

presidents

of the

United States of America



**Andrew Johnson &
Ulysses S. Grant**



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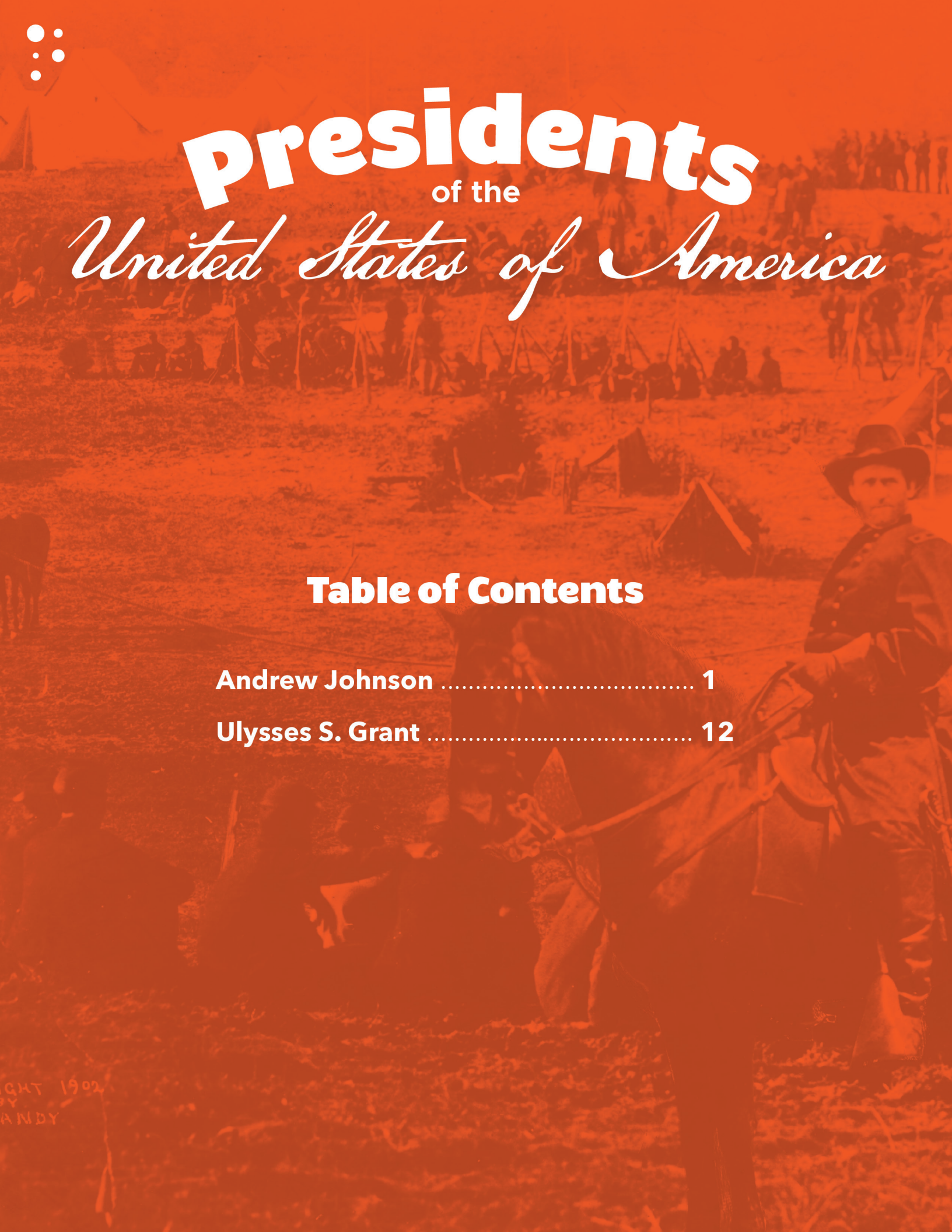
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presidents of the *United States of America*

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Andrew Johnson

"I was the 17th
President of the
United States and
the first one to be
impeached."





Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

President Johnson had a nickname, 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.

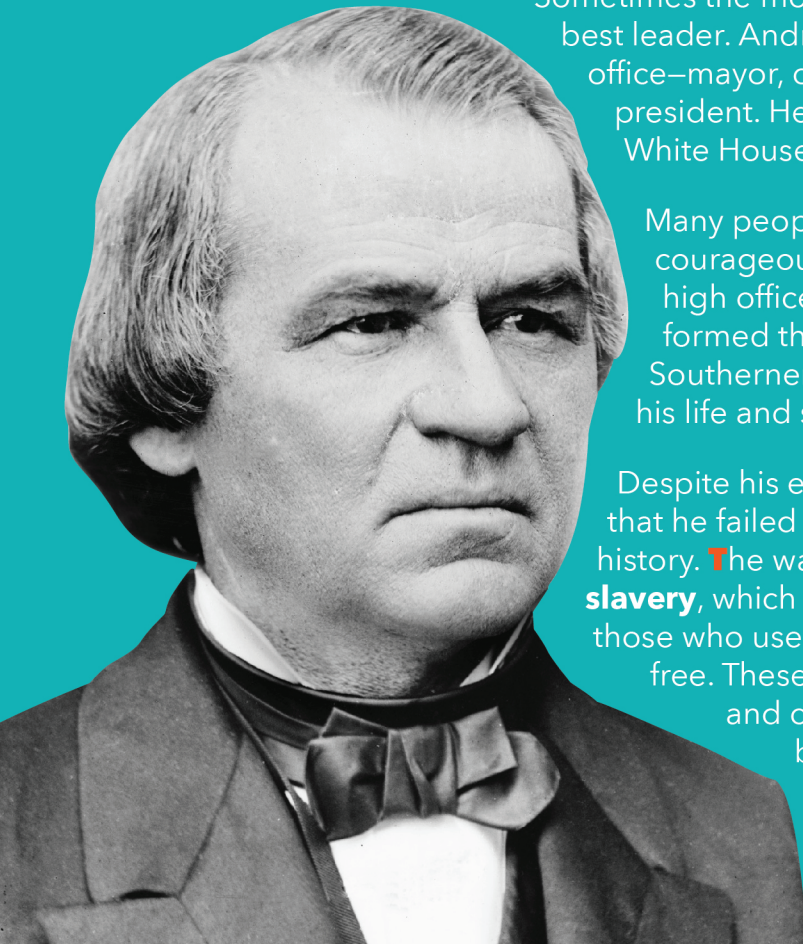
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

Meet Andrew Johnson

Sometimes the most experienced person doesn't always make the best leader. Andrew Johnson had served in almost every political office—mayor, congressman, senator, governor, and vice president. He brought all of that experience with him to the White House when he became president in 1865.

Many people believed that Johnson was a determined and courageous man. He had risen from poverty and attained high office. When the South seceded from the Union and formed the **Confederacy**, he refused to join his fellow Southerners. He braved threats from his neighbors against his life and stayed loyal to the **Union** during the **Civil War**.

Despite his experience and his loyalty, most historians believe that he failed to lead America well during a very critical time in history. **T**he war resulted in the end of the evil practice of **slavery**, which freed four million black Americans. Many of those who used to own slaves were angry that all men were free. These former slave**h**olders committed acts of violence and created new, **discriminatory** laws that violated black Americans' basic rights. President Johnson did virtually nothing to protect the former slaves. For this and many other reasons, he was the first president in American history to be **impeached**.



