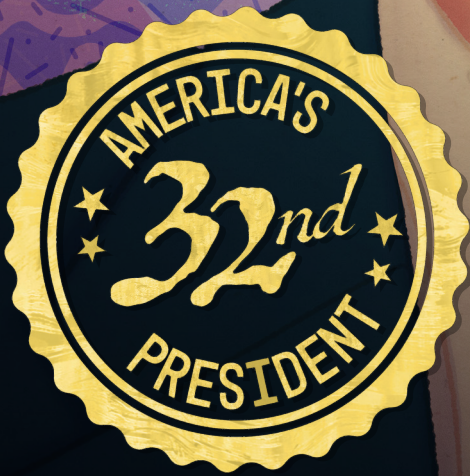


presidents of the *United States of America*



"I served as the
32nd President of
the United States
and led the nation
through the Great
Depression and
World War II."



Franklin D. Roosevelt



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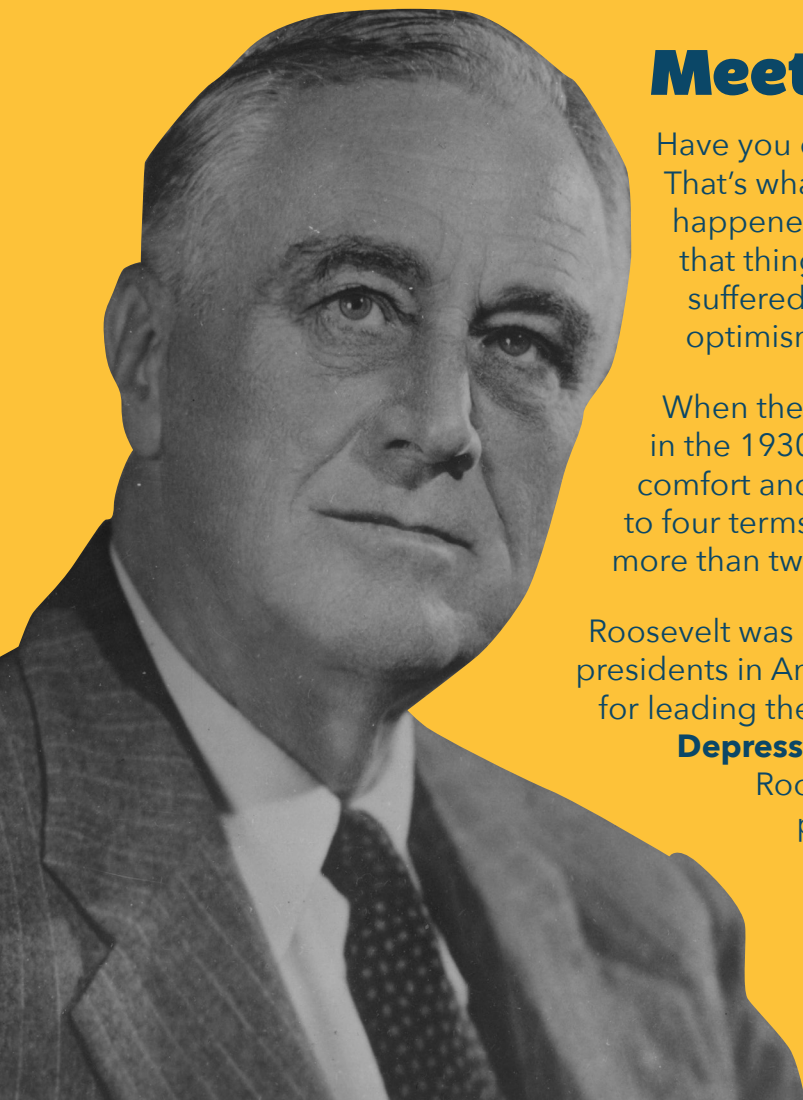
Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

President Roosevelt had a Scottish Terrier as a pet. 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt

Have you ever met someone who was always optimistic? That's what Franklin D. Roosevelt was like. No matter what happened, he was always smiling and seemed confident that things would work out for the best. Even when he suffered a paralyzing illness, he somehow maintained his optimism.

