

presidents of the *United States of America*

"I was one of the greatest diplomats in American history and served as the 6th President of the United States."



John Quincy Adams



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Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

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

Adams had a pet, and we need to know 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.

— — — — —

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

Meet John Quincy Adams

Have you ever wanted to travel the world and visit other countries?

John Quincy Adams had that opportunity when he was just ten years old. Congress sent his father, John Adams, to Europe to gather support for the American Revolution. For the next seven years, John Quincy traveled with him, seeing France, Great Britain, Russia, and many other countries. He learned several languages and got to see places most of his friends never had the chance to visit.

John Quincy Adams used the knowledge he gained from those experiences to become one of America's greatest diplomats of all time. He played an important role in forging treaties with other countries and making the United States an important power in the world.

In addition to these achievements, **A** **d** **a** **m** **s** was a man of strong moral character. He strongly opposed slavery and even won freedom for several Africans in a famous Supreme Court case.

Adams didn't have as much success when he served as America's sixth president from 1825 to 1829. Still, it's important to look at his career as a whole and the many contributions he made to the United States.

John Quincy Adams's father, John Adams, also served as president. As a result, John Quincy is known to Americans as the first son of a president to serve in the White House himself. There is, however, so much more to his career. He deserves to be remembered more for his foreign policy accomplishments and his great integrity.



Young John Quincy



John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767 in Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts. He was the second child and oldest son of John and Abigail Adams. At the time of his birth, his father John was an attorney in Braintree. After the American Revolution began in 1775, however, the elder John became one of the great leaders

of the new United States. He helped push America to declare independence from Great Britain in 1776. This meant he had to spend a lot of time away from home, leaving Abigail to take care of young John Quincy and his three siblings. She, along with tutors, taught the Adams children math, foreign languages, and the classics.

Interesting Facts

- He was the first son of a president to also become president.
- He was a member of the Democratic-Republican, National Republican, and Whig parties.
- His wife Louisa was the first First Lady to be born in a foreign country.
- He was the first president to be photographed.
- He was the first president to serve in Congress after leaving the White House.
- In his later years, he was nicknamed "Old Man Eloquent."

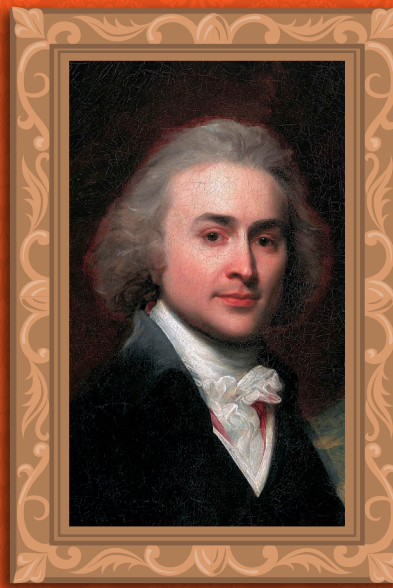


Top: John Quincy Adams's mother, Abigail Adams
Middle Left: John Quincy Adams's father, John Adams
Right: John Quincy Adams
Bottom Left: John Quincy Adams's boyhood home

A Unique Education

Much of John Quincy's childhood took place during the American Revolution. When he was seven years old, he personally witnessed the **Battle of Bunker Hill** from the top of a hill in Braintree. In 1777, when he was ten years old, John Quincy got an exciting opportunity: Congress sent his father John to Europe as a **diplomat** to gather support for the Revolution, and John Quincy got to join him. This was a time before cars and airplanes existed, so travel (usually by boat, horse, or carriage) took many weeks, if not months. Most people had never left their own colony or country, but John Quincy was able to travel the world at a young age. For the next seven years, he and his father got to see France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden. Through his studies and travels, he eventually learned how to speak Dutch, French, and German well, while also learning a little bit of Greek, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

After learning about what life was like in foreign countries, he came back home in 1785 to study at Harvard University. By then, the United States had defeated the British to become an independent nation.



Early Career

After graduating from Harvard, John Quincy became a lawyer in 1790. By this time, his father John was the nation's first vice president, serving under President George Washington. It was clear to everyone that John Quincy was very intelligent and knowledgeable about the world, especially for someone still in his 20s. Recognizing this, President Washington appointed him Minister to the Netherlands in 1794.