Interesting Facts

- He was the first of three U.S. presidents (as of 2023) to be impeached—Bill Clinton and Donald Trump being the others.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He got married at a younger age than any other president (18 years and 139 days).
- His wife helped him learn how to read and write.
- He was the only U.S. senator from a Southern state to not join the Confederacy during the Civil War.
- He was the first president to take office because of the assassination of his predecessor.
- He is the only U.S. president (as of 2023) to serve in the U.S. Senate after leaving the White House.

Young Andrew

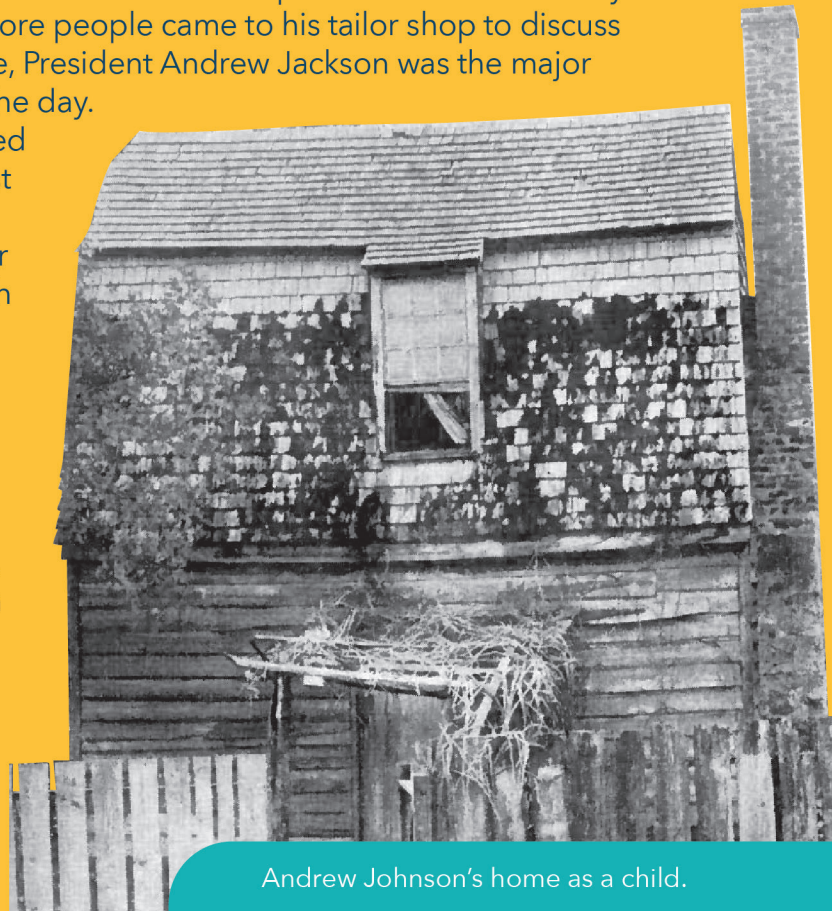
Andrew was born on December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Johnson family was very poor. His father worked in a tavern and died of a heart attack when Andrew was just three years old. His mother, Mary, became a weaver to support young Andrew and his older brother, William. Neither of Andrew's parents learned how to read, and Andrew himself never went to school.

When Andrew was 14, he was **apprenticed** as a **tailor**. Although Andrew enjoyed being a tailor, he did not like working for his mentor, so he and his brother ran away. Andrew eventually made it to Greenville, Tennessee, where he opened up a tailoring shop of his own. Soon, Andrew had many customers, and his business became a success.

In 1827, when Andrew was 18, he married Eliza McCardle. They had five children. Eliza had a more advanced education than Andrew, so she taught him how to read and write. Learning how to read opened up a new world for Andrew, and he began devouring books.

Johnson also became interested in political issues. He frequently talked with his customers about the important events of the day. Soon, more and more people came to his tailor shop to discuss politics. At the time, President Andrew Jackson was the major political figure of the day.

Johnson considered him a hero—not just because their names were similar and they were both from Tennessee, but also because Jackson stood for the common man against people with political power and wealth. As a common man himself, Johnson felt inspired and supported Jackson's Democratic Party.

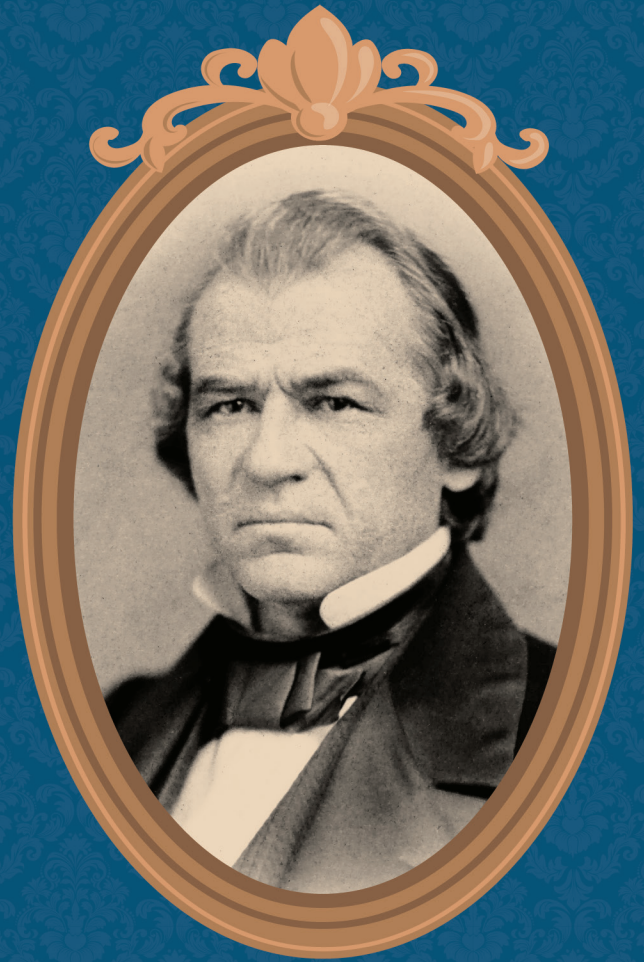


Andrew Johnson's home as a child.

Rise to Power

Johnson had a passion for politics, but he also discovered he was a good public speaker. His friends believed that these skills would help him succeed in politics. In 1834, he was elected as the Mayor of Greenville.

His long political career had begun, and he would go on to serve in almost every kind of public office in the American government. He was elected to the Tennessee **s**tate legislature. Then, in 1843, he moved to Washington, D.C. to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Later, in 1853, he returned to his state to become Governor of Tennessee. In 1857, after four years as governor, he returned to the nation's capital to serve in the U.S. Senate.



Mayor of Greenville 1834

Tennessee State Legislature 1835

U.S. House of Representatives 1843

Governor of Tennessee 1853

U.S. Senate 1857



Civil War

Throughout these years, the United States was divided over slavery. The country had acquired new territories, and many Southerners wanted them to have slavery. The Northerners, meanwhile, wanted to prevent the spread of slavery. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Since he opposed the expansion of slavery, 11 Southern states **seceded** from the United States. They formed a new country, called the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy, where people could continue to own slaves.

