.

When it came to politics, Grover Cleveland supported the **Democratic Party** because he agreed with their stance that the government shouldn't have too much power or spend too much money. The Democrats in Buffalo knew he was a man of integrity, so they chose him as

their candidate for mayor in 1881. Cleveland won the election and, as mayor, he had the power to **veto**, or **reject**, wasteful spending and fight corruption, which often originated from a group called **Tammany Hall**. He did the same thing when he became Governor of New York in 1883. Since New York was a large and influential state, he received a lot of attention across the country, and many people wanted him to run for President of the United States.

The Democrats chose him as their candidate for president in 1884 against the **Republican Party's** candidate, James Blaine. It was a very divisive election, and both sides ruthlessly attacked each other. The Republicans accused Cleveland of misbehaving in his personal life. People then and now still debate if Cleveland was as honest privately as he was publicly. Still, Grover Cleveland won the presidency by a very close margin. People were amazed that he had risen so quickly from mayor to governor to president in just three years.

## Quote

*"Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters."  
- July 1886*



# First Term as President

Cleveland was the first Democrat elected president in almost 30 years. Just as he did as mayor and governor, he fought corruption and wasteful spending. He vetoed more bills from Congress than all previous presidents combined. He also wanted to deal with **Native Americans** fairly. When he heard that the previous president, Chester Arthur, had allowed white settlers to take away land from the Native Americans in the Dakota Territory, he reversed this decision so they could keep it.

Unlike most presidents, Cleveland had not married before moving into the White House. In 1886, during his second year as president, he married a young woman named Frances Folsom in the White House. They would end up having six children.



## Quote

*"A sensitive man is not happy as President. It is fight, fight, fight all the time."  
- September 1908*



## Private Citizen

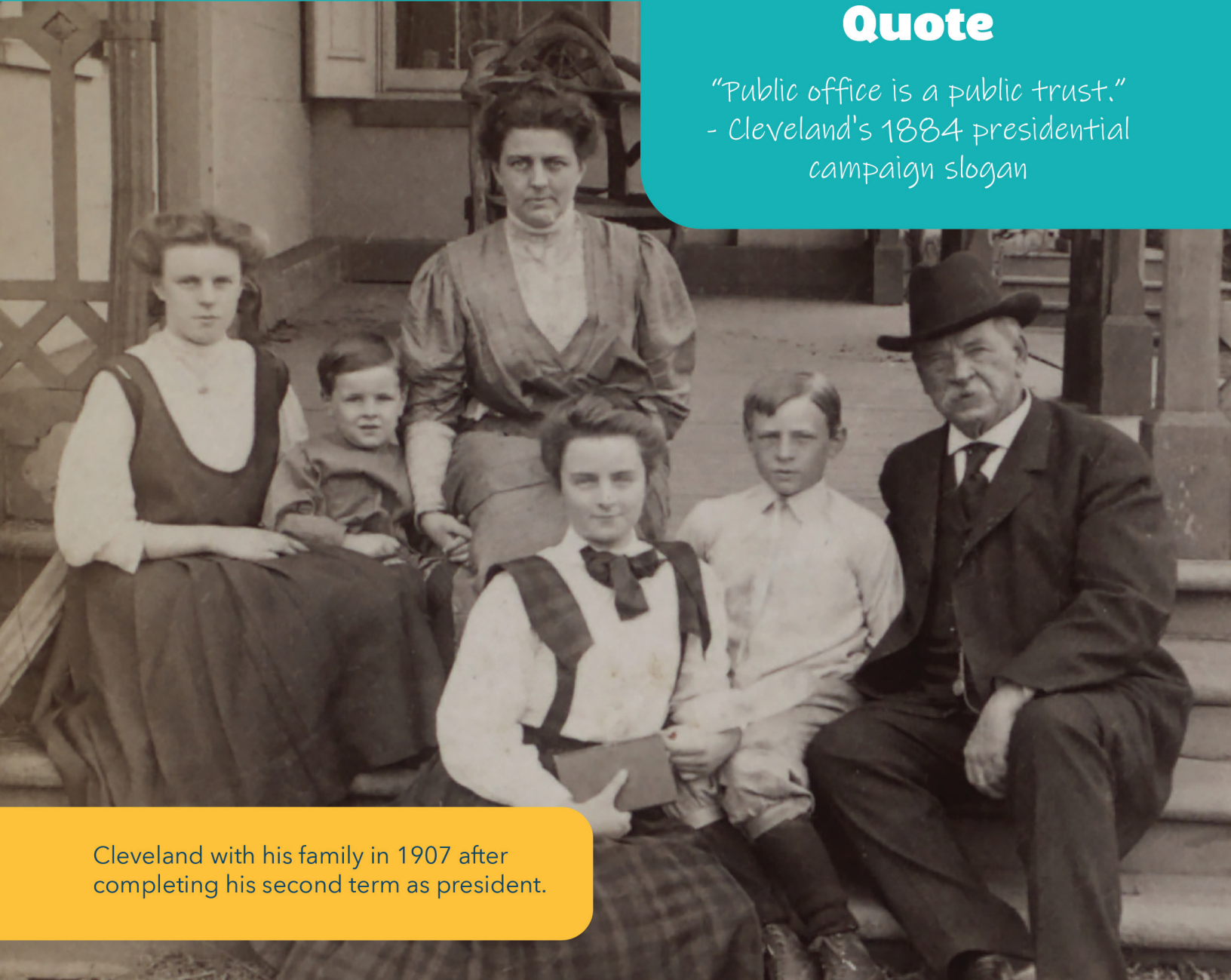
In 1888, Cleveland ran for re-election but lost in a close race to Republican Benjamin Harrison. Just before the Clevelands left the White House, Frances told a staff member, "We are coming back four years from today."

