

Reading

Men in the Oval Office



Read the text and match 1-6 to (A-H). There are 2 extra options you don't need to use.

1 _____ Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was known for being energetic, fearless, and passionate about nature. He helped pass laws to control large companies and supported the building of the Panama Canal. One of the most famous stories about him happened during a hunting trip. When guides tied up a bear for him to shoot, Roosevelt refused. This moment inspired a toy maker to create a stuffed animal called a "Teddy bear." The name "Teddy" comes from "Theodore," Roosevelt's first name. He was also one of the presidents to survive an assassination attempt — after being shot, he gave a long speech while standing with help, even though the bullet was still in his chest.

2 _____ Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln was the 16th president and led the U.S. through the Civil War, keeping the country united when it was close to falling apart. He is best known for the Emancipation Proclamation, which helped end slavery in the southern states. Lincoln came from a poor family and educated himself by reading books. He loved telling jokes and stories and often used humor to calm tense situations. Despite his success, he suffered from depression and deep sadness. His ability to speak simply and powerfully made his speeches unforgettable.

3 _____ Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the 3rd president of the United States and the main author of the Declaration of Independence. He strongly believed in personal freedom and in limiting government power. During his presidency, he completed the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the U.S. He was also an inventor and a man of science. Jefferson designed his own home, Monticello, and invented things like a rotating book stand and a special secret-writing device. He spoke several languages and kept detailed notes on everything from the weather to animal bones.

4 _____ Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR served four terms — longer than any other president in U.S. history. He guided the country through the Great Depression and most of World War II. He created the New Deal, a set of programs to help people get jobs and rebuild the economy. Roosevelt used a wheelchair after surviving polio, but he worked hard to keep this hidden from the public. In photos, he was usually shown sitting or standing with someone's help. Through his famous Fireside Chats — radio speeches — he explained government plans in simple language, helping Americans feel supported during hard times.

5 _____ Ronald Reagan

Reagan worked as a Hollywood actor before entering politics. He served as governor of California before winning the presidency in 1980. At the time, he was the oldest person ever elected president, taking office at age 69. Reagan is known for helping to end the Cold War and for introducing "Reaganomics," a set of economic policies focused on tax cuts, deregulation, and reducing government spending. He was nicknamed "The Great Communicator" because of his clear and friendly speeches. During meetings, he often reached for jelly beans, his favorite candy, which became a fun symbol of his time in office.

6 _____ John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy became the youngest president ever elected in the U.S. He is remembered for his leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis, which brought the world close to nuclear war. Despite suffering from severe back pain and other health problems, he appeared strong and confident in public. Kennedy won a Pulitzer Prize for his book, which told stories of political bravery. He also started the Peace Corps, sending young Americans abroad to help with education, health, and farming projects. Many people also remember him for his connection to Marilyn Monroe. His life ended suddenly when he was assassinated during a trip to Dallas, Texas, in 1963 — an event that shocked the entire world.

Which president:

- A** *made America twice as big as before by acquiring new land?*
- B** *handcrafted a stuffed animal that later became a popular toy?*
- C** *remained president for an unmatched length of time?*
- D** *addressed the public despite suffering a serious wound?*
- E** *launched a volunteer program to support developing nations?*
- F** *had his house designed by a famous Italian architect?*
- G** *gained knowledge through self-directed study?*
- H** *began his public career in the entertainment industry?*