When the American people went through very tough times in the 1930s and 40s, they wanted someone who would comfort and inspire them. That's why they elected Roosevelt to four terms as president. He is the only president to serve more than two terms.

Roosevelt was one of the most popular and important presidents in American history. Many Americans remember him for leading the nation through two great crises: the **Great**

Depression and **World War II**. At the same time,

Roosevelt made many decisions that expanded the power of the federal government beyond what the Constitution allows. This threatened the freedom of the American people and may have actually made the Depression worse.

Roosevelt's story shows us that optimism and charisma don't always benefit the country.

Young Franklin

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York. He was the only child of James and Sarah Roosevelt. Young Franklin came from a prominent and wealthy family. His father was a businessman and an active member of the Democratic Party. When Franklin was five, he and his father visited the White House and met President Grover Cleveland. The President patted young Franklin on the head and said, "My little man, I am making a strange wish for you. It is that you may never be President of the United States."

Franklin studied under tutors on his family's large estate. When he was 14, he began attending a private school named Groton. Then, in 1900, he left home to attend Harvard University. Sadly, his father, James, passed away that same year.

Franklin was not a great student, but he was very active on campus. He became the editor of the campus newspaper, *The Crimson*. He was also thrilled when his fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt, became President of the United States in 1901. The charismatic Theodore was, for Franklin and millions of Americans, a hero worthy of imitation.



Interesting Facts

- He is the longest-serving president in American history.
- He was a member of the Democratic Party.
- He is often referred to as "FDR."
- He was fifth cousins with President Theodore Roosevelt.
- He was the first president to appoint a woman, Frances Perkins, to his Cabinet.
- He was an avid stamp collector and collected almost one million stamps in his lifetime.
- He was the first president to ride in an armored car, which was built for him during World War II.
- He was the first president to travel by airplane while in office.
- He was the first president to appear on television.

Young Franklin and his father

Early Career

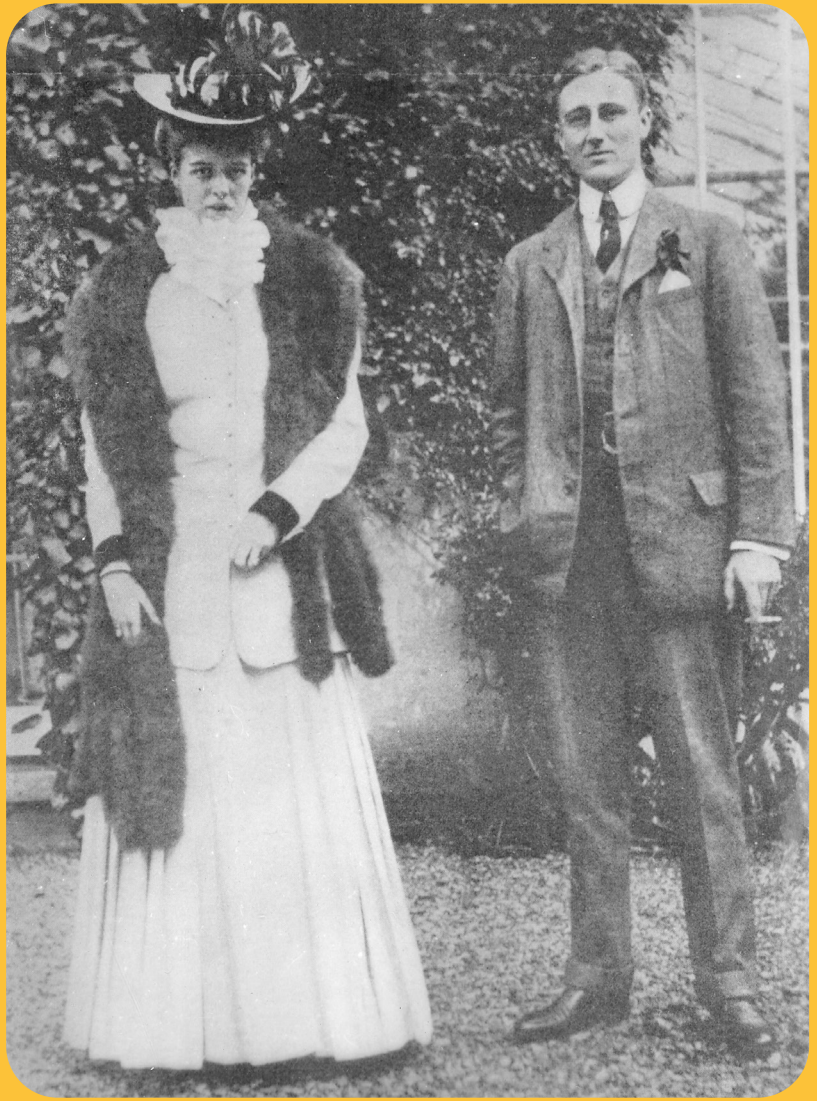
After graduating from Harvard in 1903, he attended Columbia Law School. Around this time, he began courting his fifth cousin, Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor was a very intelligent and serious-minded young woman. She was also Theodore Roosevelt's niece. The two fell in love and married in March 1905. At the wedding, Theodore gave the bride away. Franklin and Eleanor eventually had six children.