During his time as minister, he traveled to London several times on business. It was there where he began **courting** an attractive young woman named Louisa Catherine Johnson, the daughter of an American merchant. They fell in love and got married in 1797. John Quincy and Louisa would end up having four children.

It was also in 1797 when his father John became America's second president. The elder John would serve one term, losing his re-election bid in 1800 and leaving office in 1801. Although John's career was over, he and Abigail had great hopes for John Quincy. They hoped that he might even become president like the elder John did.



Master Diplomat

Over the next several years, John Quincy served in different diplomatic and political positions. His biggest role yet, however, came in 1814 when President Madison sent him and four other diplomats to Great Britain to negotiate the end of the War of 1812. By 1814, it was clear neither side, the Americans nor the British, would win a clear victory. At the time, the British were the most powerful empire in the world, but John Quincy and his American colleagues refused to be intimidated. They spent five months negotiating and signed a peace agreement in December 1814 called the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war. It was a major accomplishment, making John Quincy one of America's top foreign policy leaders.

When James Monroe became president in 1817, it only made sense for him to appoint John Quincy as **Secretary of State**. Now, John Quincy was officially America's top diplomatic official and President Monroe's senior **Cabinet** official. Together, Monroe and Adams had many impressive accomplishments:

- ★ They negotiated the Treaty of 1818, which settled a large section of the U.S.-Canadian border.
- ★ They recognized several independent Latin American countries.
- ★ They negotiated the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 with Spain, which gave the United States control of Florida.
- ★ In 1823, they issued the Monroe Doctrine—considered their most famous accomplishment. With John Quincy's encouragement and advice, President Monroe announced in a speech to Congress that the United States would oppose any attempts by Europe to interfere in the Western Hemisphere. For centuries, Europe had colonized different parts of North and South America. With the Monroe Doctrine, Monroe and John Quincy had declared the end of **colonization** in the Western Hemisphere. It was their way of showing the world America would be a force to be reckoned with, and the policy continues to be in effect to this day.



Quote

*"The first of qualities for a great statesman is to be honest."
- June 1809*



The 1824 Election

After all of John Quincy's success, many people hoped he could be elected president. In 1824, he ran for the presidency, facing Kentucky Congressman Henry Clay, former Secretary of War William Crawford, and General Andrew Jackson, who became a national hero during his service in the War of 1812. Jackson was, by far, the most popular of the four men, especially among common, everyday Americans.

On election day, Jackson got the most popular and electoral votes, but he didn't get a majority in the **Electoral College**, which meant the election, according to the Constitution, went into a **runoff** in the U.S. House of Representatives. Clay decided to support John Quincy, which gave him enough votes to be named the winner. This made John Quincy the sixth President of the United States. He was also the first son of a president to be elected president himself. John Quincy then appointed Clay as his Secretary of State. Although Clay was qualified for the job, some felt that it appeared John Quincy promised Clay the job in exchange for his support in the election—which they called a “**corrupt** bargain.”

Andrew Jackson's supporters were furious. They felt that Jackson should have won because he had the most popular and electoral votes. They believed that Adams and Clay had overturned the will of the people with their “corrupt bargain.” For the next four years, Jackson and his supporters did everything they could to undermine the new president.

Quote

“America... goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all.”
- July 1821



President

John Quincy took office as the sixth President of the United States in March 1825. His inauguration was a remarkable moment in American history. It was the first time that the son of a president became president himself. The elder John was still alive—he was almost 90 years old—and he was proud of his son. He died during his son's presidency, on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

President John Quincy Adams had an ambitious agenda. He wanted to establish a national university, a naval academy, and an astronomical observatory. He also wanted to build new **infrastructure** (roads, canals, and railroads) and implement new **tariffs**.

Some felt that President Adams's agenda was too ambitious and gave too much power to the federal government. He faced much opposition from Jackson's supporters, who would eventually call themselves **Democrats**. While Adams was able to sign a tariff bill in 1828 and several of his infrastructure proposals into law, his opponents blocked the rest of his agenda. By the fall of 1828, the Democrats were organized and ready to take on **A**dmams. That year, Jackson defeated Adams by a comfortable margin.

