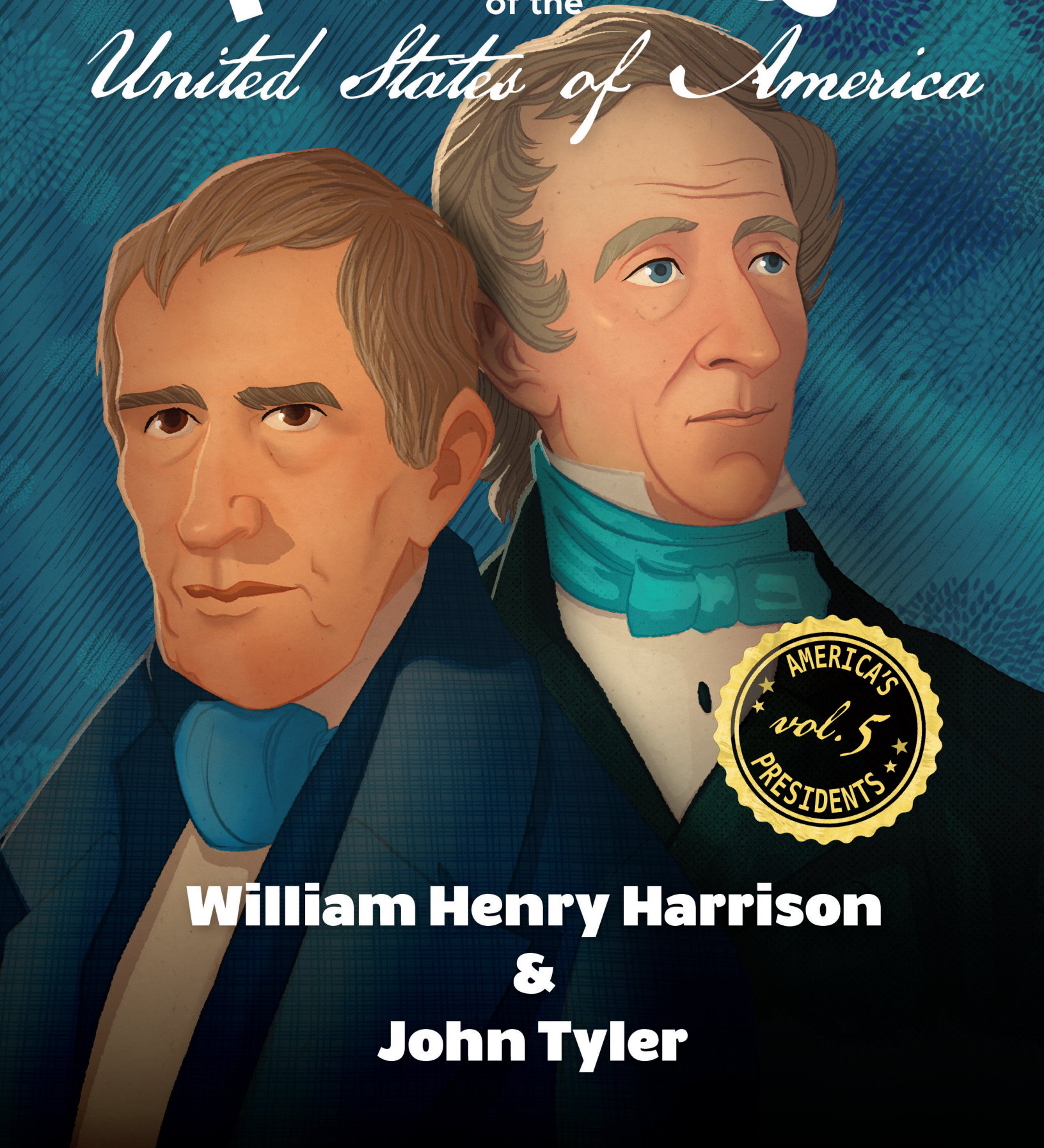


presidents of the *United States of America*



**William Henry Harrison
&
John Tyler**



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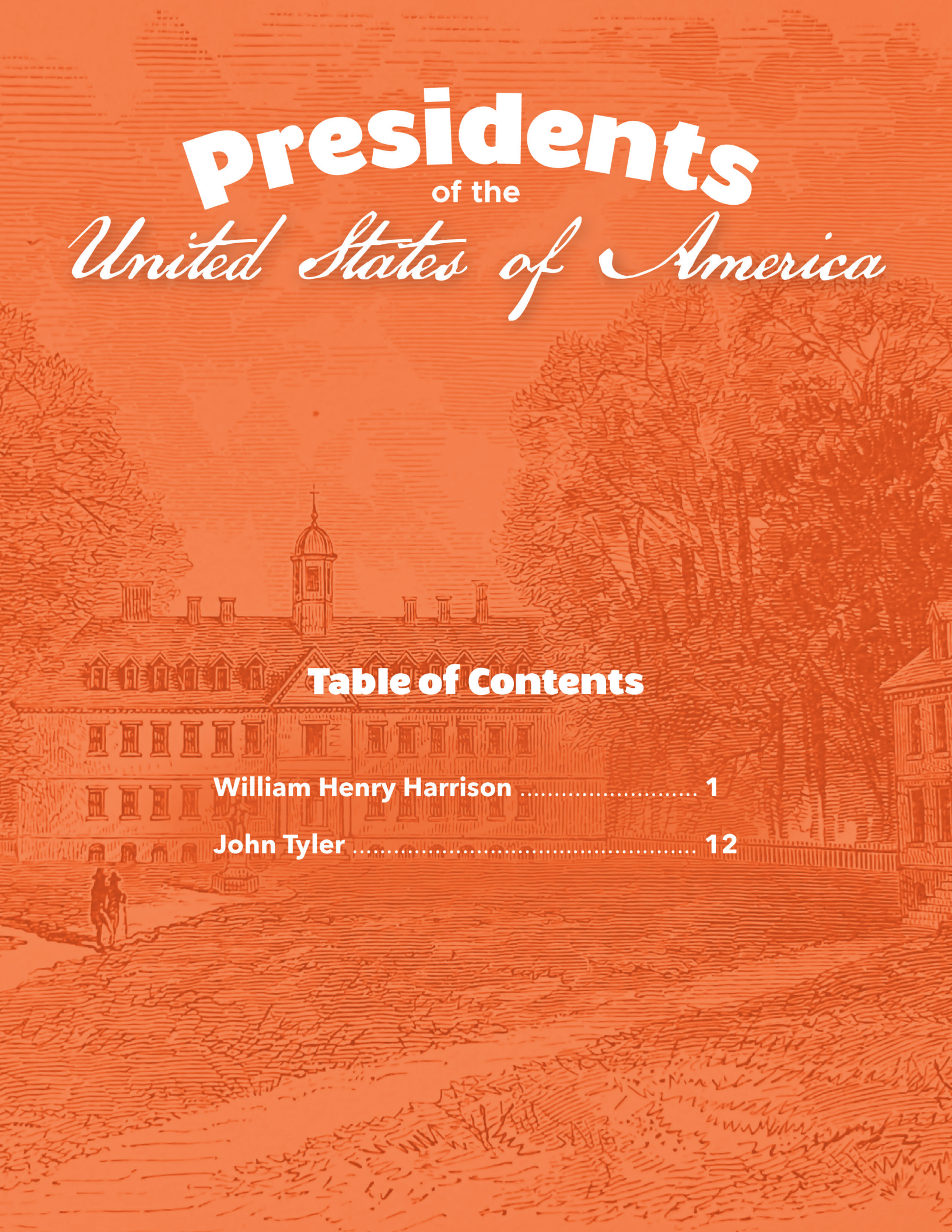
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presidents of the *United States of America*

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William Henry Harrison

"I ran the first modern presidential campaign in American history and served as the 9th President of the United States."