Franklin began practicing law, but he was bored and more interested in getting into politics—just like his famous cousin. In fact, he wanted to follow in Theodore's footsteps and become President.

He won a seat as a Democrat in the New York State Senate, serving from 1911 to 1913. Like Theodore, Franklin earned a reputation as a **progressive** who wanted to expand the power of government.

In 1913, the new President, Woodrow Wilson, appointed him as Assistant Secretary of the **Navy**—the same position Theodore once had. It was the perfect job for him since he loved the sea and loved sailing. Franklin served in this position during World War I and helped mobilize the Navy for the conflict.

Franklin was recognized as an exciting, up-and-coming leader in the Democratic Party. The Party chose him as their vice presidential nominee in the 1920 election, along with presidential nominee James Cox. That year, he and Cox lost in a landslide to Republican candidates Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge. Still, many people felt Franklin's future was bright.



Paralysis

Roosevelt's life plans fell apart in 1921. While he was on vacation, he began suffering from a fever. Soon, he found himself paralyzed from the waist down. He was diagnosed with **poliomyelitis**. It was a devastating blow, and he would never regain the use of his legs. Roosevelt spent the next several years in intense rehabilitation. Eventually, with the help of leg braces and wheelchairs, he learned how to move around without his legs.

Rise to Power

Despite this setback, he and Eleanor still believed that he could achieve his goal and become president. He took a major step towards that goal when he was elected Governor of New York in 1928. Now he was the governor of the most populous state in the nation, which made him a potential presidential candidate.

In his first year as governor, the stock market collapsed, which triggered the Great Depression. Across the country, millions of Americans lost their jobs, and banks and businesses collapsed. It was the worst economic crisis in the nation's history. Republican President Herbert Hoover signed various laws to deal with the Depression, but nothing seemed to work. Governor Roosevelt signed similar laws, such as providing government jobs and financial relief for the unemployed. He was re-elected in 1930 by a wide margin.



The 1932 Presidential Election

Roosevelt's record as governor helped him earn the Democratic nomination in the 1932 presidential election. More than any politician at the time, he knew how to connect with voters and inspire them. He knew that the people were depressed and fearful about the future and wanted an energetic leader—someone who could give them confidence.

Unlike previous candidates, Roosevelt flew to the convention and personally delivered his acceptance speech. He promised "a new deal for the American people." When the voters heard his booming voice on the radio, they were thrilled. The term "**New Deal**" became the name of FDR's program to get the country out of the Depression. In November, he defeated Hoover in a landslide.

