

presidents of the *United States of America*

"I was the 5th
President of the
United States
and the last
Founding Father
to be president."



James Monroe



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Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about James Monroe's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him. We need your help to figure it out!

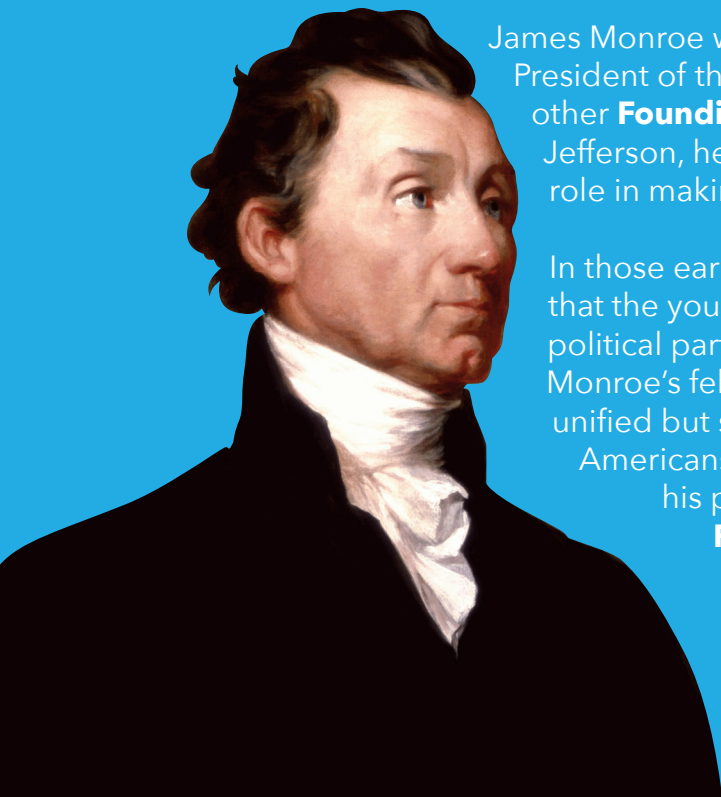
One country named their capital after President Monroe, and we need to find out which country it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

— — — — —

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

Meet James Monroe

James Monroe not only fought to make America a free and independent country, but under his leadership, the young nation was stable and peaceful. As a young man, Monroe joined the war against the British during the American Revolution. In the years after the United States won independence, Monroe worked closely with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to expand the size of the country and defend it from enemies.



James Monroe was the **l**ast of the founding generation to serve as the President of the United States. Although he might not be as famous as other **F**ounding **F**athers, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, he was always around, helping them and playing a key role in making the United States a stronger country.

In those early years, there were a lot of arguments over the direction that the young country should take. This led to the formation of two political parties—the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. Monroe's fellow Founders had a hard time keeping the country unified but somehow, Monroe was able to do it. Since many Americans set aside their differences and got along well during his presidency, this time is called the "**E**ra of **G**ood **F**eelings." President Monroe also announced a very important rule in foreign policy called the Monroe **D**octrine. It declared that European countries were no longer allowed to take control of places in the **W**estern **H**emisphere. It is a rule that America followed for a long time after Monroe left office.

Young James

James Monroe was born on April 28, 1758 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the second child and first son of Spence and Elizabeth Monroe. His father was a Virginia farmer, and he owned slaves. Young James grew up with one older sister and three younger brothers. He worked hard in school and on his family's farm. By the time he was about 16, both of his parents had died. James and his siblings were sad about losing their parents, but they were now in charge of some land and slaves and had to act as responsible adults.



Interesting Facts

- He is the first president whose child (daughter Maria) got married in the White House.
- He was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party.
- He is the first president to ride on a steamboat, which he did in 1817.
- He is the third president to die on American Independence Day (the first two were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson).

Virginia 1758

In 1776, Virginia looked a little different than it does today. In 1863, Virginia was divided into 2 states, Virginia and West Virginia, during the American Civil War.





Soldier

In 1774, Monroe enrolled as a student in William and Mary College, **but** he soon got swept up in the major events of the day. At the time, **Great Britain** ruled the American **colonies**, but it **oppressed** the colonists with heavy taxes. In 1776, Americans, fed up with the taxes, declared **independence** from the British. The American Revolution was in full swing.