Become a Presidential Historian By Solving This Puzzle

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

President Harrison had a pet and we need to find out its name and what kind of animal it 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.

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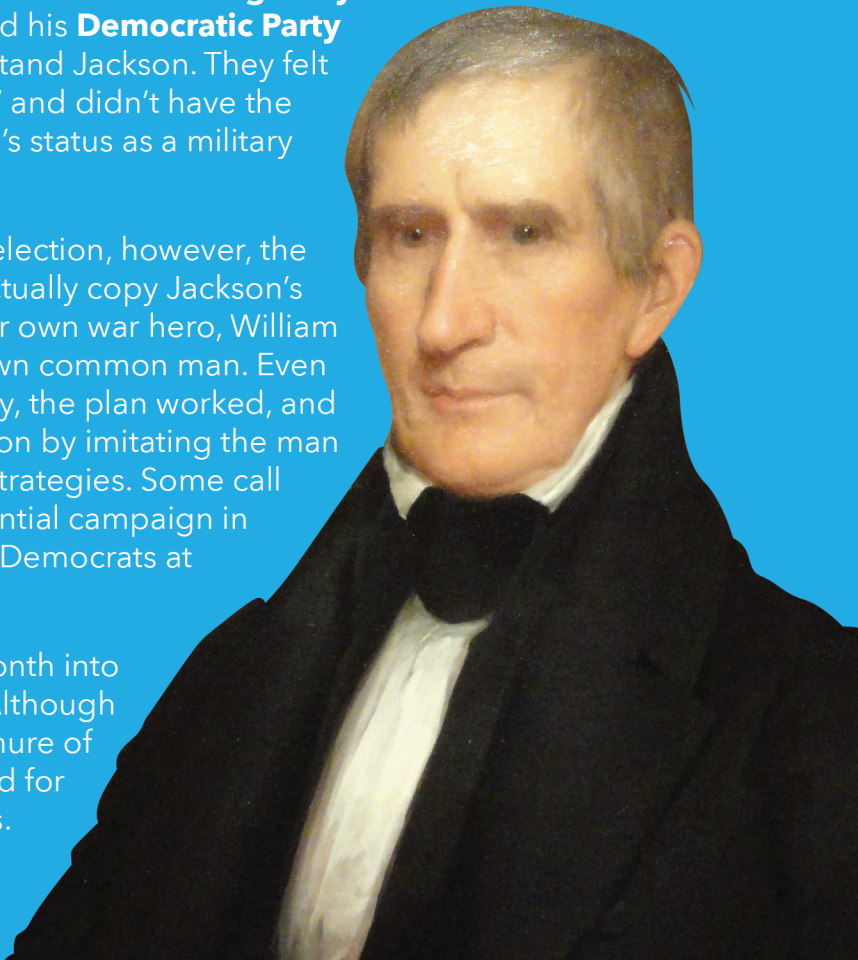
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a
true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

Meet William Henry Harrison

Have you ever been so upset about losing at something, that you did everything you could to win the next time? That's how the **Whig Party** felt when it kept losing to Andrew Jackson and his **Democratic Party** in the 1820s and 1830s. The Whigs couldn't stand Jackson. They felt that he was too similar to the "**common man**" and didn't have the dignity to be president. They felt that Jackson's status as a military hero didn't qualify him for the presidency.

The more the Whigs thought about the next election, however, the more they realized that, to win, they had to actually copy Jackson's strategy. In the 1840 election, they chose their own war hero, William Henry Harrison, and portrayed him as their own common man. Even though he actually came from a wealthy family, the plan worked, and Harrison was elected president. The Whigs won by imitating the man that they hated, and did so using innovative strategies. Some call Harrison's campaign the first modern presidential campaign in American history. They had beaten Jackson's Democrats at their own game.

Unfortunately, Harrison died less than one month into his term – the first president to die in office. Although he is known mostly for having the shortest tenure of any president, he deserves to be remembered for the way he modernized presidential elections.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Young William

William Henry Harrison was born on February 9, 1773 in Charles City County, Virginia. He was the seventh and youngest child of Benjamin and Elizabeth Harrison. His father Benjamin was one of America's **Founding Fathers** – he signed the Declaration of Independence and served as Governor of Virginia. The Harrisons were one of the most prominent and wealthy families in the state.

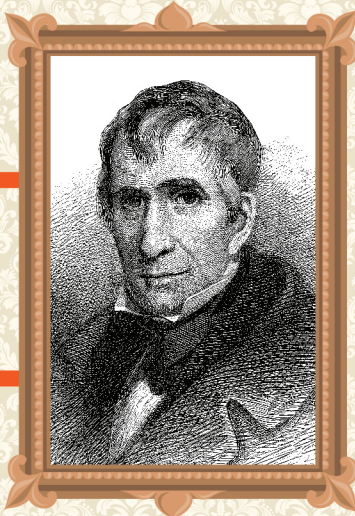
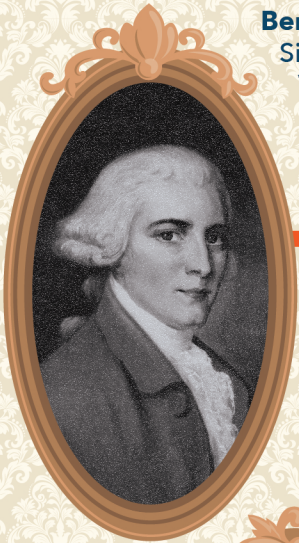
Young William grew up during the American Revolution, hearing heroic tales about his father's friend, George Washington, and the Continental Army. Benjamin hoped that young William would become a doctor and provided him with a strong education. William studied under **tutors** and then at Hampden-Sydney College.



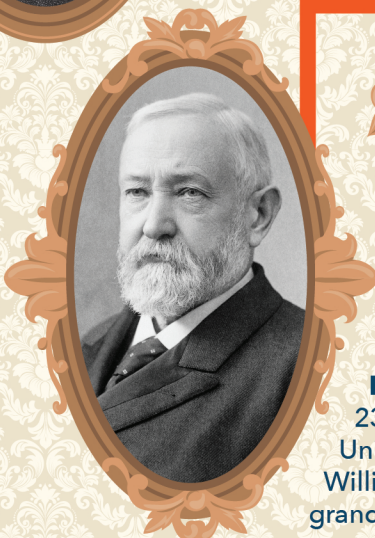
Interesting Facts

- He was the last president born before the United States declared independence from Great Britain.
- He was a member of the Whig Party.
- He was the first president who was a member of the Whig Party.
- His father was a Founding Father who was friends with George Washington.
- He and his wife Anna had ten children.
- His nickname was "Old Tippecanoe" for winning the Battle of Tippecanoe.
- He was the first president to be photographed in office.
- He was the first president to die in office.
- As of 2022, he served the shortest term of any president – 31 days.
- He is the only president whose grandson (Benjamin Harrison) also became president.