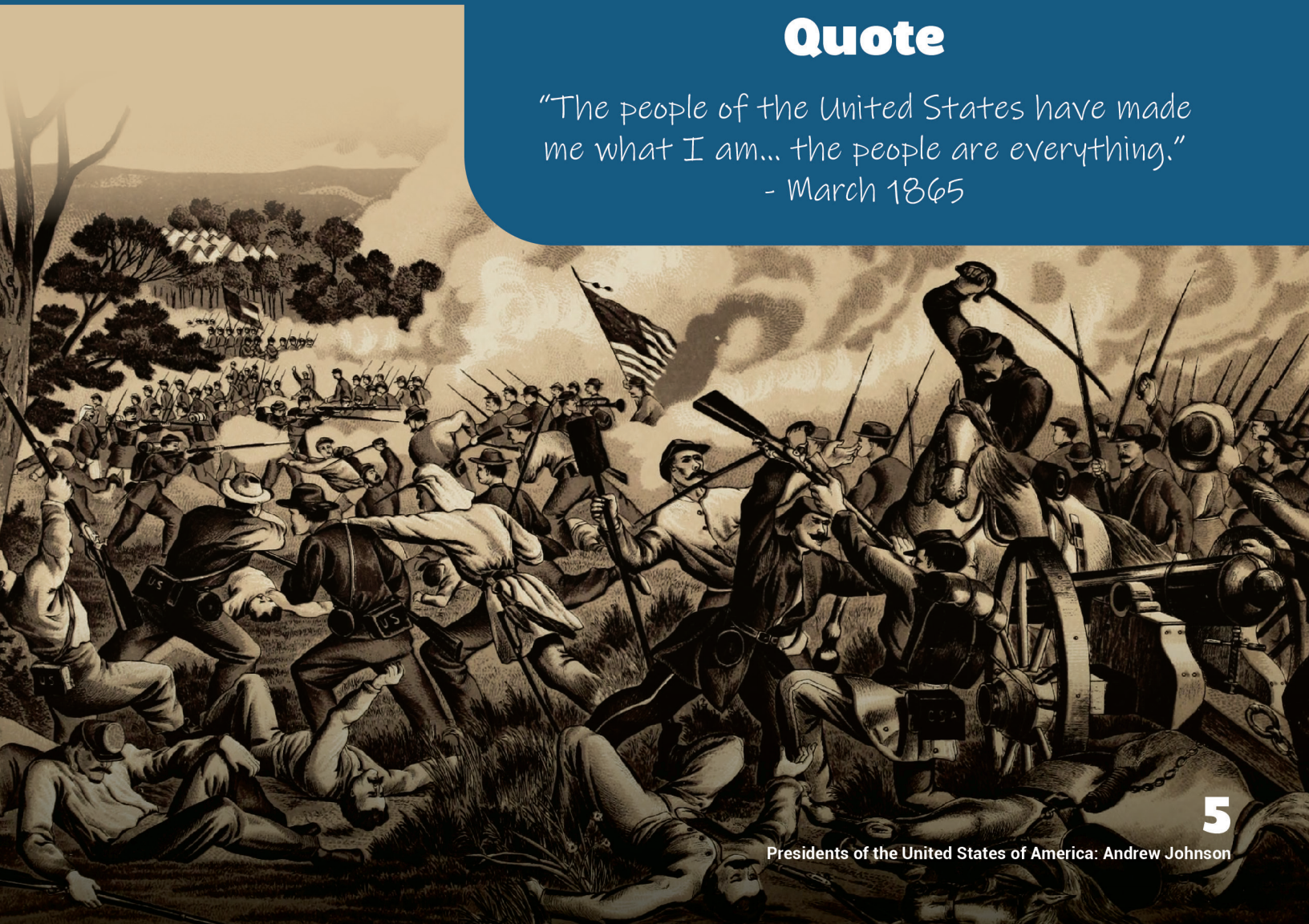
Johnson's state, Tennessee, was one of those 11 states. As a Tennessee senator, he was under a lot of pressure to support the Confederacy. Johnson was fine with people owning slaves, and he owned slaves himself,

but he also felt it was wrong for the Confederate states to leave the United States. He refused to join the Confederacy and, instead, stayed loyal to the Union. This made a lot of Southerners angry at him, and some **even** threatened to kill him, but his actions made him a hero to those in the North who wanted to save the Union.

The Civil War broke out in April 1861 when the Southern states attacked a Union fort. **T**he war would last until 1865, with the nation losing over 620,000 Americans. Republican President Abraham Lincoln led the Union to victory and pushed for the end of slavery. He was grateful for Johnson's loyalty and, even though they were from opposite parties, Lincoln chose him as his vice president in the 1864 election.

Quote

*"The people of the United States have made me what I am... the people are everything."
- March 1865*



President

When the **war** ended, Lincoln faced a difficult task: to reunite the country while protecting the rights of newly freed black Americans. Thus began the era now known as **Reconstruction**. Unfortunately, Lincoln was shot by an assassin, dying on April 15, 1865. On that day, Andrew Johnson became president. Johnson, too, wanted to reunite the country, but he did not have Lincoln's compassion towards black Americans.

When Democrats in Southern states passed laws that violated the rights of black people, such as preventing them from voting or arresting them even if they hadn't committed a crime, Johnson refused to act. When the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights bill in 1866 to protect the black

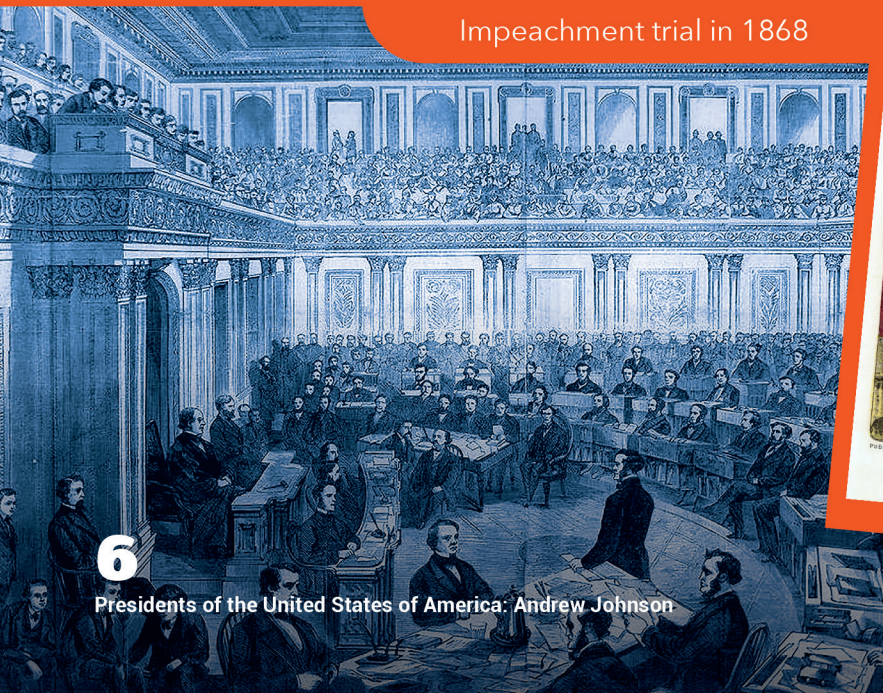
Americans, Johnson **vetoed** it. Soon, an organization called the **Ku Klux Klan** rose up and committed acts of violence and murder against black people across the South. Again, Johnson refused to do anything to stop it.