James Monroe joined the American army to defend his country. During the battle of Trenton, he crossed the icy Delaware River with George Washington during a dangerous winter storm. When they faced the enemy, Monroe courageously led a charge against enemy cannon fire. He was struck by a bullet in the shoulder and almost died, but he recovered. The Americans won the battle and James Monroe was a war hero.

Washington Crossing the Delaware

At the age of 18, James Monroe fought alongside General George Washington during the famous battle of Trenton, which saved the American Revolution. In Emanuel Leutze's famous painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, Monroe is depicted holding the flag next to Washington (although, during the actual crossing, Monroe wasn't on the same boat with Washington).

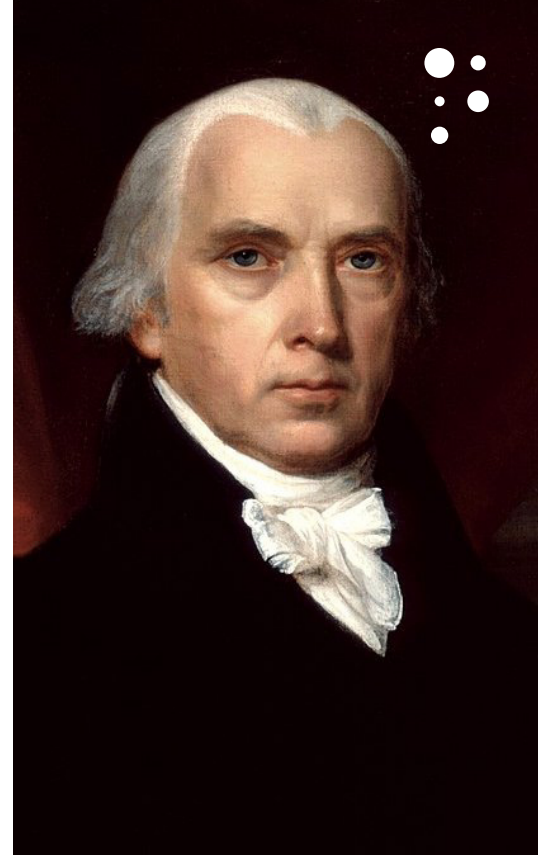


Rise to Power

After Monroe left the military in 1779, he studied hard to become a lawyer and eventually entered politics. At first, he was elected to the Virginia legislature and then to the **Continental Congress**. In 1786, as he was rising in politics, he married a woman named Elizabeth Kortright and they ended up having three children.

James Monroe was chosen by both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to travel around Europe representing the United States. In 1803, he helped President Jefferson buy a large amount of land from France, making America twice as large as before. The agreement, called the **Louisiana Purchase**, helped to strengthen the young country.

In 1812, war broke out again between the United States and Great Britain. When the British invaded America's capital, Washington, D.C., Monroe helped President James Madison defend the country. Monroe calmly organized the military effort to fight back against the British. Many people praised Monroe for being a strong leader. He took advantage of this praise and was elected President of the United States in 1816.



James Madison,
fourth President of
the United States of
America.



Quote

"National honor is the
national property of the
highest value."

- first inaugural address,
March 1817

The Louisiana Purchase

Through the Louisiana Purchase, the United States acquired land that now includes all or part of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.





President

President Monroe used his long **foreign policy** experience to strengthen America even further. In 1819, he and his Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, successfully negotiated with Spain to add Florida to America.

Although Monroe was popular and the country was more united than it had ever been, there was a major unresolved problem: **slavery**. Americans in southern states supported slavery, but many Americans in the northern states opposed it. Southerners wanted more states that had slavery to join the country. When Missouri, which had slavery, tried to enter the United States, northerners worried that this would give slavery supporters too much power. People were afraid that a **civil war** would break out between both sides. Congress was able to come up with a compromise: Missouri was allowed to have slavery but another state, Maine, was created where slavery was banned. This was called the Missouri Compromise, and Monroe signed it into law in 1820. It saved the country from a destructive civil war for about 40 years.

