

Monday

Did you know?

George Washington's best school subject as a boy was math. He wrote his lessons in ink on heavy paper; then his mother or a teacher sewed the paper into notebooks.



Journal prompt:

Do you think it's important for a president to be good at math? Why or why not?



Discussion question:

Washington was the only US president to be elected unanimously. What character traits do you think he had to make him so well liked? Do you think a president could be unanimously elected today?



Research topic:

Washington served in the Virginia House of Burgesses. Find out what the House of Burgesses was and the purpose it served.



Tuesday

Did you know?

John Adams was the first president to live in the White House. Only about six rooms were finished. Mrs. Adams had to dry laundry in the East Room.



Journal prompt:

Do you think the White House being unfinished made Adams' job as president more difficult? Why or why not?



Discussion question:

During Adams' presidency, laws were passed making it a crime to criticize the government or the president. Do you think these laws were fair? Explain.



Research topic:

John Adams was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. Find out information about his life as a child—including the one thing he did not particularly enjoy at school.



Wednesday

Did you know?

Thomas Jefferson was the first president who had guests shake his hand instead of bow to him. He had dinner guests placed at a round table so everyone felt equally important.



Journal prompt:

Why do you think Thomas Jefferson had his guests shake his hand rather than bow? Explain.



Discussion question:

What does Jefferson's choice of a round dinner table tell you about him?



Research topic:

Jefferson authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition. Find information about those who led the expedition, when and where the expedition took place, and what was accomplished.



Thursday

Did you know?

James Madison was mostly responsible for writing the first ten amendments to the US Constitution—the Bill of Rights.



Journal prompt:

An amendment is a change. If you could write an amendment to a school policy or rule, what would it be?



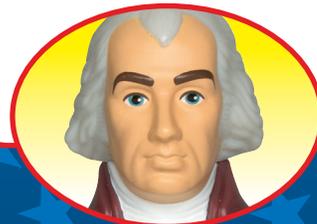
Discussion question:

Madison was nicknamed the "Father of the Constitution." However, he said the constitution was "the work of many heads and many hands." What are some advantages of working with others on an important project? What are some disadvantages?



Research topic:

Madison's wife, Dolley, was a very popular figure in Washington. What made her unique?



Friday

Did you know?

To go to school, James Monroe had to leave home early in the morning and walk through the forest. He often carried a rifle and shot game along the way.



Journal prompt:

Do you think you would like going to school this way? Why or why not?



Discussion question:

Monroe's presidency was known as the "era of good feelings." What do you think filled this period of time with such good feelings? How could you help make your school year an "era of good feelings"?



Research topic:

While president, Monroe agreed to purchase Florida from Spain. Find out what led him to make this decision.