The Republicans in Congress wanted to protect black Americans and were mad at Johnson's policies. They tried to restrict his power and passed a law controlling who could serve in his administration. Johnson fought back, which **led** the Republicans to impeach him in 1868. Although Johnson survived impeachment and remained in office, his days in the White House were numbered. He had made too many enemies on both sides. The Democrats refused to select him as their candidate in the 1868 election.

Quote

"Your President is now the Tribune of the people, and, thank God, I am, and intend to assert the power which the people have placed in me."
- April 1866

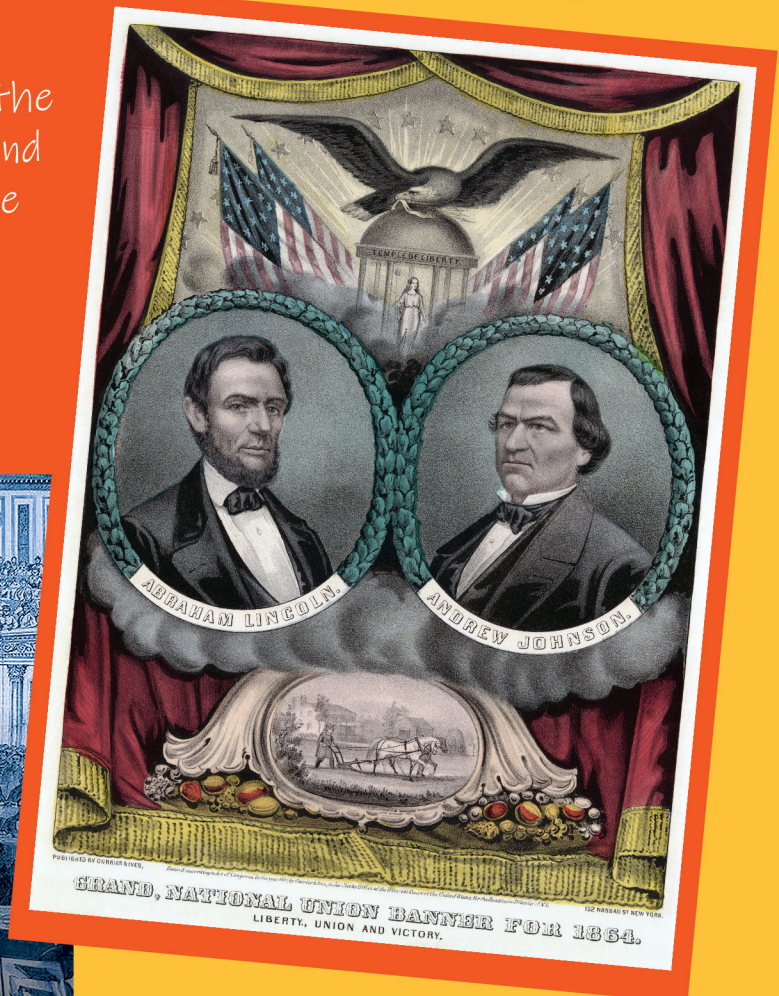
Impeachment trial in 1868



6

Presidents of the United States of America: Andrew Johnson

Lincoln-Johnson campaign poster



Almost Assassinated

Andrew Johnson became president when John Wilkes Booth assassinated his predecessor, Abraham Lincoln. However, Johnson himself almost fell victim to assassination, too. Booth organized a group of conspirators to kill Lincoln and other members of the government. They hoped that, in doing so, they could revive the Southern cause and continue the Civil War.

One of Booth's co-conspirators, George Atzerodt, followed Johnson to his hotel the same night Lincoln was shot and could have attacked him. Fortunately for Johnson, Atzerodt got nervous and left the hotel.



Alaska

During Johnson's presidency, the United States acquired the territory of Alaska. Johnson's Secretary of State, William Seward, negotiated the purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire for \$7.2 million. Although some mocked the purchase as "Seward's Folly" and "Seward's Icebox," the deal added half a million square miles to the United States.

The Alaska territory eventually became a state in 1959 and is currently the largest state in the Union. Historians consider it one of the few successes in Johnson's administration.

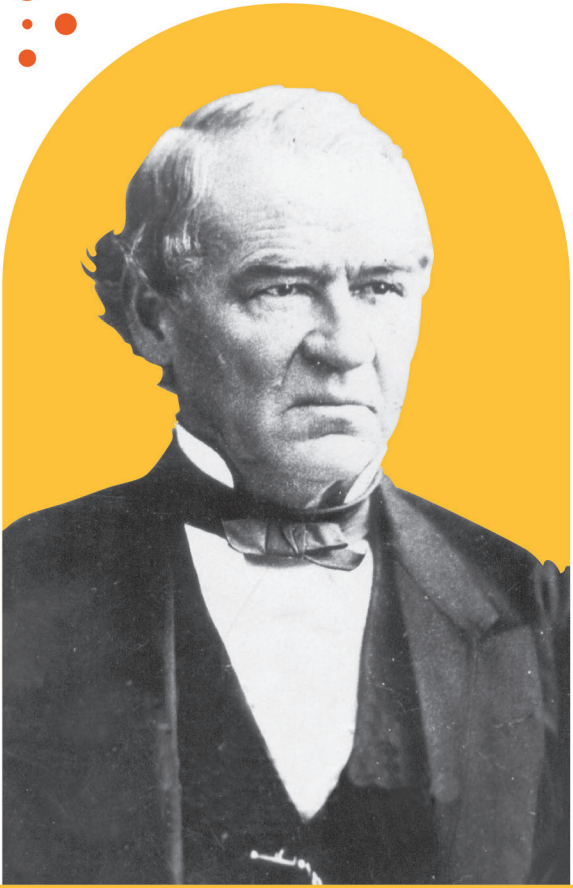
Retirement

Johnson left the presidency in 1869, succeeded by the victorious Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant. He felt embittered by the impeachment and wanted to restore his reputation. He felt the best way to do that was to win public office again. In 1875, he succeeded, elected once again as a senator from Tennessee. Just months after he took office, however, he suffered a stroke and died on July 31, 1875, in Elizabethton, Tennessee at the age of 66.

Quote

*"I have been contending against traitors and treason and secession, and the dissolution of the Union."
- April 1866*

Legacy



Andrew Johnson's story might have been one of the greatest in American history. He overcame poverty and a lack of education to reach America's highest office. He served in more government positions than almost anyone else in American history. Many Americans thought he was a brave man who was not afraid of standing up for what he believed was right, even when it was unpopular.