Unemployed men lining up outside a soup kitchen in Chicago





Depression President

On March 4, 1933, Roosevelt delivered his inaugural address and boldly declared, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He immediately went to work implementing his New Deal programs. He had a close group of advisors, mostly lawyers and professors, called the **Brain Trust**, who encouraged him to expand government to fix the Depression.

Over the next few years, Roosevelt signed laws doing exactly that. These laws created new rules for businesses to follow and gave money to certain groups of people to help them deal with hardship. In 1935, he signed the **Social Security Act**, which provided money for people who were retired or unemployed.

Roosevelt explained many of his policies to the American people on the radio in speeches called "Fireside Chats." This made him a

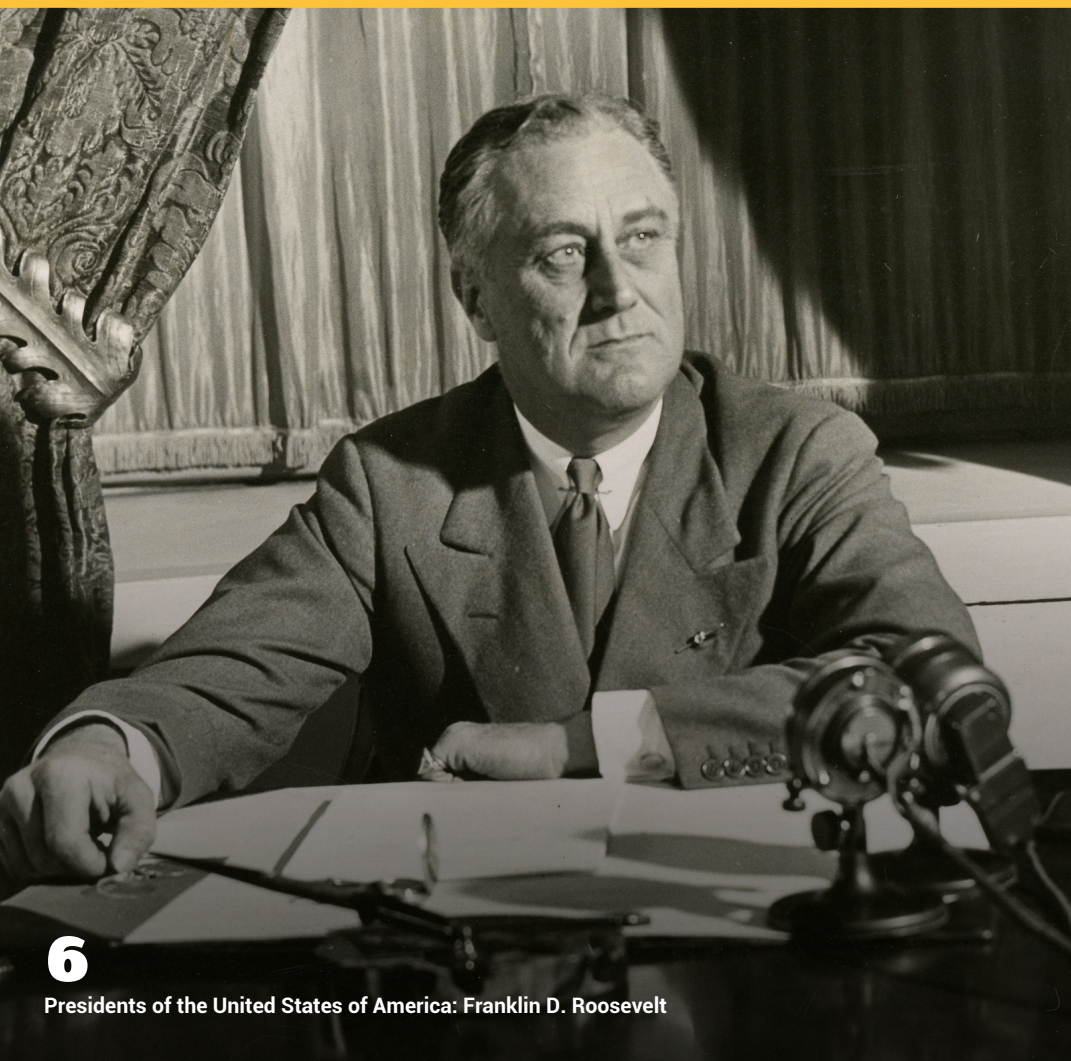
presence in every home and comforted the people during difficult times. The voters re-elected Roosevelt by a landslide in the 1936 election.