Still, Cleveland had to wait four years until the next

election. In the meantime, he went back to New York and became a lawyer again. He also traveled often to a summer home in Bourne, Massachusetts where he spent hours fishing. He and Frances had their first child, Ruth, in 1891. Throughout that time, he kept his eye on the next presidential election.

### Quote

*"Public office is a public trust."  
- Cleveland's 1884 presidential  
campaign slogan*

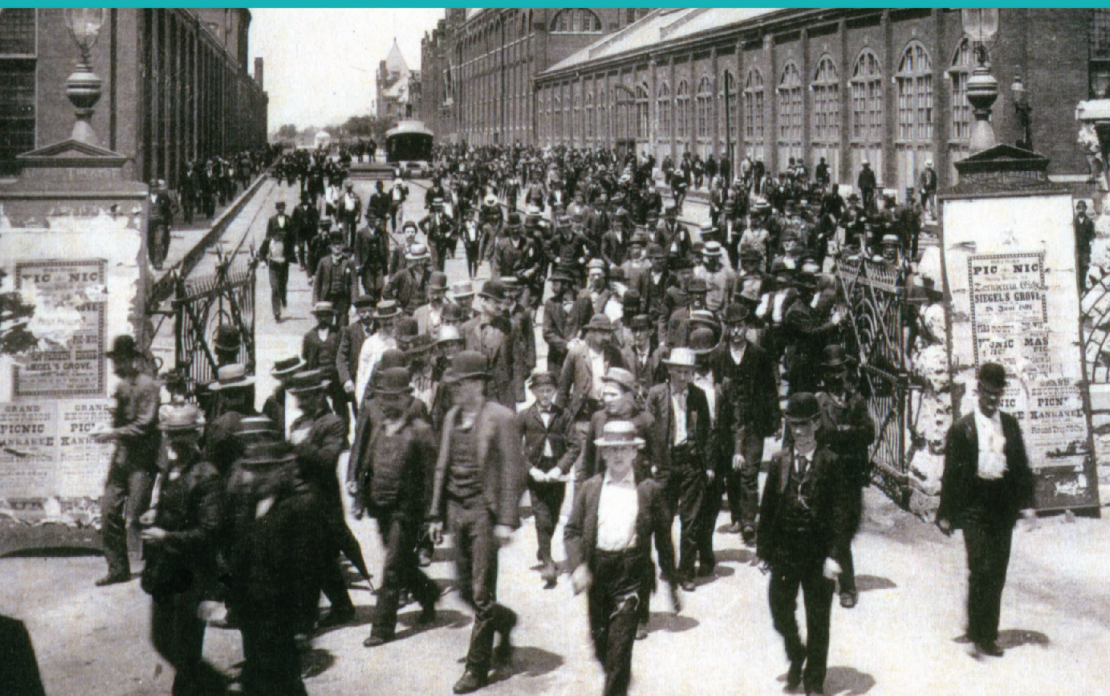


Cleveland with his family in 1907 after completing his second term as president.

## Second Term as President

Frances's prediction came true. In 1892, Cleveland ran again for president against Harrison and won. Unfortunately, his second term was more difficult than his first. In 1893, the economy fell apart, and the nation entered a major depression. Many Americans lost their jobs. Workers across the country were mad at their low salaries, and several, including those working on railroads, went on **strike** and put up obstacles to prevent trains from operating. Some of the strikers **b**ecame violent and burned down trains. President Cleveland sent in military troops to stop them and restore order.

Cleveland's decision to stop the violence was popular among Americans, but they blamed him for the depression. They wanted him to use the **federal government** to do more, but Cleveland felt this wouldn't help restore the economy and might make things worse. In 1896, the Democrats decided to choose a different candidate for president, William Jennings Bryan. Republican William McKinley won the presidency that year, so Cleveland and his family left the White House in 1897.