People were very happy with Monroe's leadership. That same year, Monroe was re-elected by a wide margin as president.

Monroe and Adams were both worried about what the European countries were doing in the Western Hemisphere. Centuries earlier, Europe had established colonies in North and South America, but they often oppressed the people in them. The American Revolution and the Spanish American wars of independence ended European rule in the Western Hemisphere, but many of those countries wanted their colonies back. With Adams' help, Monroe declared in December of 1823 that Europe would no longer be allowed to have colonies in North and South America. This declaration became known as the Monroe Doctrine, and it became an important rule for future presidents to follow.

Monroe decided to retire after serving two terms. In 1824, Adams was elected to succeed him as president.

Retirement

After leaving the White House, Monroe and his wife, Elizabeth, moved back to Virginia. After Elizabeth died in 1830, he moved to New York City to live with his daughter, Maria, and her husband, Samuel. On July 4, 1831, Monroe died at the age of 73 of tuberculosis.

Quote

"The American continents... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power."

- Monroe Doctrine speech,
December 1823





Life During James Monroe's Time

Quote

"The American people have encountered together great dangers and sustained severe trials with success. They constitute one great family with a common interest."

- first inaugural address, March 1817

When James Monroe was president, America was one of the youngest countries in the world. European countries were far more powerful and had more influence around the world. The United States, however, was becoming more powerful and wealthy every day. It was also one of the few republics in the world where people were free and could decide the future of their country.

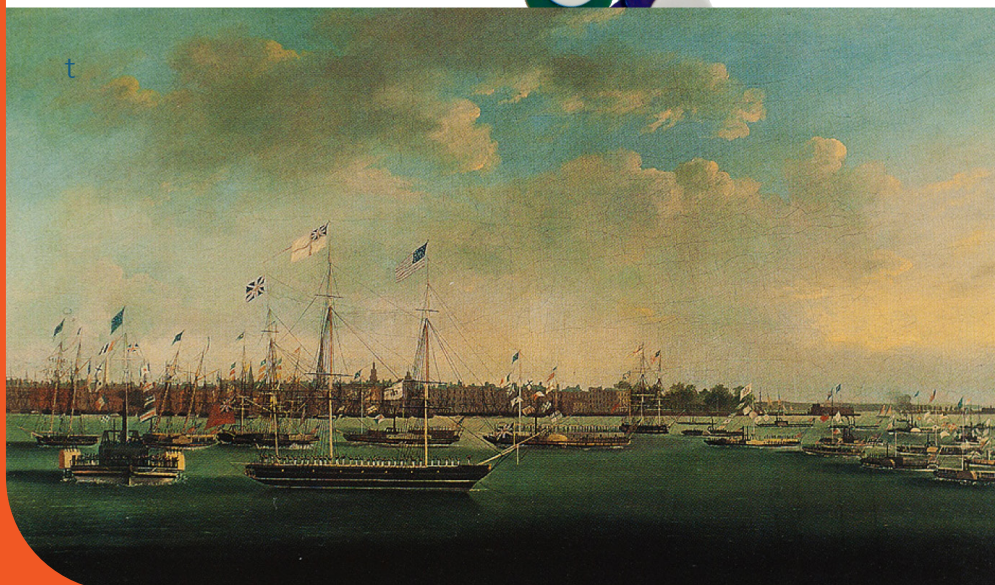
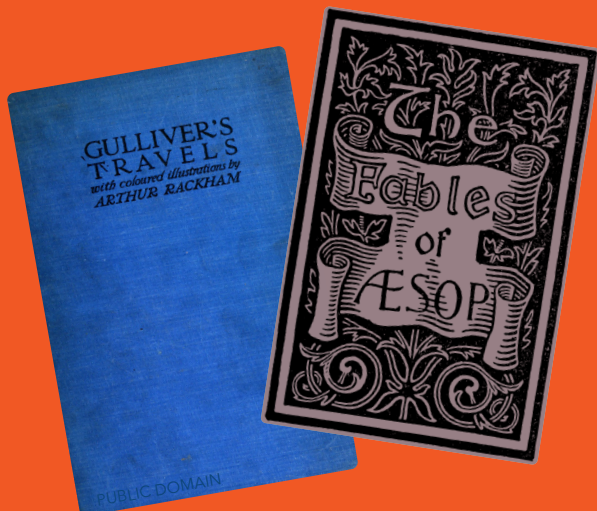
Most people who lived during Monroe's time didn't have a lot of the things that we enjoy today. Nobody had anything close to a cell phone or a computer. Most of them didn't have running water or electricity in their homes and, instead, had to use candles or lamps for lighting. There were no cars, so people had to walk or ride horses to get to school or work. Most people back then were farmers and most kids had to work hard on farms.

