

## A President with Character

A. Read a short biography of one of the most notable US presidents in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Do the statements below agree with the views of the writer in Reading Passage below? Write

YES

*if the statement agrees with the writer*

NO

*if the statement contradicts the writer*

NOT GIVEN

*if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

**Theodore Roosevelt** often referred as Teddy, was born in New York City on Oct. 27, 1858. A Harvard graduate, he was early interested in ranching, in politics, and in writing picaresque historical narratives. He was a Republican member of the New York Assembly in 1882–84, an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of New York in 1886, a U.S. civil service commissioner under Benjamin Harrison, police commissioner of New York City in 1895, and assistant secretary of the Navy under McKinley in 1897. He resigned in 1898 to help organize a volunteer regiment, the *Rough Riders*, and take a more direct part in the war with Spain. He was elected governor of New York in 1898 and vice president in 1900, in spite of lack of enthusiasm on the part of the bosses.

Assuming the presidency of the assassinated McKinley in 1901, Roosevelt became the 26<sup>th</sup> and youngest president in the Nation's history. In fact, he intended to adhere his predecessor's policies retaining the Cabinet. He embarked on a wide-ranging program of government reform and conservation of natural resources. He ordered antitrust suits against several large corporations, threatened to intervene in the anthracite coal strike of 1902, which prompted the operators to accept arbitration, and, in general, championed the rights of the "little man" and fought the "malefactors of great wealth." He was also responsible for progressive legislations such as the Elkins Act of 1903, which outlawed freight refunds by railroads to their most valued customers; the

Hepburn Act of 1906, which gave the Interstate Commerce Commission greater control over the railroads' rates; and the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which banned misleading labels and preservatives that contained harmful chemicals or were impure or falsely labeled.

In foreign affairs, Roosevelt pursued a strong policy permitting the instigation of a revolt in the rebellious district of Panama to dispose of Colombia's intentions to own the isthmus canal and helping to maintain the balance of power in the East by bringing the Russo-Japanese War to an end, for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize, the first American to achieve a Nobel prize in any category. In 1904, he decisively defeated Alton B. Parker, his conservative Democratic opponent.

Roosevelt's increasing coldness toward his successor, William Howard Taft, led him to overlook his earlier disclaimer of third-term ambitions and to reenter politics. Defeated by the machine in the Republican convention of 1912, he organized the Progressive Party (*Bull Moose*) and polled more votes than Taft, though the split brought about the election of Woodrow Wilson. From 1915 on, Roosevelt strongly favored intervention in the European war. He became deeply embittered at Wilson's refusal to allow him to raise a volunteer division. He died in Oyster Bay, N.Y., on Jan. 6, 1919. He was married twice: in 1880 to Alice Hathaway Lee, who died in 1884, and in 1886 to Edith Carow.

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|                                                                                                         |       |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| Theodore played important roles as a commander into different US armed forces before being a president. | _____ | 1. |
| In 1901 Teddy was elected as US president in 1901.                                                      | _____ | 2. |
| Teddy continued with the former president's proposals during his term.                                  | _____ | 3. |
| Teddy's diplomacy helped US to let Panamanians have full control over the isthmus canal.                | _____ | 4. |
| The Nobel Prize was given to Teddy at the end of his presidency period.                                 | _____ | 5. |
| <i>Bull Moose</i> assisted Teddy in playing an important role against William Taft's campaign.          | _____ | 6. |
| Woodrow Wilson and Roosevelt worked together to send volunteers in the European War.                    | _____ | 7. |
| Theodore Roosevelt's second wife died in 1886.                                                          | _____ | 8. |

**B. Complete the diagram below using ONLY information from the text. Use NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER in each answer.**