Unfortunately, FDR's policies were very expensive, and the country had to raise taxes to pay for them. This meant that the government took more of people's hard-earned money.

Even with all of these programs, the New Deal didn't end the Depression. In some ways, it got worse. The government told business owners how much they could pay their employees and at what prices they could sell their goods—even if the owners couldn't afford it. This made it harder for businesses to hire new workers. Unemployment remained over ten percent throughout the 1930s.

Quote

*"Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
- March 1933*



A Modern First Lady

Most first ladies stayed in the background during their husbands' presidencies and focused more on hosting dinners at the White House. Eleanor Roosevelt, however, was different. She traveled around the country and spoke out on many issues. She often brought attention to those who suffered quietly, such as black Americans and the poor. These actions made her a controversial figure—not everyone believed that the First Lady should be so outspoken, especially since it wasn't an elected position.

It is ironic that she was so outspoken. Eleanor grew up in a troubled household and, in her youth, she was deeply insecure. She lacked confidence and considered herself unattractive. However, she did care deeply for the less fortunate and worked hard on their behalf. During her husband's presidency, she was often described as his "conscience." Due to her many activities, historians often consider her the first modern First Lady.

When she died in 1962, she was widely respected around the world.



Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations

Eleanor Roosevelt addressing the Cumberland Homesteaders near Crossville, Tennessee in 1935



Wartime President

In 1939, World War II broke out when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Until then, no American president had served more than two terms—a precedent set by George Washington. With the world at war, however, Americans wanted a leader with experience. Since Roosevelt had been serving as president, many felt that the country needed him to run for a third term. FDR did exactly that, winning an unprecedented third term in 1940.

He then went to work to build up America's defenses so it could be prepared if it entered the war. He also sent weapons to the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union to fight the Nazis. Roosevelt hoped that the British and the Soviets could hold off the Nazis so America wouldn't have to fight them.

All of that changed on December 7, 1941, when Germany's ally, Japan, attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor. The next day, Roosevelt appeared before Congress, called the date of the attack "a date which will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a declaration of war.

America had officially entered World War II. Roosevelt worked closely with the Allied

powers (Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union) to defeat the Axis powers (Adolf Hitler of Germany, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, and Benito Mussolini of Italy). He also selected brilliant generals, such as George Marshall, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Patton, and Douglas MacArthur, to win the war.

This time, instead of telling businesses what to do, he allowed companies the freedom to build the weapons the Allies needed to win the war. During the conflict, the United States became the most powerful country in the world.

Together, the Americans and their allies landed in France on **D-Day** to take the Nazis head-on. The Nazi government began to crumble, and the Allies began to win the war. Roosevelt even authorized the development of the **atomic bomb**, a powerful new weapon, just in case it was needed to finish off the enemy.

In 1944, Roosevelt ran for an unprecedented fourth term as president, even though he was in poor health. His running-mate that year was Missouri Senator Harry S. Truman. They won the election that fall.