Benjamin Harrison V,
Signer of the Declaration of Independence,
William Henry Harrison's father



William Henry Harrison,
9th President of the
United States of America

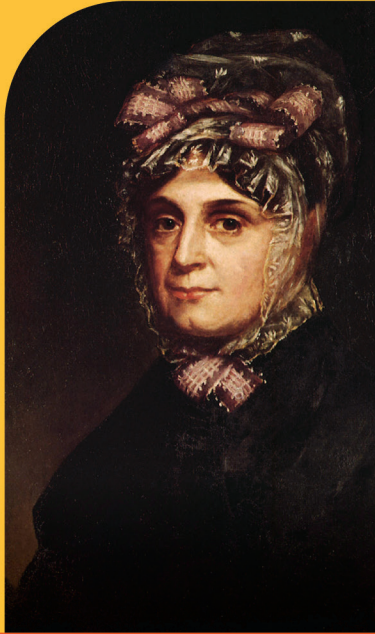


Benjamin Harrison,
23rd President of the
United States of America,
William Henry Harrison's
grandson

Early Career

Instead of being a doctor, William wanted to serve in the military. In 1791, when he was 18, he joined the Army. Soon, he was serving as a **lieutenant** under Major General Anthony Wayne in the **Northwest Territory** – specifically in what is now Ohio. He helped Wayne defeat the **Native Americans** at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.

The following year, he married Anna Symmes, the daughter of a prominent judge. They would go on to have ten children.



Frontier Leader

The Northwest Territory was split into the Ohio and Indiana territories. Harrison became a prominent citizen in the region, leading President John Adams to appoint him Governor of Indiana in 1800, where he served from 1801 to 1812. As Governor, Harrison aggressively negotiated with Native Americans in the region to acquire their territories for the **United States**. During this time, European powers like Great Britain were provoking the Native Americans to attack the settlers. Harrison would acquire more than 50 million acres of land from the Native Americans, for often as cheap as two cents per acre.

Harrison believed that white American settlers could better develop and use the land than the Native Americans. He felt that moving the Native Americans farther west, away from the settlers, would make the United States safer.

Back in 1787, the Founding Fathers banned slavery in the Northwest Territory. Despite this, Harrison, who had enslaved servants, supported expanding slavery into the Territory. He did, however, hope to prepare many of his enslaved servants for freedom – he even allowed one of them, Jack Butler, to be free.



Military Hero



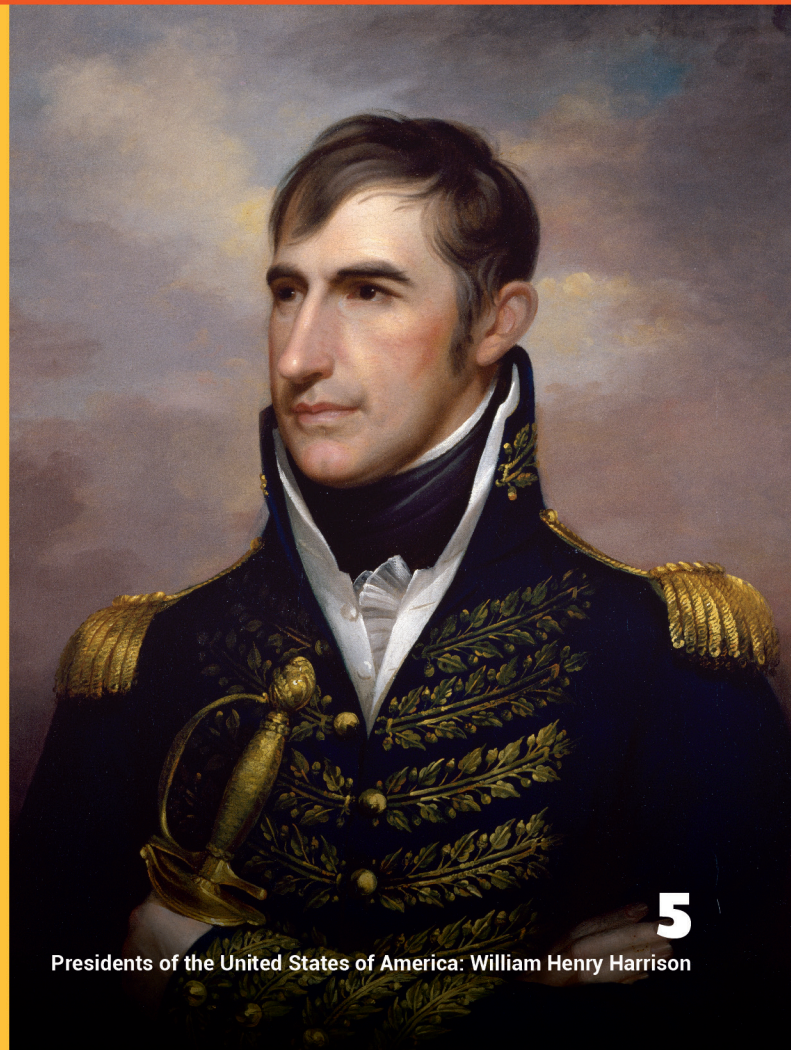
Shawnee chief Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa grew frustrated with the tribes that sold land to Harrison. Fears of war led Harrison to raise an army and personally lead them to confront the Shawnees.

In November of 1811, Harrison and Tenskwatawa's forces met at the Battle of Tippecanoe (named after the small river next to the camp). Although Harrison's men suffered many casualties, they won and destroyed the Shawnee village of Prophetstown. The victory made Harrison a national hero, and he would later be nicknamed, "Old Tippecanoe."

The following year, the War of 1812 broke out between the United States and Great Britain. In October of 1813, Harrison fought the British at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario, Canada. Also at the battle were Tecumseh and his warriors, since they had allied with the British. Harrison took advantage of the fact that he had more men under his command and won the battle. Tecumseh himself was killed. This victory made Harrison, at age 41, one of the top heroes of the war – along with Andrew Jackson.

Quote

*"The qualities of the general and the hero must be devoted to the advantage of mankind."
- September 1829*



Presidents of the United States of America: William Henry Harrison

Rise to the Presidency

Harrison resigned from the Army the following year, even though the war was still raging. He spent the rest of his life seeking public office. President John Quincy Adams wrote, "This person's thirst for **lucrative** office is absolutely rabid... as hot in pursuit as a hound on the scent of a hare." He lost several elections, but managed to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1816 to 1819, and the U.S. Senate from 1825 to 1828. President Adams also sent him as America's Minister to Colombia in 1829.

During Andrew Jackson's presidency, from 1829 to 1837, the country became divided between his supporters, the Democrats, and his opponents, the Whigs. The American people loved Jackson because so many of them could identify with him – he was, after all, the first "common man" president. Unlike his predecessors, he came from poverty and had been orphaned at a young age. Although the Whigs hated Jackson, they realized that the best way to beat him was to run a common man of their own.