Even though kids didn't have movies or TV shows to watch, they could play games like dominoes or cards. They also liked playing tiddlywinks. In this game, players use a disk to flip smaller disks, called winks, into a cup. The first player to sink all of their disks into the cup wins.



HANNES GROBE

Kids back then didn't have movies or TV shows to watch, but they could read classics, like *Gulliver's Travels* and *Aesop's Fables*. These books were full of adventures and life lessons that sparked childrens' imaginations.



Legacy

Monroe had a long and distinguished career of service and played important roles during key moments in America's early history. Most history books celebrate presidents that served during times of crisis, while ignoring those who served in less dramatic times. Many of those who led America during quieter times, however, achieved something very difficult to attain: prosperity. Not only did Monroe preside over prosperity, but he did something even more rare: he helped to unify the country. It was such a unique moment that historians named it the "Era of Good Feelings."

True or False

Circle the Answer

1. James Monroe fought alongside General George Washington. **T F**
2. President Monroe served as president during World War II. **T F**
3. Monroe died on the same day of the year as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. **T F**
4. President Monroe served for three terms. **T F**
5. The Arkansas Compromise was signed into law in 1820. **T F**

Word Search

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

CIVIL WAR
INDEPENDENCE
PRESIDENT
STEAMBOAT
DOCTRINE
MONROE
PROSPERITY
VIRGINIA
DOMINOES
OPPRESSED
SOLDIER
WASHINGTON

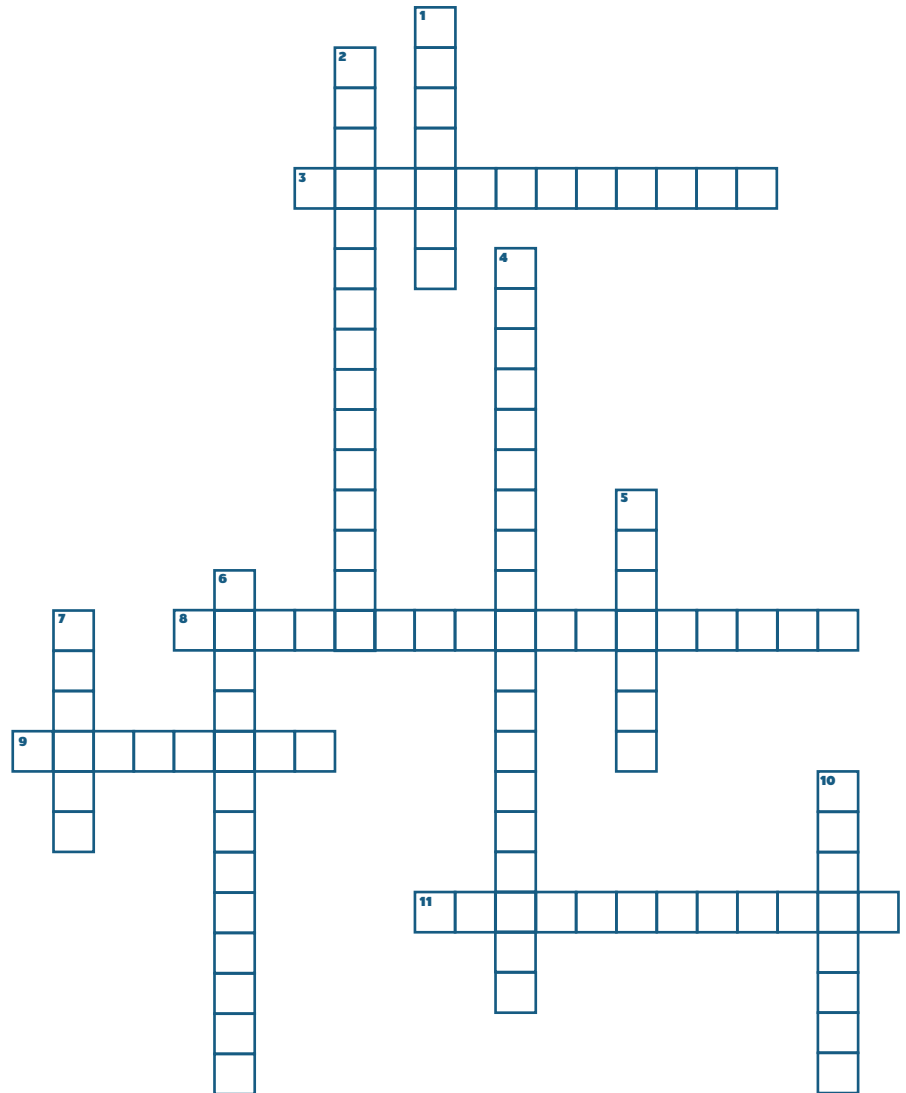
ACROSS

3. To be free of another country's control.
8. The agreement in which the United States bought a large section of what is now most of the midwest from France; it almost doubled the size of the country.
9. A belief or rule adopted by the government.
11. A country in Europe that ruled the United States before it became an independent nation.

DOWN

1. A system in which people are allowed to own other people and make them work without paying them.