Career After the Presidency



Most presidents retire from politics after leaving office. After all, what is there left to do after serving in the nation's highest office? John Quincy Adams, however, couldn't stand sitting around and doing nothing. He decided to run for office again, this time as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. It took a great deal of humility to run for an office lower than the presidency. He won, taking office in 1831. He would spend the rest of his life—and nine terms—as a congressman, identifying with the **Whig Party**.

During this time, the United States struggled with what to do about slavery. John Quincy, and his father John, were the only two presidents thus far that had never owned enslaved servants, but many southerners supported spreading slavery into America's new territories in the West. As a congressman, John Quincy strongly opposed slavery, giving speeches that explained why it was wrong to own enslaved servants. He spoke with so much passion that many nicknamed him "Old Man Eloquent." In 1841, he represented several Africans who were seeking freedom

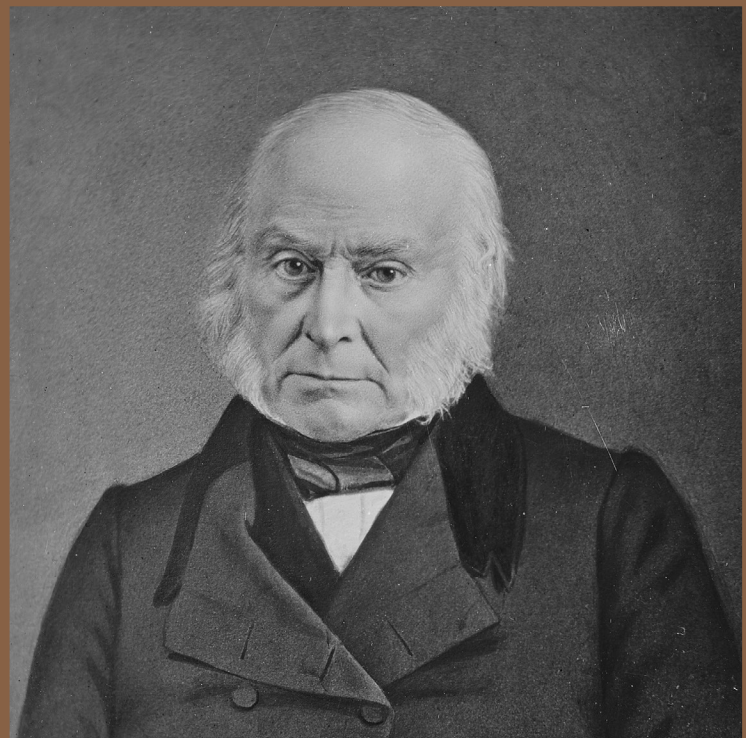
after rising up and disobeying their captives on the Spanish ship *La Amistad*. Adams argued their case before the Supreme Court and won their freedom.

Adams also stayed busy promoting science and education, helping to create what became the **Smithsonian Institution**.

On February 21, 1848, Adams was working in the U.S. Capitol when he suffered a stroke. Two days later, on February 23, he died at the age of 80 in Washington, D.C. He was laid to rest in Quincy, Massachusetts, next to his parents, John and Abigail.