Although Harrison was not a common man – he, in fact, came from a wealthy and prominent Virginia family – it was easy to portray him as one. The Whigs ran Harrison as a candidate for president in 1836 and 1840, both times against the Democratic nominee, Martin Van Buren. They pointed out that, just like Jackson, Harrison was a war hero, and they published songs and stories of how Harrison lived the rough life of a western frontiersman.

Van Buren won the presidency in 1836, but by 1840, he was in trouble. There was a major depression and Harrison's Whigs were on the rise. When former Virginia Senator John Tyler was chosen as Harrison's running-mate, the campaign took on the slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too," one of the most famous in American history. Harrison easily won the presidency, 234 electoral votes to 60.

Quote

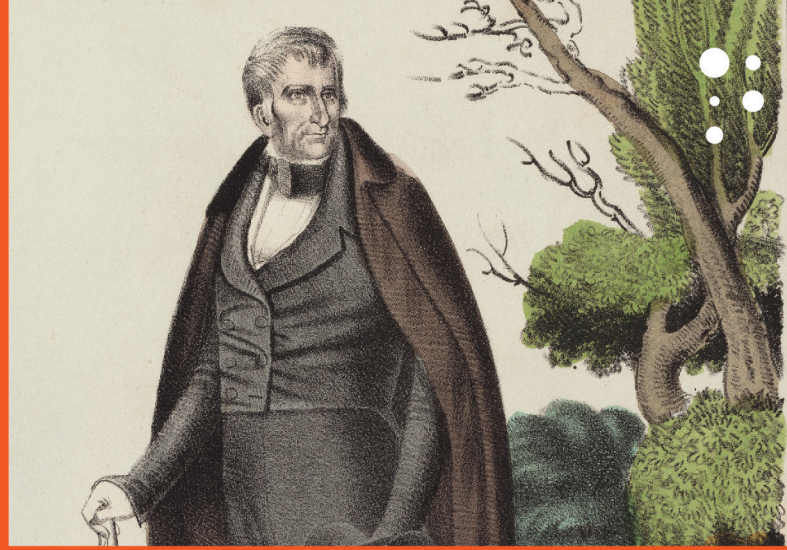
*"The strongest of all governments is that which is most free."
- September 1829*



A Groundbreaking Campaign

In modern presidential elections, candidates travel across the country by plane to give speeches at massive rallies. This wasn't always the case – prior to the 20th century, most candidates didn't actively campaign for the presidency. Some even stayed at home, giving low-key speeches on their own front porch. At the time, it was seen as inappropriate for someone to campaign for the nation's highest office. It was believed that the office should seek the man – not the other way around.

William Henry Harrison's 1840 campaign was different from any that came before – it was one of the earliest in which the candidate openly sought the presidency. The Whigs organized huge rallies and parades in support of Harrison, who gave speeches to tens of thousands of people at a time. Harrison's supporters also wrote songs and sold "Harrison-brand" whiskey to promote their candidate. Many historians have described Harrison's 1840 candidacy as the first modern campaign in American history. In Illinois, one young member of the Whig Party got caught up in Harrison-mania. His name was Abraham Lincoln.



Quote

"It behooves the people to be most watchful of those to whom they have entrusted power."
- March 1841

The Shortest Presidency

On March 4, 1841, Harrison took the oath of office to become the ninth President of the United States. At the age of 68, he was the oldest president up to that time. It was a cold, wet day and Harrison delivered his inaugural address without an overcoat or hat. The speech remains the longest inaugural address in American history, which took Harrison almost two hours to read.

Harrison promised to reverse Jackson's and Van Buren's policies by reestablishing a national bank and reducing the power of the presidency.

Harrison wouldn't have the chance to fulfill those promises. By the end of March, he **was** ill with **pneumonia**. Although he received the best medical care available at the time, he died in the White House on April 4, 1841, one month after taking office. He was the first U.S. president to die in office.

Legacy

William Henry Harrison is known for having the shortest tenure as president. People often laugh at the fact that he got sick and died after giving a long inaugural address. They forget, however, that he was a major leader in the western territories prior to serving as president, where he acquired large amounts of territory for the United States. Also, he demonstrated strong leadership abilities with his victories at Tippecanoe and the Thames.

Lastly, whenever you see a candidate for president give speeches at big rallies, remember that Harrison was one of the earliest American politicians to use this style of campaigning.

Some historians have criticized Harrison for being unfair and greedy towards Native Americans, as well as for being too focused on his career and attaining public office. Regardless, it's important to remember that Harrison did much more than serve the shortest tenure of all the presidents.



Write About It!

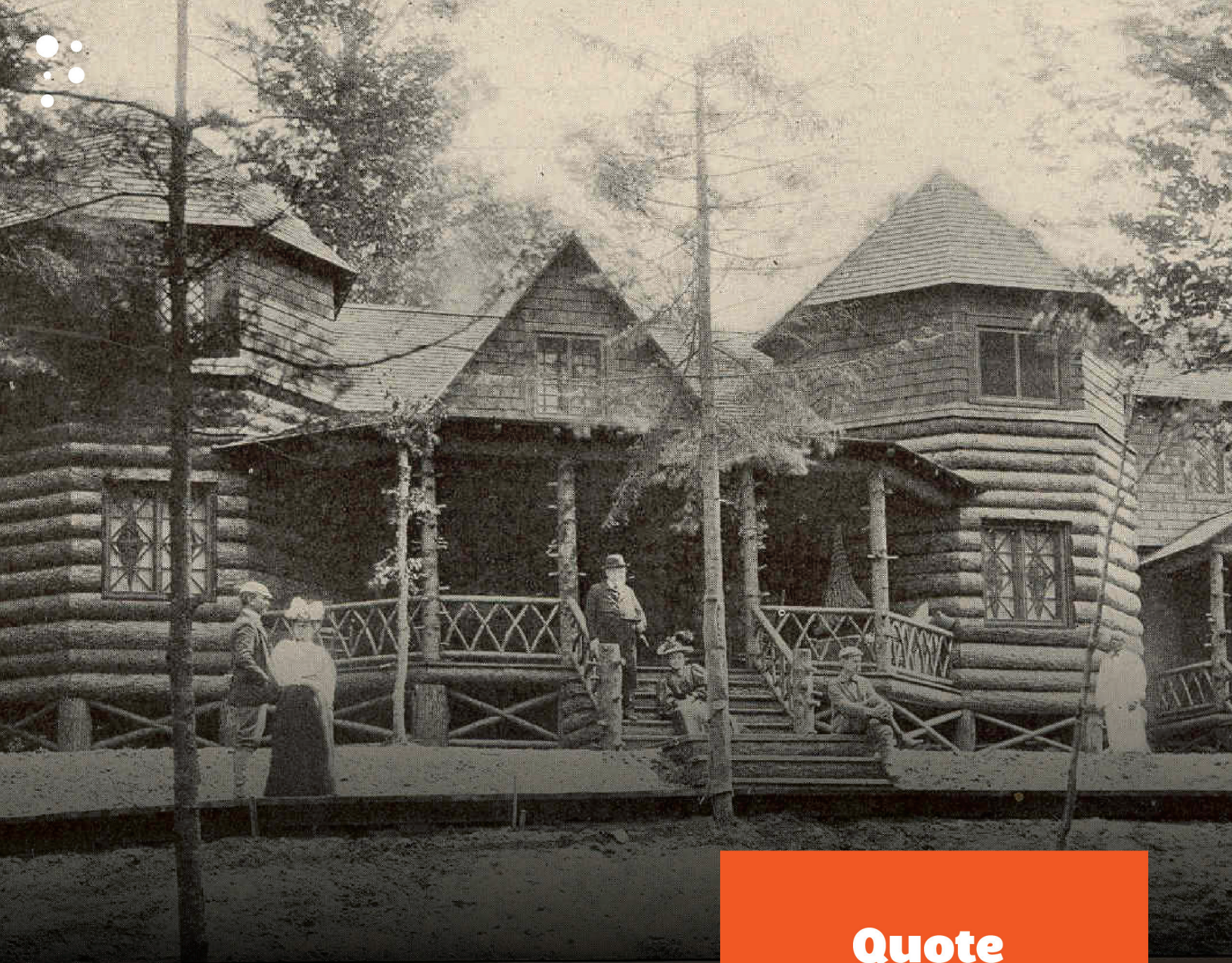
William Henry Harrison's presidency was short, but he still left a legacy. His life was filled with family, career, and politics.