### Quote

*"Public officers are the servants and agents of the people, to execute the laws which the people have made."  
- October 1882*

## A Secret Operation

During his second term, President Cleveland discovered he had a cancerous tumor in his mouth and needed to have it removed. Since there was an economic depression, he feared that if the public found out the president was ill and no one was in charge, the economy would get worse.

To keep this surgery secret, he pretended to go on a cruise vacation and had the tumor surgically removed on a boat called the *Oneida* in 1893. The surgery was a success.

## Retirement

After the presidency, Cleveland and his wife moved to Princeton, New Jersey. He became a **trustee** of Princeton University and worked with its president, Woodrow Wilson, who would become the 28th President of the United States in 1913. Cleveland kept busy giving public speeches on political issues. Many people began to appreciate him for his contributions as president.

In 1904, tragedy struck when his daughter Ruth died at the age of 12. Three years later, Cleveland's health began to fail. The following year, he suffered a heart attack and died in his Princeton home on June 24, 1908 at the age of 71.



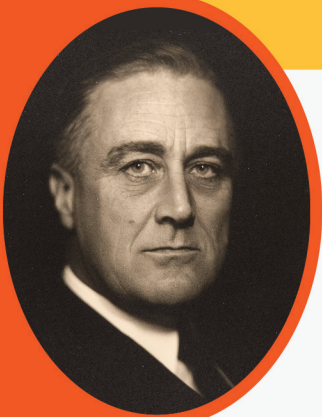
## Legacy

Most Americans remember Grover Cleveland as the only president who served two non-consecutive terms. It's often forgotten that many respected him for sticking to his principles in public office. They elected him twice as president, and he won the most popular votes in all three of his presidential elections.

Cleveland also vetoed many bills that would have wasted taxpayer dollars on ineffective projects. He also dealt fairly with other nations and peoples, such as when he protected Native American rights to their land. It was unfortunate that a major depression ruined his second term. While many Americans disagreed with his decision to not expand the size of government, they knew that he was acting on principles that he strongly believed in.

## Quote

*"I have tried so hard to do right."  
- Cleveland's last words,  
June 24, 1908*



## A Chance Encounter

During his presidency, Grover Cleveland met with a friend and his five-year-old son at the White House. Cleveland patted the boy on the head and told him, "My little man, I am making a strange wish for you. It is that you may never be President of the United States." That little boy was named Franklin D. Roosevelt and, ironically, became the 32nd President of the United States.



# President Cleveland was known for his:

The system in a country involving money and how goods are created and sold.

**1**

When a president rejects a bill by Congress so it doesn't become a law.

**2**

When two or more things or events happen without a gap in between.

**3**

When employees of a company or other organization stop working because they are unhappy with something about their jobs, such as how much they are paid.

**4**

To meet the requirements to become a lawyer.

**5**     THE

The time in American history from the 1870s to the 1900s when the nation's economy grew rapidly but many politicians were very dishonest and broke the law.

**6**

A person, usually in a larger group called a "board," who helps manage an organization.

**7**

Write the letters in highlighted boxes to find out the answer:

**1**      **2**      **3**      **4**      **5**      **6**      **7**



# Glossary

**Gilded Age:** The time in American history from the 1870s to the 1900s when the nation's economy grew rapidly but many politicians were very dishonest and broke the law.

**Economy:** The system in a country involving money and how goods are created and sold.

**Depression:** A period of time when the economy is weak, and people don't have much money and have a hard time finding jobs.

**Consecutive:** When two or more things or events happen without a gap in between.

**Pass the Bar:** To meet the requirements to become a lawyer.

**Democratic Party:** One of the two major parties in the United States; during Cleveland's lifetime, it opposed giving the government too much power. The present-day Democratic Party supports giving the government additional power.

**Veto:** When a president rejects a bill by Congress so it doesn't become a law.

**Tammany Hall:** An organization in New York City that gained political power through dishonest activities, especially by bribing public officials with money.

**Republican Party:** One of the two major parties in the United States; during Cleveland's lifetime, it supported laws that helped boost American businesses and manufacturers.

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

**Strike:** When employees of a company or other organization stop working because they are unhappy with something about their jobs, such as how much they are paid.

**Federal Government:** The people, mostly in Washington, D.C., that have authority over the whole country.

**Trustee:** A person, usually in a larger group called a "board," who helps manage an organization.

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Images: WikiCommons

## Answers

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND  
WAS KNOWN FOR:

1. ECONOMY
2. VETO
3. CONSECUTIVE
4. STRIKE
5. PASS THE BAR
6. GILDED AGE
7. TRUSTEE

COURAGE

GROVER CLEVELAND'S  
NICKNAME:  
UNCLE JUMBO

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