These qualities, however, weren't enough to make him a good leader. As president, Johnson stubbornly refused to work with Congress to bring the country together after the Civil War, which earned him many enemies. It is no coincidence that he was the first U.S. president to be impeached. Even worse, he believed that white people alone should enjoy freedom and equality in America. It is very unfortunate that he became president during such an important time for black people in America. By failing to protect their rights, Johnson ensured that black Americans would suffer from unjust laws long past his own lifetime.

Fill in the Blank

President Johnson was born in _____. He worked as a _____. Johnson's _____ taught him to read and write. He became interested in politics and was elected as _____ of Greenville in _____. Then he became the Governor of _____ in _____. Four years later, he was elected to the U.S. _____.

In 1861, the _____ War began. There were two sides: the _____ and _____. President Lincoln led the _____ Army to a victory and pushed for an end to _____.

After the war, Lincoln was _____ on April 15, _____ and Johnson became president. He was _____ in 1868. After his presidency, he became a senator from _____, but died months later at the age of _____.

USA Puzzle



Do you think you can put together a map of the United States of America?
Cut out the 48 mainland states and try to put them together.
If you need help, check the map on page 11. **Bonus: Can you label every state?**





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the cut out activity

Glossary

Confederacy: The country created by the 11 Southern states when they seceded from the United States from 1860 to 1861.

Union: The United States government during the Civil War that fought to prevent the Confederate states from seceding.

Civil War: The conflict in the United States from 1861 to 1865 between the Union government and the Confederacy, which wanted to break away from the Union and start a new, independent country.

Slavery: A system where people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.

Discriminatory: Treating someone differently and unfairly from everyone else, often because of their race, age, or sex.

Impeach: To charge a public official with wrongdoing or misconduct, with the goal of removing them from office.

Apprentice: A person who is learning a trade from someone else with more experience.

Tailor: A person who makes clothes.

Secede: To leave an organization or government.

Reconstruction: The period in American history after the American Civil War ended in 1865 until the late 1870s. The goal of Reconstruction was to rebuild the country, bring the former Confederate states back into the United States, and to assist the newly freed black Americans in becoming U.S. citizens. Many historians believe that this period failed in its goals, since black Americans continued to suffer under unjust laws.

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

Ku Klux Klan: A group that began organizing soon after the American Civil War in the 1860s that believed in white supremacy and attacked and killed black Americans.

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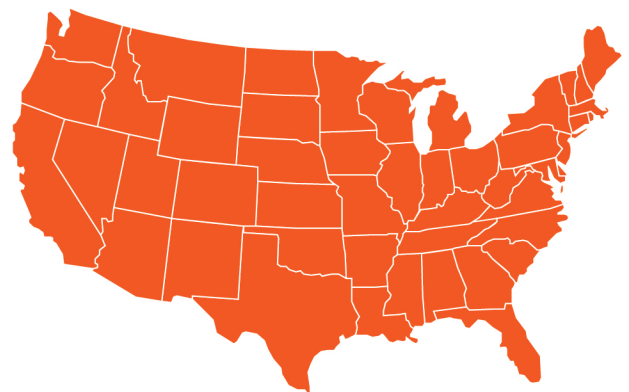
Answers:

JOHNSON'S NICKNAME: THE TENNESSEE TAILOR

President Johnson was born in North Carolina. He worked as a tailor. Johnson's wife taught him to read and write. He became interested in politics and was elected as Mayor of Greenville in 1834. Then he became the Governor of Tennessee in 1853. Four years later, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1961, the Civil War began. There were two sides: the Union and Confederate. President Lincoln led the Union Army to a victory and pushed for an end to slavery.

After the war, Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865 and Johnson became president. He was impeached in 1868. After his presidency, he became a senator from Tennessee, but died months later at the age of 66.



Ulysses S. Grant

"I helped win the Civil War and served as the 18th President of the United States."



Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle



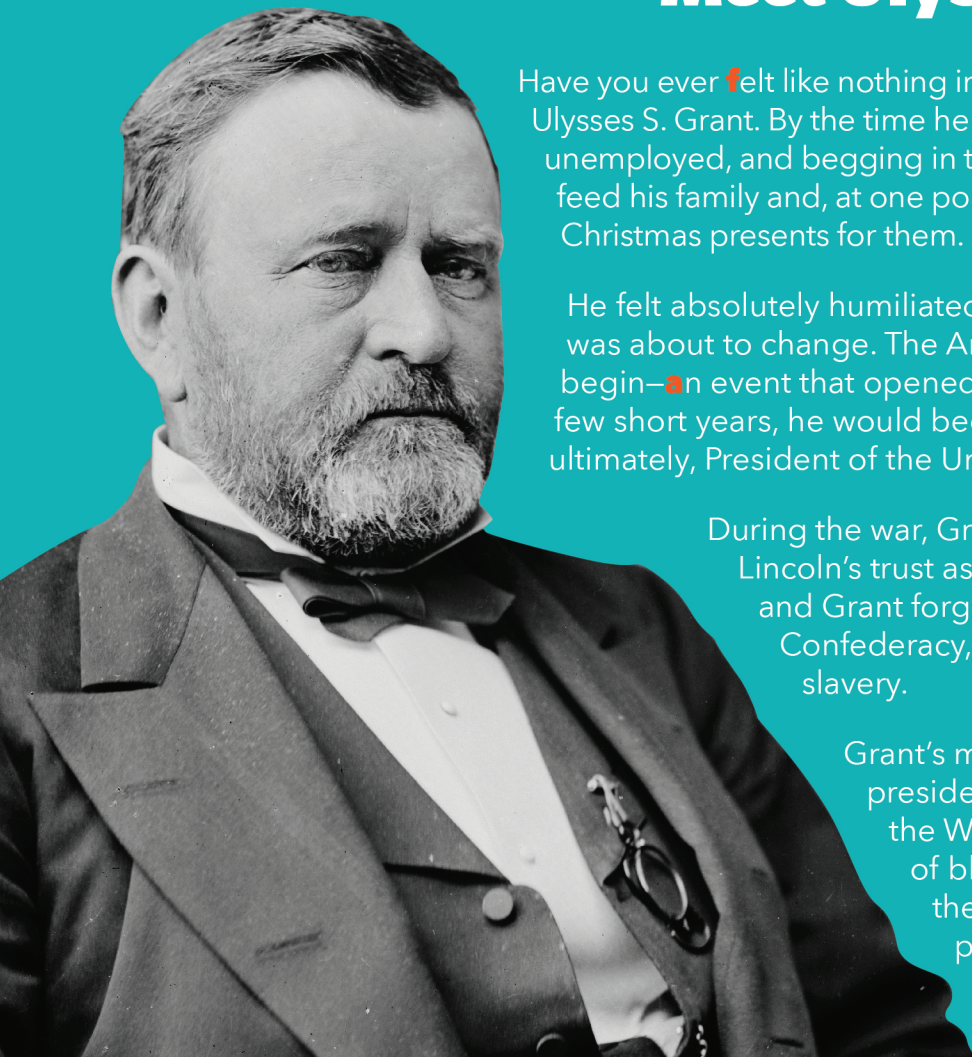
In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about Ulysses S. Grant's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

He and his family owned a Newfoundland dog while they lived in the White House, and we need your help to find out what its name 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 Ulysses S. Grant



Have you ever **f**elt like nothing in your life was going right? So did Ulysses S. Grant. By the time he was 37, he was dirt poor, unemployed, and begging in the streets for work. He could barely feed his family and, at one point, had to sell his watch to buy Christmas presents for them.