What kind of legacy would you like to leave? Take a few minutes to brainstorm the type of person you'd like to be and write about it.



True or False?

- T F** Harrison's nickname was "Old Man Canoe."
- T F** His father, Benjamin, signed the Declaration of Independence.
- T F** He was the first president from the Whig Party.
- T F** He was president for 2 months before dying.
- T F** He freed one of his enslaved servants.
- T F** He and his wife had 3 children.
- T F** His grandson, Benjamin, also became president.
- T F** Harrison pursued a career in the military.
- T F** He was not very interested in becoming the President of the United States.
- T F** He held rallies to try to become president.
- T F** Harrison was a famous war hero in his day.
- T F** He retired in his boyhood hometown in Virginia.



Adirondack Cottage of William Henry Harrison

Quote

"There is nothing more corrupting, nothing more destructive of the noblest and finest feelings of our nature, than the exercise of unlimited power."
- September 1829

Glossary

Whig Party: The political party that opposed Andrew Jackson, which no longer exists today. It supported the building of roads and canals to boost the economy.

Democratic Party: The political party that supported Andrew Jackson and now supports liberal or progressive policies.

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

Founding Fathers: The people who played leading roles in creating the United States, establishing its independence, and designing its Constitution and government.

Tutor: A person hired to teach someone individually.

Lieutenant: An officer of junior or middle rank in a country's military force.

Northwest Territory: A territory acquired by the United States and established in 1787 that was once considered America's western frontier. It included all or part of what are now the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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

Shawnee: A member of a Native American tribe that spoke Algonquian and originally lived in the Eastern and Midwestern United States.

Lucrative: Producing much wealth or profit.

Rally: A large and lively meeting of people showing support and giving speeches for a political candidate or cause.

Pneumonia: A respiratory infection that inflames the lungs.

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Images: Getty Images, WikiCommons

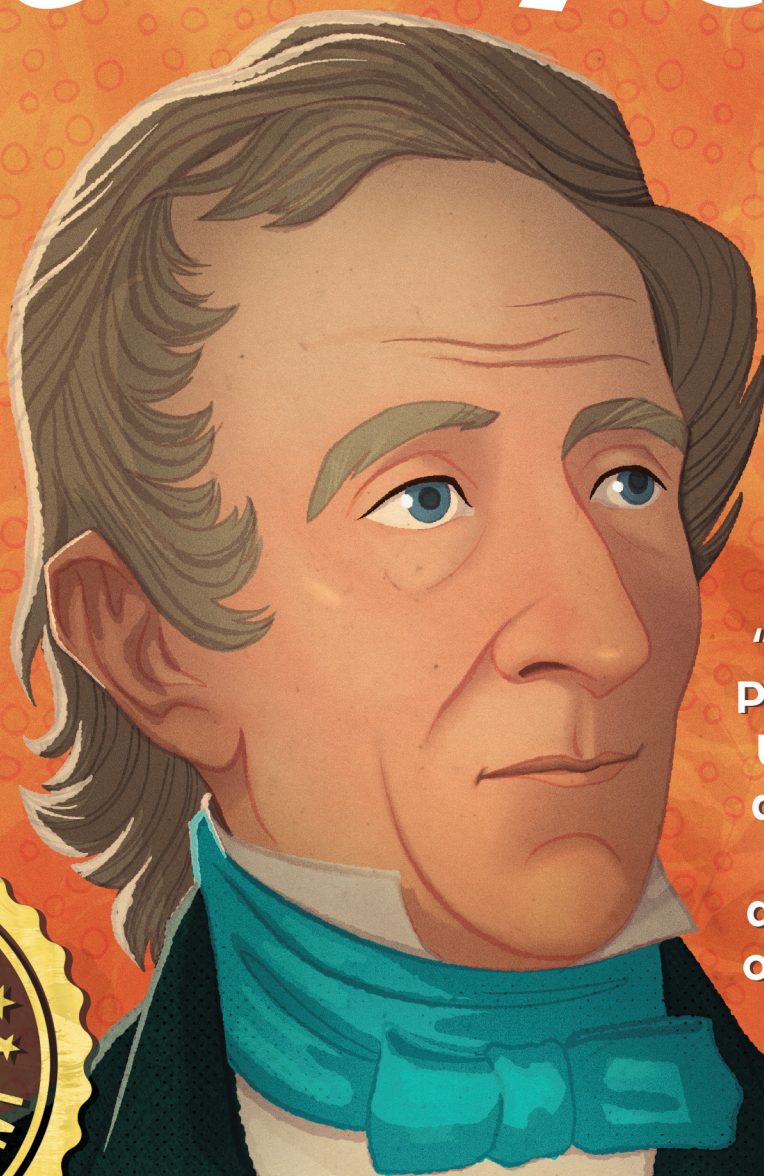
Answers:

HARRISON'S PET:
SUKEY THE COW

- T F** Harrison's nickname was "Old Man Canoe."
- T F** His father, Benjamin, signed the Declaration of Independence.
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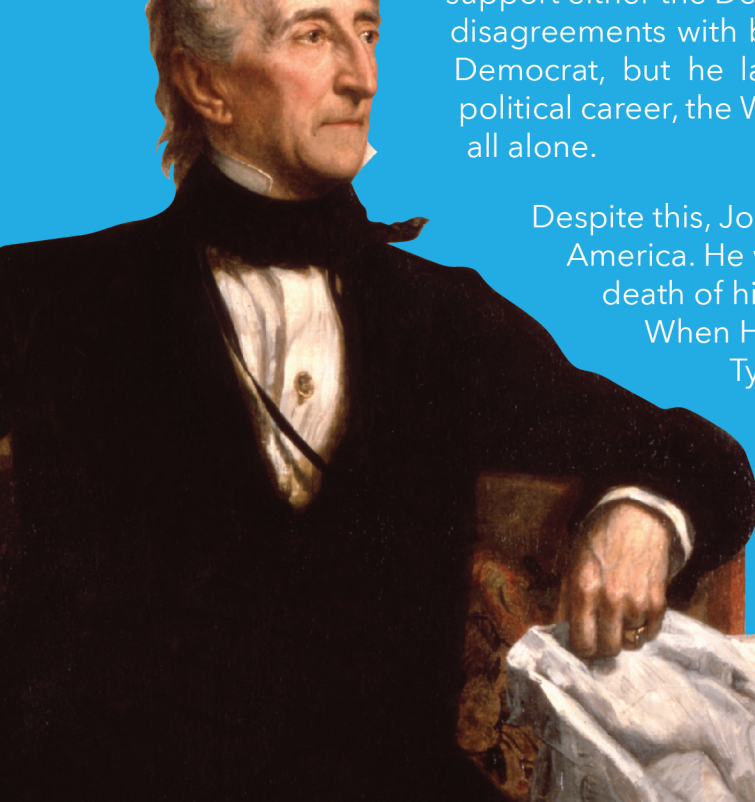
John Tyler



"I was the 10th President of the United States, and the first to take office after the death of a president."



President Tyler had a certain breed of dog for pets and we need to find out what breed they were. 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.

A portrait of John Tyler, the 10th President of the United States. He is an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark cravat. He is holding a newspaper in his left hand. The background is a solid blue color.

John Tyler felt that way too. Did not support either the Democrats or the Whigs due to disagreements with both. Elected President by the Electoral College, but he later joined the Whigs in his political career, the Whigs kept him in office all alone.

Despite this, John Tyler was a man who loved America. He was the first President to die of his **pred**iction. When Harrison died, Tyler assumed the presidency smoothly.

Alt
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PUBLIC DOMAIN

When Harrison died, no one was sure what to do, but Tyler asserted strong leadership and ensured a smooth **transition**.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Young John

John Tyler was born on March 29, 1790 in Charles City County, Virginia. He was the sixth of John and Mary Tyler's eight children. His father, the elder John, was a prominent Virginian who was close friends with Thomas Jefferson and would eventually serve as Governor of the state from 1808 to 1811.

The Tyler family lived on a large plantation with thousands of acres and several enslaved servants. Tragedy struck the family in 1797 when Mary passed away. At the time, young John was just seven years old. He also spent much of his childhood sick, suffering from **respiratory** and stomach problems. Despite these difficulties, John was very smart, and went to the College of William and Mary at a young age, graduating in 1807 at the age of 17.

Interesting Facts

- He was the first president who took office because of the death of his predecessor.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party early in his career, and was elected vice president as a member of the Whig Party, but was no longer welcomed in either party at the end of his career.
- His father was good friends with Thomas Jefferson.
- He had the most children (15) of any president.
- He was the first president to be widowed while in office.
- He joined the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.
- As of 2022, he has a grandson still alive.



Quote

*"Wealth can only be accumulated by the earnings of industry and the savings of frugality."
- June 1841*



Early Career

Tyler began practicing law in 1809 and worked for a firm under Edmund **R**andolph, who had been George Washington's Attorney General. He was, however, more interested in politics than in law. In 1811, Tyler won a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates at the age of 21. Two years later, he married a woman named Letitia Christian, who came from another prominent Virginia family. They would eventually have eight children.

Trying to Fit In

In 1816, Tyler was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and moved to Washington, DC. He would eventually serve as Governor of Virginia (like his father) from 1825 to 1827, and a U.S. senator from 1827 to 1836. Even though most people supported either the Democrats or the Whigs, he didn't fit **i**n well in either of the two parties. He agreed with the Democrats on certain issues, like opposing the **national bank** and **tariffs**, but like the Whigs, he didn't like Democrat President Andrew Jackson. His mixed feelings led him to first join the Democrats, and then join the Whigs.

Tyler also had mixed feelings about slavery. He believed having enslaved servants was wrong but he owned some himself. He also supported spreading slavery across the nation. He hoped that expanding it into America's western lands would somehow cause it to die off.

Whigs vs. Democrats

Find out what Whigs and Democrats supported:

	Whigs	Democrats
Tariffs	✓	
National Bank	✓	
Spending on Infrastructure	✓	
Strong Presidency		✓
States Rights		✓

Quote

"I can never consent to being dictated to as to what I shall or shall not do."
- April 1861

Presidential Policies

Tyler was frustrated by his time in office and retired from the **S**enate in 1836.

Still, the Whigs hoped that Tyler could help them in presidential elections. Since Tyler was from Virginia, one of the biggest states, they believed that adding him as a vice presidential candidate could help them win a lot of votes. In the 1836 election, the Whigs nominated war hero William **H**enry Harrison as a presidential candidate, and Tyler as a vice presidential candidate. Although the Whigs lost that election to Martin Van Buren, they again nominated Harrison and Tyler in 1840.

Years earlier, Harrison had won a military battle near the Tippecanoe River, and was nicknamed "Old Tippecanoe." Since Tyler was Harrison's running mate, the **W**higs's **s**logan in 1840 was "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" – one of the most memorable campaign slogans of all time. This time, the Harrison-Tyler duo won the election.



A Major Precedent

Both Harrison and Tyler took office on March 4, 1841. **O**ne month later, on April 4, something unexpected happened: President Harrison died of pneumonia. It was the first time in American history that a president died in office. It was a shocking event that no one was prepared for. The Constitution says that, when a president dies, the duties of the office "**devolve** on the vice president." No one was sure what "devolve" meant. Some felt the vice president would only serve as *acting* president, not as the *actual* president. Others felt that the vice president would, indeed, be *the* president.

Tyler made his views clear: he believed that he was the *actual* president – just as much as Harrison, Van Buren, or any of his predecessors had been.

President



Tyler's party, the Whigs, had an ambitious agenda. They and their leader, Senator Henry Clay, were excited when Harrison, the first Whig president, had won the election and hoped that Tyler would support their policies. They sent Tyler multiple bills to establish a national bank and raise tariffs. The new president, however, still didn't fit well in either party, including the Whigs. Even though he was considered a Whig, he disagreed with many of their policies and vetoed the bills over and over. This angered Clay and the Cabinet. Almost all of his Cabinet resigned in protest. Tyler's presidency fell apart.

Tyler also experienced personal tragedies. In September of 1842, his wife Letitia died of a stroke. Less than a year later, however, he began

courting a beautiful young woman named Julia Gardiner. Although he was thirty years older than her, they married in 1844. They would have seven children, giving him a total of 15 children.

As Tyler's term ended, he hoped to **salvage** his presidency by annexing Texas to the Union. Texas had won independence from Mexico in 1836. Many Americans, such as former President Martin Van Buren, opposed adding Texas because it was a slave state.

Still, Tyler was determined. His efforts paid off at the end of his term: Congress accepted Texas as a state and, on March 1, 1845, three days before Tyler left office, he signed a bill granting Texas **statehood**.