Quote

*"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."
- December 1941*



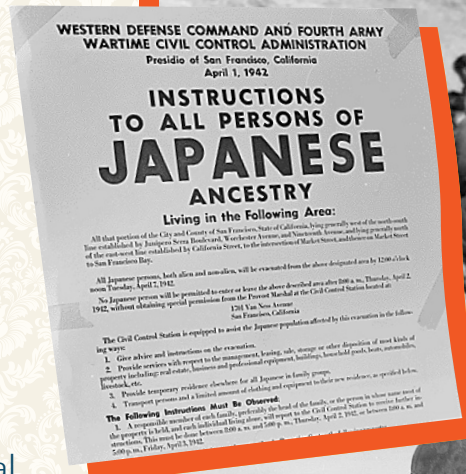
A Powerful President

President Roosevelt expanded the powers of the presidency more than anyone before him—far beyond what the Founders intended the president to have. His New Deal programs, such as those created by the National Industrial Recovery Act, gave him more control over people's everyday decisions. They gave him the power to tell lumberyard owners how many logs they could sell or butchers how many chickens they could sell.

Roosevelt didn't trust the people to make these decisions on their own and felt he and his advisors could do a better job planning the overall economy. Unfortunately, these rules took away from people's freedoms.

The Supreme Court even struck down several of his programs in 1935, saying they went against the Constitution and its promise for freedom for all Americans. In response, Roosevelt threatened to attack the Court. He proposed a law allowing him to replace the judges of the Court with people who were friendly to him—which was called his “**Court Packing**” scheme. It was similar to a sports team being able to choose referees that would unfairly rule in its favor. The idea was very unpopular and seemed like the actions of a dictator. Even Roosevelt's fellow Democrats criticized him for the proposal. FDR backed down from his threat to pack the Court.

During World War II, many Americans became suspicious that their fellow citizens who were of Japanese descent were disloyal to the country. Even though there was very little proof of this, in 1942, President Roosevelt signed an order throwing over a hundred thousand Americans of Japanese descent into **internment** camps. Once again, Roosevelt used power beyond what the Constitution said to control people's lives. While the threat to national security from Japan was serious and called for drastic measures, the internment of Americans of Japanese descent is now often considered one of the worst presidential mistakes in American history.



Creating a New World

Roosevelt began planning for what the world would look like after the war. Like President Woodrow Wilson, he wanted to create a new international organization to prevent future world wars from ever happening. He called this organization the United Nations.

Even though America and the Soviet Union were allies, both countries had strong disagreements about the postwar world. The Soviet Union was a communist dictatorship, and its leader, Joseph Stalin, wanted to spread **communism** around the world. He began forcing nearby countries in Eastern Europe to become communist. Many people felt that communism was just as evil as Nazism and that America would have to fight the communists eventually.