He felt absolutely humiliated, but unbeknownst to him, his life was about to change. The American Civil War would soon begin—**a**n event that opened up new opportunities for him. In a few short years, he would become America's top general and, ultimately, President of the United States.

During the war, Grant earned President Abraham Lincoln's trust as a military leader. Together, Lincoln and Grant forged a partnership that defeated the Confederacy, preserved the **U**nion, and ended slavery.

Grant's military heroics led to his election as president **i**n 1868. During his two terms in the White House, he fought for the rights of black Americans and sought to heal the wounds of the war. Grant's story proves that, no matter how bad things seem, you can still succeed and have a major impact on the world.



Interesting Facts

- He was the first president born in Ohio.
- He was a member of the Republican Party.
- He was born with the name Hiram Ulysses Grant but later went by Ulysses Simpson Grant.
- He was the first president to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- He was the first president whose parents were alive during his presidency.
- He created the Department of Justice.
- He was the first president to establish a National Park and set aside federal land for wildlife protection.
- He was the first president to visit Ireland, Egypt, China, and Japan.

Young Hiram

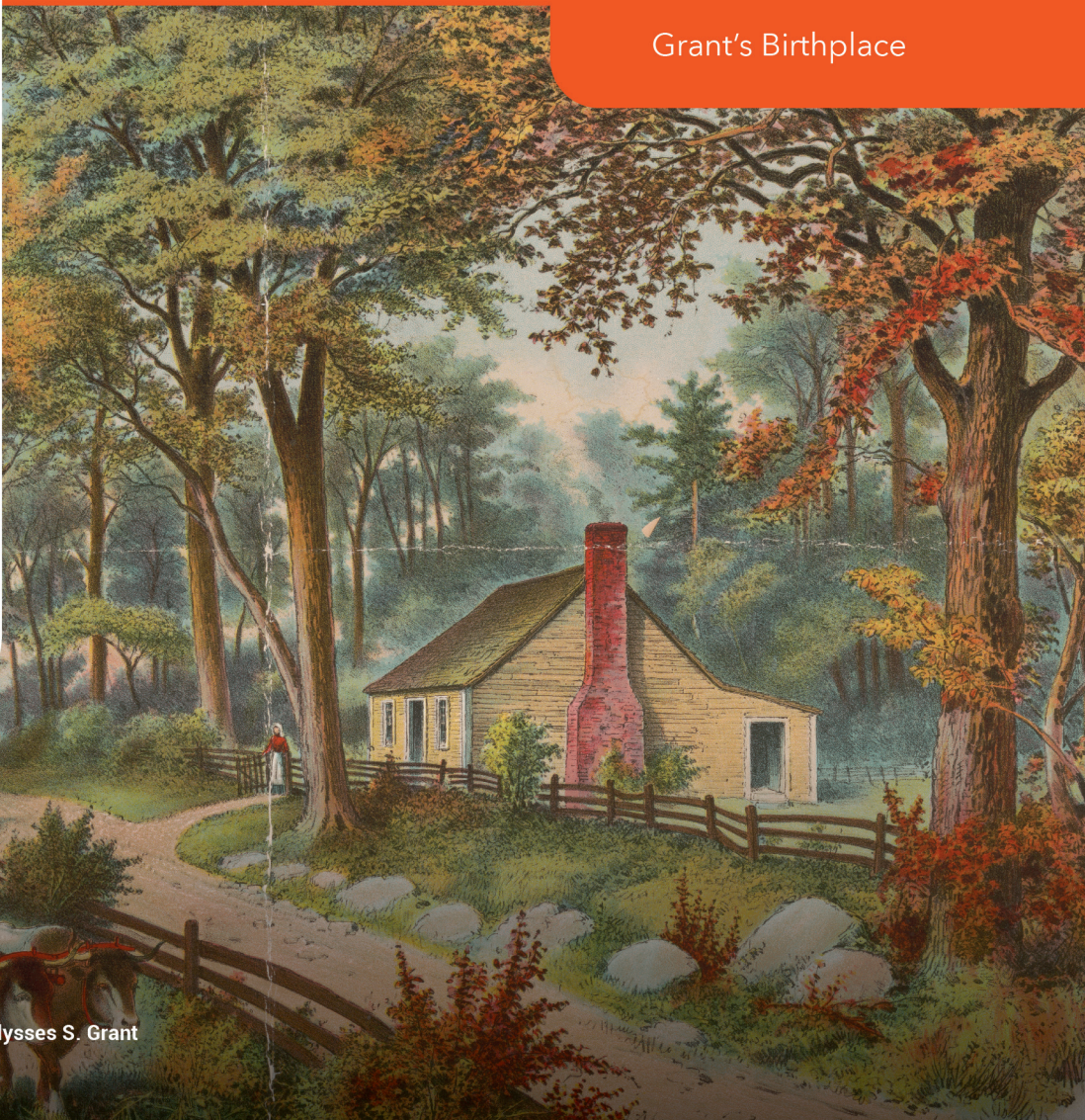
Hiram Ulysses Grant was born on April 27, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He was the oldest of Jesse and Hannah Grant's six children. His father was a **tanner** who made leather products.

Hiram was a shy, quiet boy. He studied in local schools and worked on the family farm. He did, however, have a talent for riding and taking care of horses.

The Grant family couldn't afford to send Hiram to college. The **United States Military Academy** at West Point, New York, however, offered free tuition. The Grants took advantage of that opportunity and sent Hiram there for a military education.

When Hiram was nominated to attend West Point, he was incorrectly listed as "Ulysses Simpson Grant." Hiram decided he liked that name better and made it his full name.

Although he was an average student at West Point, he impressed his fellow classmates with his horse riding skills.



Grant's Birthplace

Early Career

Grant's first assignment was in the infantry near St. Louis, Missouri. There, he met one of his friend's sisters—a young woman named Julia Dent. They fell in love. Although Grant wanted to marry her, his plans were delayed when the Mexican-American War broke out in 1846.

Grant served as a **lieutenant** in that war under General Zachary Taylor. He had great respect for Taylor and learned many leadership lessons from the general. Grant, however, did not think the war was just. He believed that American President James K. Polk **had** unnecessarily provoked the war with Mexico. Still, Grant fought bravely, seeing combat at the battles

of Palo Alto and Monterrey and at the siege of Veracruz. Many of his fellow soldiers during the war, such as George McClellan, Robert E. Lee, and James Longstreet, would (like Grant) become major figures in the Civil War.

After the Mexican-American War ended in 1848, Grant married Julia. They would eventually have four children. The Army stationed Grant in various locations, such as Michigan, New York, and California. It was a difficult time for Grant since he was often away from his family for long periods of time. In 1854, he resigned from the military.