Quote

"Let it, then, be henceforth proclaimed to the world, that man's conscience was created free; that he is no longer accountable to his fellow man for his religious opinions, being responsible therefore only to his God."
- July 1826



Tragedy and Love

On February 28, 1844, President Tyler was cruising on the ship U.S.S. *Princeton* down the Potomac River with many prominent government officials. During the ceremonial firing of the ship's guns, an accidental explosion killed several people including a New York lawyer named David Gardiner. At the time, President Tyler was romantically pursuing Gardiner's daughter, Julia. Gardiner's death left Julia devastated, but Tyler's presence was a great comfort to her. They married four months later. She became one of the most popular first ladies in American history.



Retirement

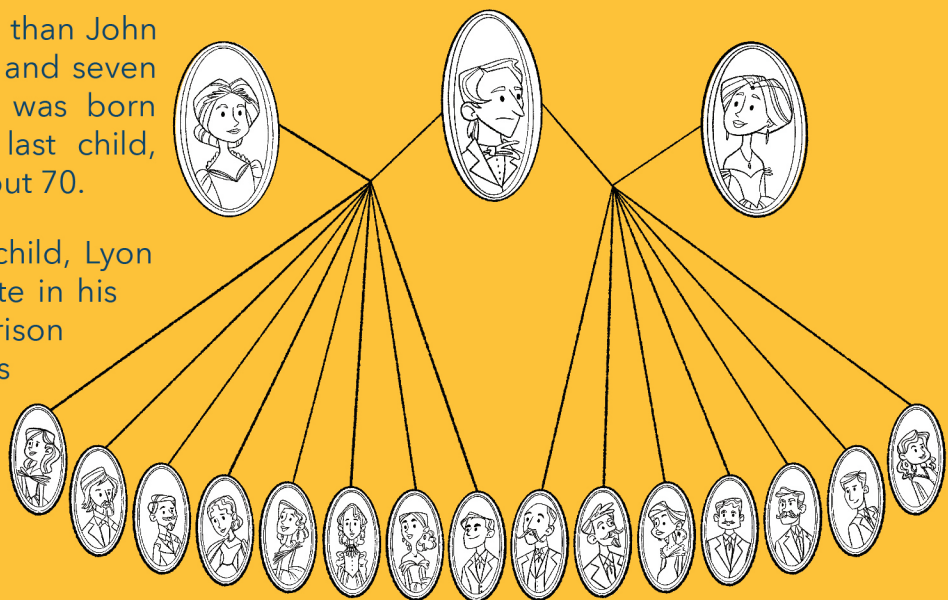
During the 1844 election, the Whig Party abandoned Tyler and chose Clay as its presidential nominee. The Democrats chose former Tennessee Governor James K. Polk, who would go on to defeat Clay for the presidency.

After his term ended, Tyler and his wife Julia moved back to Charles City County, Virginia. Fifteen years later, in February 1861, the Northern and Southern states were on the verge of civil war. Tyler led a Peace Conference in Washington, DC with Northern and Southern leaders in the hope of stopping the war, but it failed. When the Civil War broke out, Tyler joined the **secessionist** cause and was elected to the **Confederate** House of Representatives. His health, however, began to fail and he suffered from a cold and dizziness. On January 18, 1862, Tyler died at the age of 71 in Richmond, Virginia.

Kids, Kids, and More Kids

No president has had more children than John Tyler, who had 15 (eight with Letitia and seven with Julia). Tyler's first child, Mary, was born when he was about 25, and his last child, Margaret, was born when he was about 70.

Tyler was about 63 when his 13th child, Lyon was born. Lyon also had children late in his life – including a son named Harrison Ruffin Tyler – when he was 75 years old. As of 2022, Harrison Ruffin Tyler is still alive – the last of John Tyler's grandchildren.