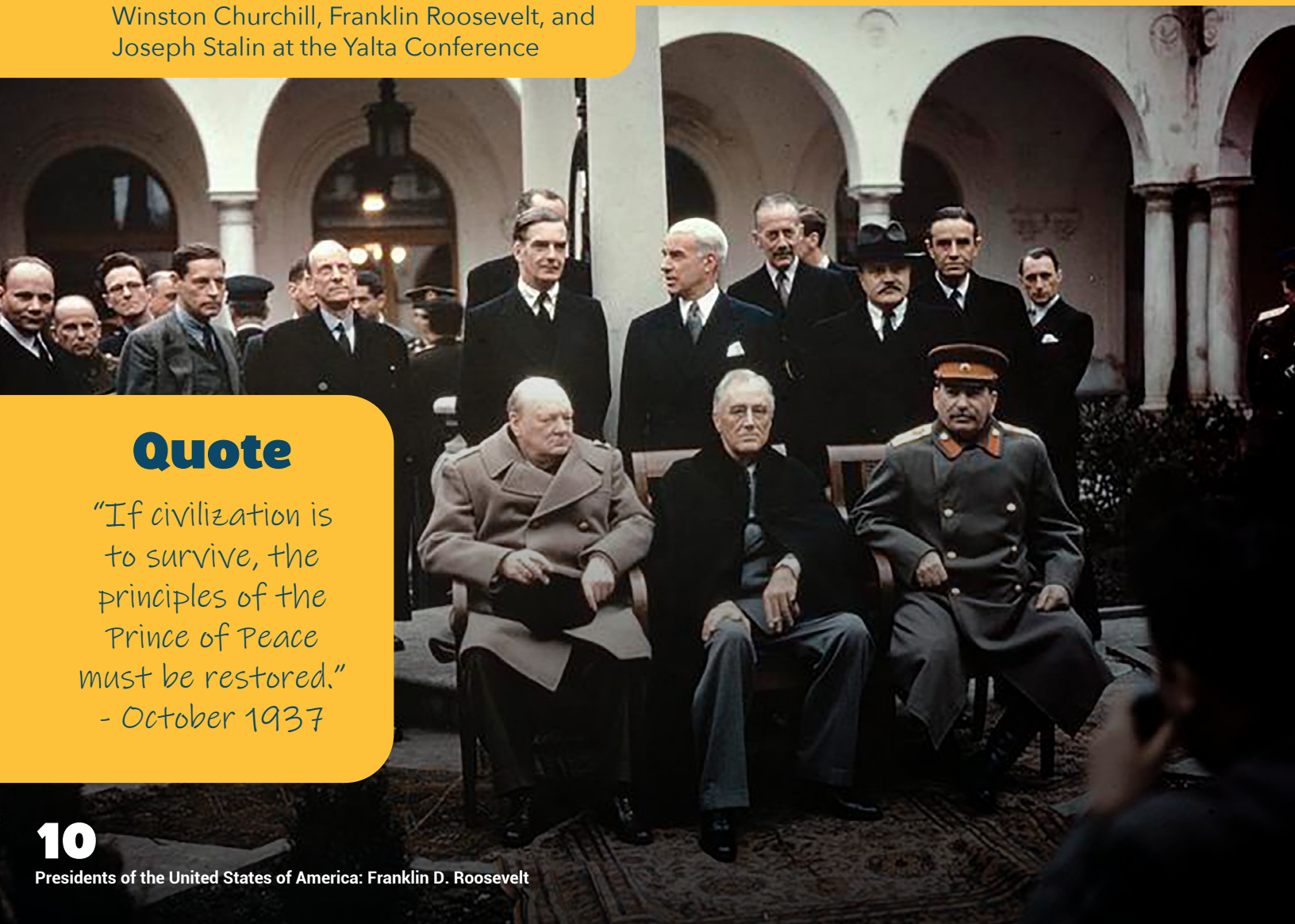
Roosevelt met with Churchill and Stalin at the **Yalta Conference** in early 1945 to plan the end of the war. While at Yalta, Stalin forced FDR and Churchill to accept communist rule in Eastern Europe. Churchill and Roosevelt protested against Stalin's actions because it would mean millions of Eastern Europeans would live under a terrible dictatorship. FDR, however, didn't want to anger the Soviet dictator because he wanted Stalin to help him establish the United Nations, so he accepted Soviet control of Eastern Europe.

Roosevelt returned home after the conference, exhausted from his 12 years as president. On April 12, 1945, he died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage while relaxing at Warm Springs, Georgia. He was 63 years old.

Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference

Quote

"If civilization is to survive, the principles of the Prince of Peace must be restored."
- October 1937





A Dangerous Secret

In 1944, FDR ran for a fourth term as president. That year, however, a doctor named Frank Lahey informed Roosevelt's doctor that the President was in very bad health and probably wouldn't survive a fourth term. He also warned that this meant Roosevelt's vice president might become president. This was very important because the nation was fighting World War II and needed a president fully prepared to be commander in chief.

Despite this warning, Roosevelt still ran for the presidency in 1944. Even after winning, Roosevelt failed to prepare his Vice President, Harry Truman, for the job. He didn't include Truman in any planning or strategy for the war. He didn't even tell Truman about the secret weapon, the atomic bomb.

Just as Lahey predicted, Roosevelt died in his fourth term—in fact, he died just months into the term. Truman became the new President, with very little preparation for the job. Truman later said FDR was "the coldest man I ever met" and that he didn't care "for me or you or anyone else in the world."