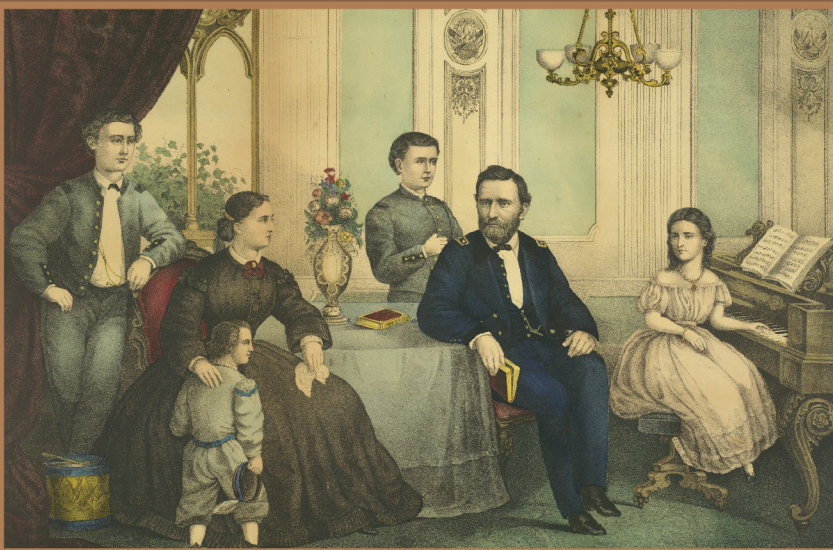


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Rock Bottom

Grant tried to start a new life and support his family. Unfortunately, no matter what he did, whether it was **f**arming or real estate, he only experienced failure. Everything he touched seemed to fail. By 1858, he was walking the streets of St. Louis, begging for work.

Things got so bad that, by 1860, he had crawled back to his parents and siblings in Ohio. He got a job working at his dad's tanning shop again under his younger brothers—which he felt very embarrassed about. He had no idea that, in a few short years, his life would be transformed, and he would reach the heights of political power.



Freedom

Ulysses S. Grant hated slavery. His wife Julia, however, came from a slave-owning family that gave Grant one of their slaves—a man named William Jones. At the time, Grant was very poor and could have either kept Jones or sold him for a lot of money. Grant, however, was so opposed to slavery that, on March 29, 1859, he freed Jones out of principle.

Top Right: First known portrait of Grant

Bottom Left: The Grant Family

Quote

"The prejudice to color... is a senseless one..."
- ca. 1869-70

Civil War

In the years leading up to the Civil War, the nation became increasingly divided over slavery. America had acquired new territories, and many Southerners wanted slavery to be allowed there. Many Northerners disagreed and wanted slavery to be either destroyed or not allowed to spread into the new territories.

In 1860, the Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln won the presidency. Southerners were angry that he didn't want to allow slavery to spread, so they decided to break away from the Union. Eleven Southern states declared themselves independent and formed the **Confederate States of America**. Grant believed, like Lincoln, that the South had no right to **secede**. When the South fired on a federal fort, Fort Sumter, the Civil War began.

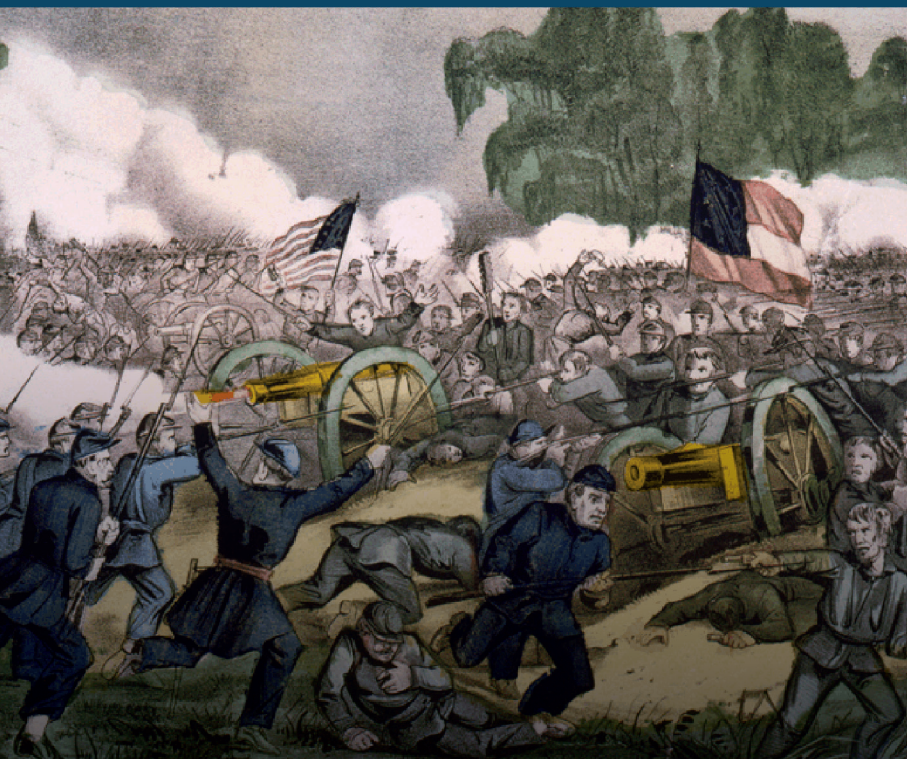
At the beginning of the war, few people knew who Grant was, but he began winning impressive victories in Tennessee (at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Chattanooga). His capture of the Southern fortress of Vicksburg in Mississippi was a major breakthrough for the Union—one that is still considered a military masterpiece.

Some Americans criticized Grant because his battles featured many **casualties**, but President Lincoln promoted him to general and commander of all Union forces in 1864 because he was aggressive and willing to do anything it took to win.

Grant worked closely with his friend, General William T. Sherman, to destroy the Confederacy's will to fight. Grant chased Confederate General Robert E. Lee and trapped him in Virginia. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant at **Appomattox Court House**. The war was over. 620,000 Americans had died, but the Union was preserved, and slavery had ended forever.

Quote

*"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on."
- early 1862*



Lee surrenders to Grant, 1865

1868 Presidential Election

A few days after Lee's surrender, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. His vice president, Andrew Johnson, became the 17th President of the United States. Although the Civil War was over, there were still hard feelings between the North and the South. This era was known as **Reconstruction**—when America was figuring out how to reconstruct itself after the war.

When Lincoln's party, the Republican Party, looked for a candidate in the 1868 presidential election, Grant was their top choice.

After the Republicans nominated him, Grant wrote back, "Let us have peace." It was the exact message the American people wanted to hear. In November of 1868, he defeated Democratic candidate Horatio Seymour. At the age of 46, he was the youngest president elected up to that point.



Quote

"Let us have peace."
- May 1868

President

As president, Grant faced a very difficult situation. He wanted to reunite the country, but many white Southerners, who were mostly Democrats, were angry that they had lost the war and that their former slaves had been freed. They began to enact **Jim Crow** laws, which prevented black Americans from enjoying the rights of free men and women. They also began inflicting violence on black people, beating them up and hanging them from trees in a practice called lynching. One of the most violent groups was the **Ku Klux Klan**, or KKK.

Grant fought hard to stop the violence against black Americans. He sent the military in to

destroy the KKK and signed the **Enforcement Acts** to protect black Americans' rights.

Although many Southerners were upset about these decisions, Grant was still popular across the country and easily won re-election in 1872.