Quote

"I do believe slavery
to be a sin before God."
- June 1838





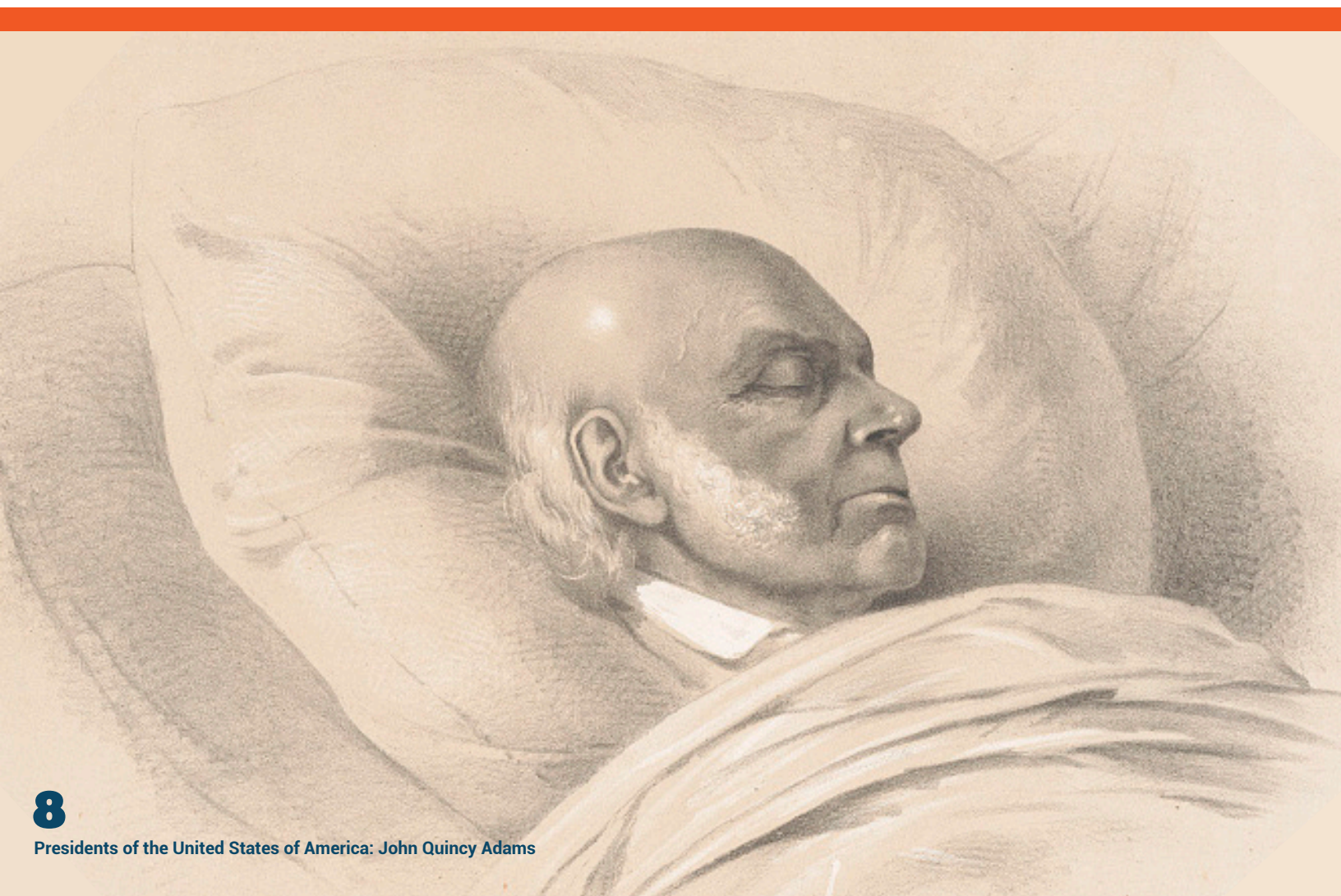
Legacy

John Quincy Adams might not be considered one of America's greatest presidents, but he was, without a doubt, one of its greatest foreign policy leaders. Presidents Washington, Adams (his father), Madison, and Monroe all chose him to serve in various diplomatic offices. Each time, he proved himself to be a tough negotiator, even when facing more powerful European countries. He helped forge multiple treaties that made the United States a stronger nation. Although the Monroe Doctrine bears the name of America's fifth president, James Monroe, it was John Quincy Adams who advised him to issue it and helped craft it. Ever since it was announced, the Monroe Doctrine has been a very important part of American foreign policy.

Adams also deserves recognition as one of the most courageous opponents of slavery prior to the Civil War. Although he faced strong opposition, John Quincy Adams was never afraid to fight for what he believed in. Although Adams's presidency had its share of successes and failures, his career as a whole is one of the greatest in early American history.