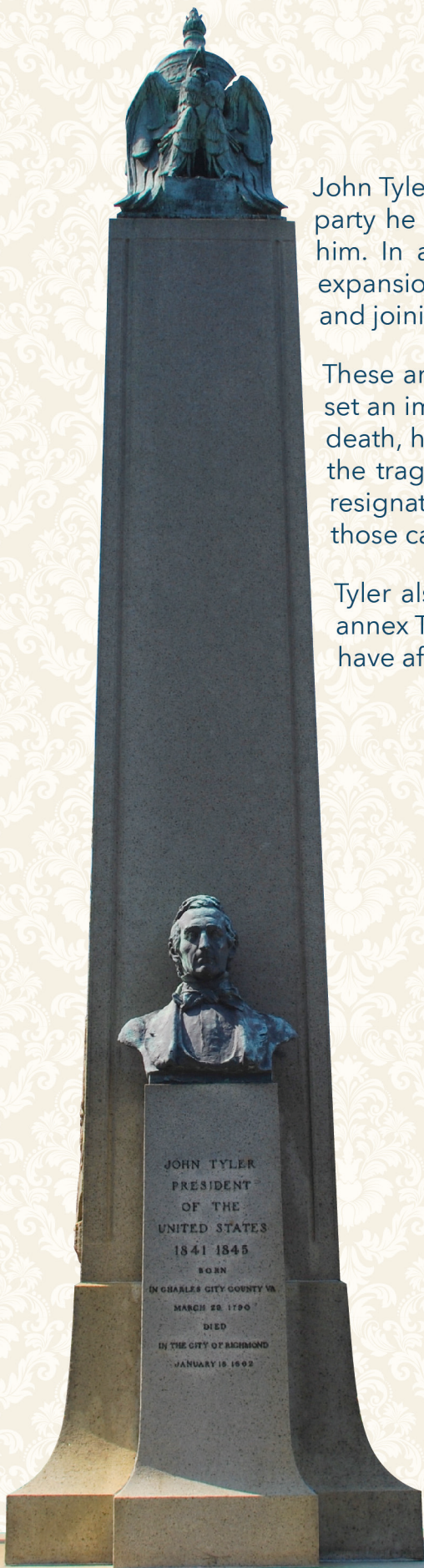


Legacy

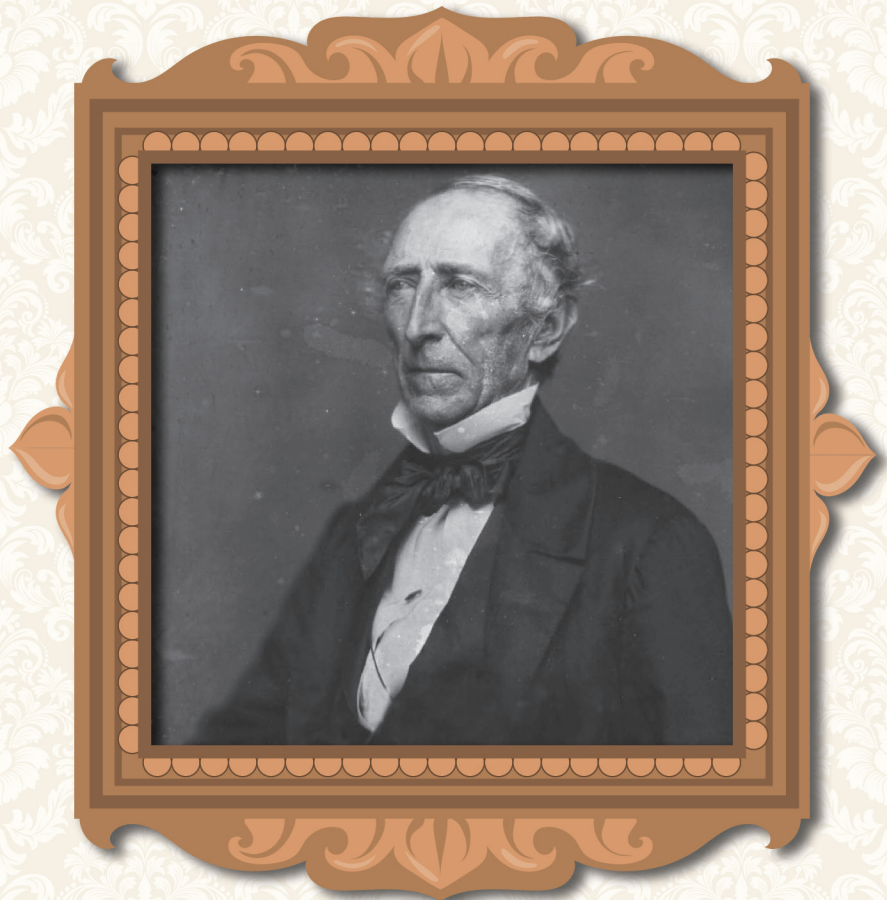
John Tyler's career was a rocky road – he had a difficult time deciding which party he supported and, by the time he retired, both parties had rejected him. In addition, many historians today criticize him for supporting the expansion of slavery, losing the support of his party during his presidency, and joining the Confederacy during the Civil War.

These are fair criticisms. It must be remembered, however, that he helped set an important **precedent**. By taking over the presidency after Harrison's death, he ensured that the government would smoothly transition despite the tragedy. Eight more presidents would leave office either by death or resignation. Thanks to Tyler's precedent, it was clear what would happen in those cases: the vice president would become the president.

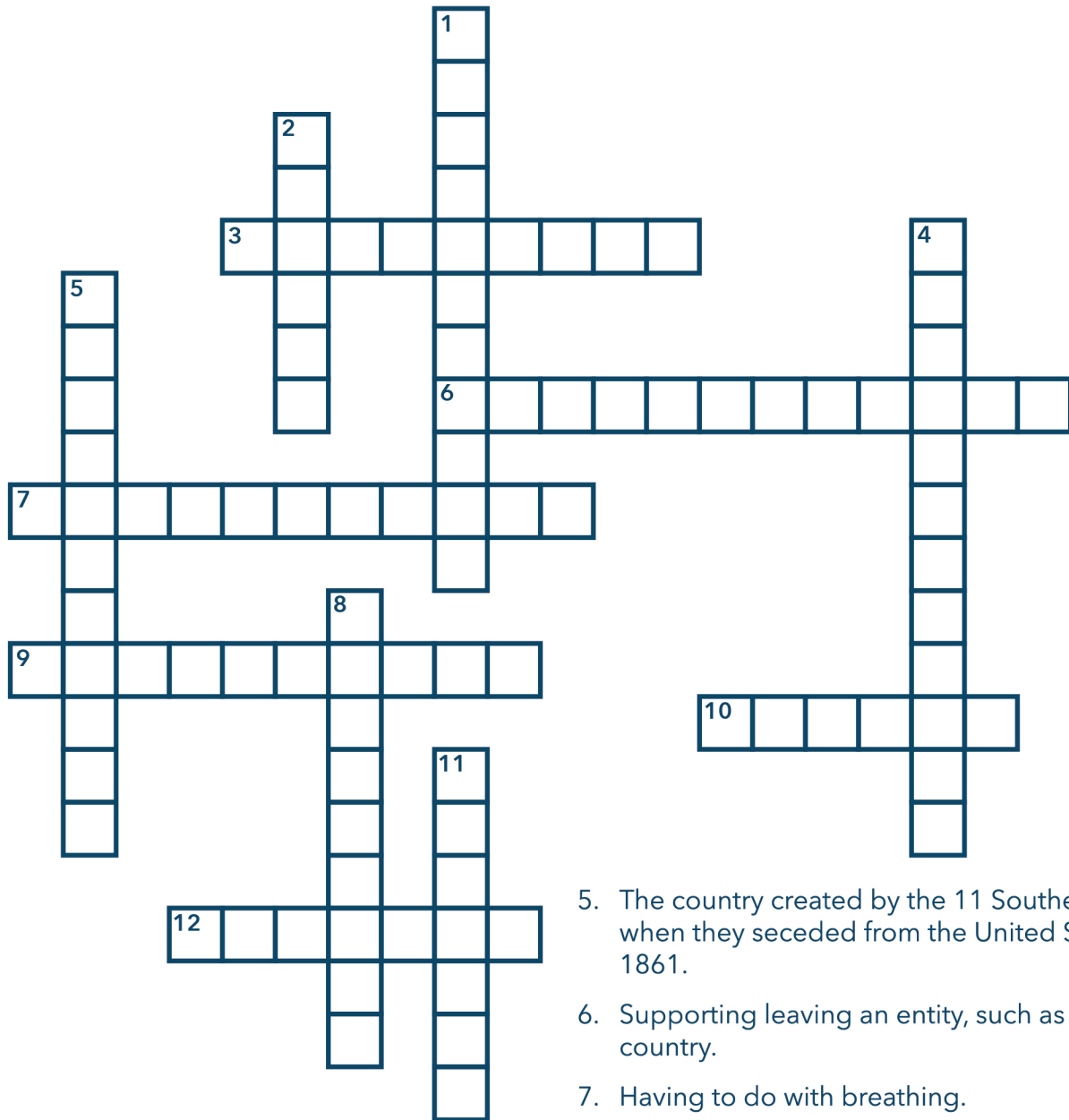
Tyler also made a major contribution to the United States by fighting to annex Texas to the Union. Although Tyler had his shortcomings, his actions have affected the nation long after his short tenure in the White House.



JOHN TYLER
PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES
1841 1845
BORN
IN CHARLES CITY COUNTY VA.
MARCH 28 1790
DIED
IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND
JANUARY 18 1862



Crossword



1. The person who held a job or office before the current holder.
2. A tax on something being bought from or sold to a customer in another country.
3. An event or action that serves as an example for similar situations in the future.
4. A financial institution created by the nation's government to manage the country's banking system and money supply.

5. The country created by the 11 Southern states when they seceded from the United States in 1861.
6. Supporting leaving an entity, such as a country.
7. Having to do with breathing.
8. The status of being a state in the United States.
9. The process of changing from one state to another.
10. A short, memorable phrase, often used in advertising or political campaigns.
11. To rescue or save from loss or disaster.
12. To transfer responsibilities from one person to another.

Precedent: An event or action that serves as an example for similar situations in the future.

Images: Getty Images, WikiCommons, FreePix

CROSSWORD:

1. PRECEDENT

2. TAF

3. PRECEDENT

4. ANATONALBANK

5. CONFESPIRATORY

6. SECESSIONIST

7. RESPIRATORY

8. STRANSITION

9. TRANSITION

10. SLOGAN

11. HATE

12. REVOLVE

13. A

14. SAL

15. ADVANCE



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