Unfortunately, several **scandals** broke out during his administration that damaged his reputation. Grant didn't personally do anything dishonest, but many people believed that he was too trusting of his friends. These corrupt friends took advantage of Grant and stole government money.



Quote

*"The United States is the freest of all nations."
- December 1869*



Retirement

Grant left the White House in 1877. He and Julia then took an epic two-year tour around the world, where they traveled through Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He met the United Kingdom's Queen Victoria, Pope Leo XIII, and the Japanese Emperor Meiji. Most Americans had only dreamed or read about the places he visited, but he got to see them firsthand.

Grant tried running for an **unprecedented** third term as president in 1880 but failed to get the Republican Party nomination. He suffered a major setback when, in 1884, he and his family lost all of their money. They had invested their money with a man named Ferdinand Ward, a man who ended up being a crook. Grant was devastated. Things got even worse when Grant developed throat cancer. The former president realized that he was dying.

Grant's Final Battle



Things seemed hopeless. Grant was dying, and his family was bankrupt, but the general had one final battle to fight. He wanted to provide for his bankrupt family, especially Julia, so he decided to write his memoirs. When the famous writer Mark Twain promised to publish them, Grant began writing tirelessly for several hours a day. The cancer got worse, and Grant was in intense pain. He could barely eat or drink water, and he lost the ability to speak, but he kept on writing. He finished on July 20, 1885 and was utterly exhausted.

Grant died three days later, on July 23, 1885. Twain published *The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, and they became a massive success. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold, and Julia and her family had more than enough money to survive. *The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* are considered one of the greatest American literary masterpieces of all time. Ulysses S. Grant had won his final battle.

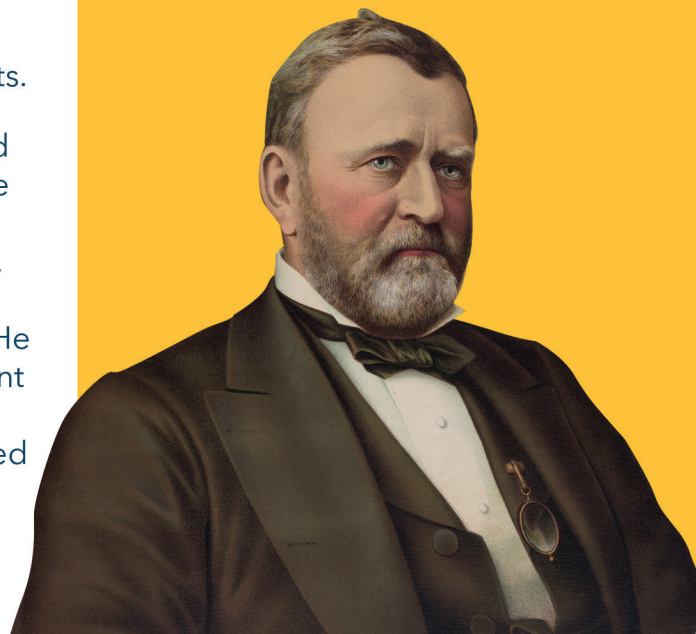
Legacy

Ulysses S. Grant's reputation has changed more dramatically than perhaps any other president. During his lifetime, he was considered one of the greatest Americans of all time—at the level of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Southerners, however, who were angry with Grant's policies, began to attack him and focus solely on his flaws. His reputation as a military leader and president fell apart. In more recent years, historians have re-examined Grant and have recognized his achievements.

Now, we can judge Grant more fairly. Yes, he experienced many failures, and the scandals tainted his presidency. He was, however, a man of principle—he hated slavery, even freeing a slave when he was in a tough financial situation. Despite his setbacks, he always found ways to bounce back and rise higher than anyone could have imagined. He went from being virtually homeless to becoming president in less than a decade. As president, he worked hard to protect the most vulnerable in the country—the newly freed black Americans. Perhaps civil rights leader Frederick Douglass said it best when he said, "In him, the Negro found a protector... a vanquished foe a brother, and imperiled nation a Savior."

Quote

"Slavery must be destroyed. We felt that it was a stain to the Union that men should be bought and sold."
- June 1878





Glossary

Union: The United States government during the Civil War that fought to prevent the Confederate states from seceding.

Tanner: A person who makes leather from animal skins.

United States Military Academy: The U.S. Army's top military academy, which provides undergraduate education and training to commissioned Army officers. It is known as West Point, and is located in New York State. Ulysses S. Grant graduated from West Point in 1843.

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

Confederate States of America: The country created by the 11 Southern states when they seceded from the United States from 1860 to 1861.

Secede: To leave an organization or government.

Casualty: A person killed or injured in a war or accident.

Appomattox Court House: A house located in Virginia owned by grocer Wilmer McLean and his wife. It was the site of General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant, which effectively ended the Civil War.

Reconstruction: The period in American history after the American Civil War ended in 1865 until the late 1870s. The goal of Reconstruction was to rebuild the country, bring the former Confederate states back into the United States, and to assist the newly freed black Americans in becoming U.S. citizens. Many historians believed that this period failed in its goals, since black Americans continued to suffer under unjust laws.

Jim Crow: State and local laws in the South, in effect from the 1870s until the 1960s, that discriminated against black Americans.

Ku Klux Klan: A group that began organizing soon after the American Civil War in the 1860s that believed in white supremacy and attacked and killed black Americans.

Enforcement Acts: Laws passed in the 1870s and signed by President Ulysses Grant that sought to protect the rights of black Americans and suppress the Ku Klux Klan.

Scandal: An event involving dishonest and/or illegal activity that provokes outrage.

Unprecedented: Never having happened or existed in the past.

Sources

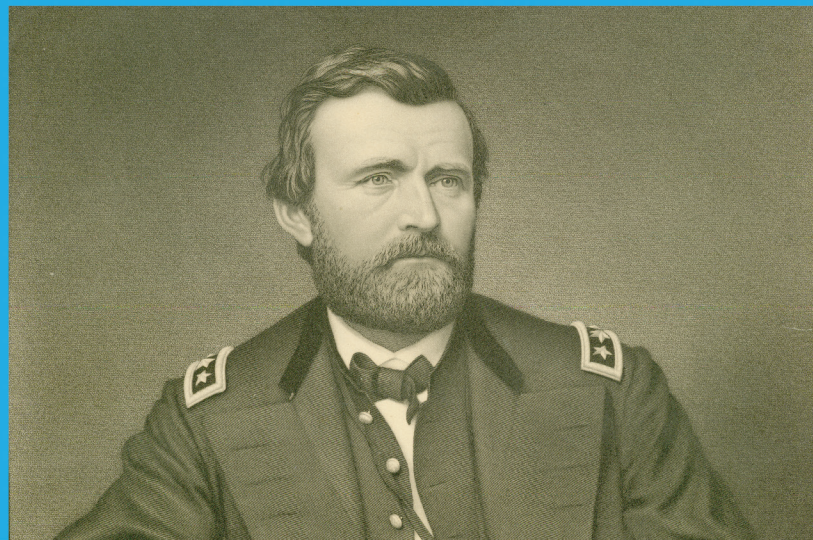
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Answers:

GRANT'S DOG'S NAME: FAITHFUL



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