2. The people who played leading roles in creating the United States, establishing its independence, and designing its Constitution and government.
4. The group of people during the American Revolution who represented the colonies and made laws for the whole country.
5. To use power and authority to treat people unfairly.
6. The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.
7. A territory controlled by another country.
10. A military conflict that occurs inside of a country where the citizens of that country fight each other.

Crossword



Glossary

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

Era of Good Feelings: A unique period of time in the early 19th century when the United States was generally unified politically under the Democratic-Republican Party.

Doctrine: A belief or rule adopted by the government.

Western Hemisphere: The half of the Earth west of the prime meridian, where North and South America are located.

Great Britain: A country in Europe that ruled the United States before it became an independent nation.

Colony: A territory controlled by another country.

Oppress: To use power and authority to treat people unfairly.

Independence: To be free of another country's control.

Continental Congress: The group of people during the American Revolution who represented the colonies and made laws for the whole country.

Louisiana Purchase: The agreement in which the United States bought a large section of what is now most of the midwest from France; it almost doubled the size of the country.

Foreign Policy: The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.

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

Civil War: A military conflict that occurs inside of a country where the citizens of that country fight each other.

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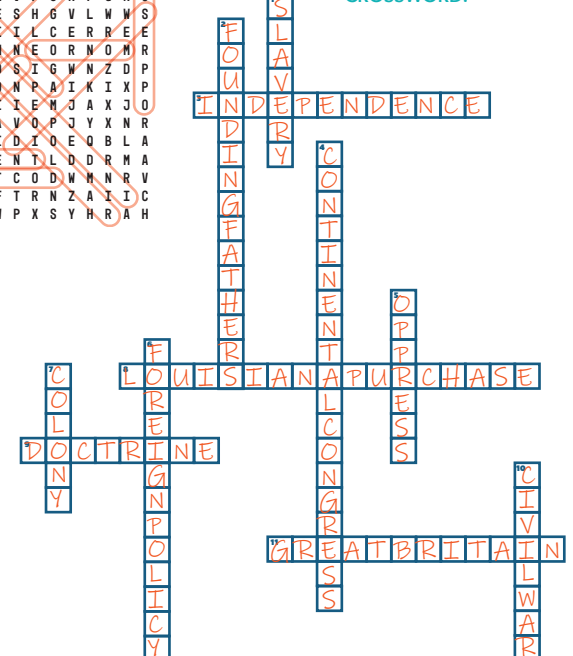
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Answers

WORD SEARCH:



CROSSWORD:



TRUE OR FALSE:

1. T 2. F
3. T 4. F
5. F

COUNTRY THAT
NAMED THEIR CAPITAL
AFTER MONROE:
LIBERIA

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