Quote

*"May our country be always successful—but whether successful or otherwise, always right."
- August 1816*



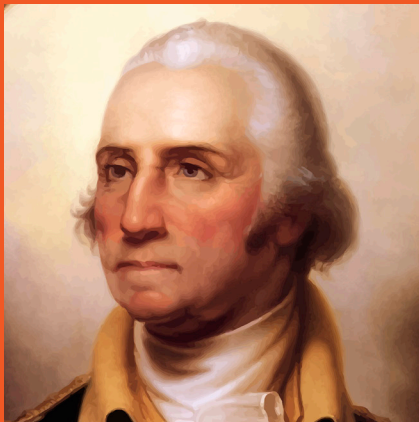
Multilingual Mayhem



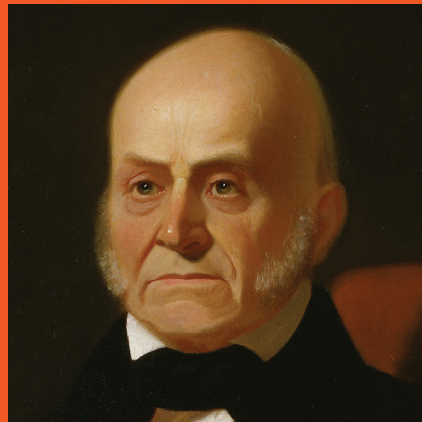
John Quincy Adams could speak English, Dutch, French, and German well and also knew a little bit of Greek, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish! Can you match each greeting with the language?



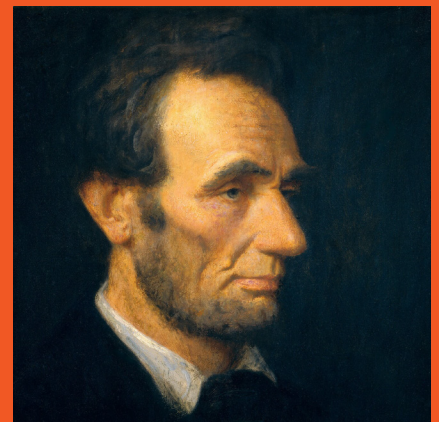
English
Dutch
French
German
Greek
Italian
Latin
Russian
Spanish



Founding Fathers



John Quincy Adams



Civil War

A Front Row Seat to History

John Quincy Adams witnessed and participated in so many of the major events in early American history. He lived through the Founding era, the Era of Good Feelings, the War of 1812, and the Jacksonian era. He personally knew major historical figures, such as George Washington, John Adams (obviously), Thomas Jefferson, and Andrew Jackson.

He also served with many political figures who

would emerge as national leaders after he died. In fact, during his term in the House of Representatives after his presidency, he served with an Illinois congressman named Abraham Lincoln. Thirteen years after John Quincy's death, Lincoln became the sixteenth president and would lead the nation during the Civil War. Adams is one of the few figures in U.S. history who knew both the Founding Fathers and America's Civil War president.

Glossary

Battle of Bunker Hill: A battle fought on June 17, 1775 near Boston. It was one of the earliest battles in the American Revolution. Although the British won the battle, the Americans fought heroically and inflicted many casualties.

Diplomat: A person who represents his or her country in other countries or in international organizations.

Courting: Seeking the love or affection of another person, often with the goal of marrying them.

Secretary of State: The government official in charge of the U.S. Department of State who advises the president on foreign policy issues. The Secretary of State is one of the highest-ranking officials in the government.

Cabinet of the United States: A senior group of advisors to the President of the United States. Its members include the Vice President of the United States and top agency and department leaders in the federal government, such as the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, and the Attorney General.

Colonization: The act of taking over and controlling a territory and the people in that territory.

Electoral College: The group of people that, according to the U.S. Constitution, elect the President and Vice President of the United States.

Runoff: An extra vote or contest to decide the winner of an election or competition, because no one has yet clearly won.

Corrupt: Dishonest, seeking selfish gain.

Infrastructure: The physical and organizational structures of a society, such as buildings, roads, and power supplies.

Tariff: A tax on something being bought or sold to a customer in another country.

Democratic Party: The party that formed in the early 19th century in the United States that supported Andrew Jackson and his policies that expanded power to the common man.

Whig Party: The party formed in the early 19th century in the United States that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported tariffs and building canals and roads to boost the economy.

Smithsonian Institution: A group of museums and education centers established by the U.S. government in 1846.

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Answers:

ADAMS'S PET (TYPE OF ANIMAL):
ALLIGATOR



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