Quote

*"I have seen war. I have seen war on land and sea... I hate war."
- August 1936*

Writing Activity

How can you learn from President Roosevelt? Choose one decision he made, decide if you think it helped or hurt the American people, and figure out what you might have done differently if you were in his shoes.



Legacy

Franklin D. Roosevelt is undoubtedly one of the most important presidents of all time. He served during two major crises, the Depression and World War II. He made decisions that forever changed America and the world. His New Deal policies created a powerful federal government. He often gets credit for leading the country during World War II, helping defeat the Axis powers and liberate the world from evil.

Even though FDR was very popular, many of his decisions created problems we struggle with today. His New Deal programs continue to cost taxpayers a lot of money. Overall, his policies have led to higher taxes and more rules for all Americans to follow. Instead of creating prosperity, they actually take away our freedoms.

Even though Roosevelt made some good decisions during the war and chose many excellent generals, he also made many mistakes. He used his presidential powers to detain and confine many loyal Japanese-American citizens. He failed to stand up to Joseph Stalin, which left millions of people in Eastern Europe suffering under communism. He failed to prepare his successor, Harry Truman, for the job of president.

Finally, like Wilson, he believed that he could personally prevent another world war from happening by creating a massive world government, the United Nations. Today, the UN is seen by many as a corrupt organization that helps tyrannical governments and does little to promote world peace.

Roosevelt's legacy continues to affect the world. Unfortunately, that legacy meant less freedom for all Americans.

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Answers

NAME OF ROOSEVELT'S SCOTTISH TERRIER:
FALA

Glossary

Great Depression: The time in American history, starting in 1929 and continuing throughout the 1930s, when the economy had collapsed, and millions of people didn't have jobs.

World War II: A war that involved many of the world's countries from 1939 to 1945. During the war, the Allied powers, led by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, defeated the Axis powers, led by Nazi Germany and Japan. It is considered the most devastating war in history.

Progressive: A person who believes in achieving social, political, and economic reform by replacing the Founding Fathers' principles with new ideas and a more powerful government.

Navy: A branch of the United States Armed Forces that is trained to operate at sea. They usually have warships and other supporting vessels.

Poliomyelitis: A disease that can cause temporary or permanent paralysis.

New Deal: A series of government laws, regulations, and programs implemented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the 1930s. Although the stated goal of the New Deal was to provide economic relief during the Great Depression, it also implemented many policies progressives had supported for several decades. The New Deal greatly expanded government control of the economy and American people's lives.

Brain Trust: A group of lawyers, writers, and academics who advised and assisted President Franklin D. Roosevelt in creating the New Deal during the 1930s. The phrase today often refers to any group of advisors for a candidate or public official.

Social Security Act: A law signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, which provided government insurance for elderly and unemployed Americans. The law has become a

major part of the federal budget and has been expanded to provide other forms of insurance, such as healthcare coverage.

D-Day: The codeword for the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history and was commanded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The success of the invasion led to the liberation of France and, ultimately, the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Atomic Bomb: A weapon that uses a nuclear reaction to create a massive explosion, which can destroy a large area, such as a city. When it was developed in the 1940s, it was the most powerful weapon ever created.

Court Packing: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's plan in 1937 to change the Supreme Court so that it would rule favorably towards his policies. Roosevelt proposed the plan after the Court ruled against many of his New Deal programs. The plan was fiercely criticized as an attempt to undermine the independence of the Judicial Branch.

Internment: The detaining and confinement of a group of people deemed to pose a threat to national security or public safety. Internment is usually carried out by military authorities and can involve forced relocation to designated areas or camps.

Communism: A political and economic system where all property and resources are owned and controlled by the government. The result of this system is often dictatorship and government control of every aspect of people's lives.

Yalta Conference: A meeting in Yalta on the Crimean Peninsula in February 1945 between the major leaders of the Allied powers during World War II: American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. During the conference, the three leaders discussed finalizing the war against the Axis powers and planning for the world after the war.

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