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*The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents*: “Assume the Position” - 1789-1825

# George Washington 00:00-19:45

1. What made this new office of president so different in the world?
2. The Founding Fathers established strong courts, a strong legislature, but planned for a weak executive. Why?
3. Why did the Founding Fathers create the Electoral College?
4. Why did Washington create a cabinet of advisors?
5. Why was the location of the new nation’s capital city controversial?
6. Washington wanted to leave the presidency after his first term. Why?
7. War broke out in Europe, prompting Washington to respond. What did he choose to do and why do you think he chose that action?
8. What precedent did the above proclamation set?
9. What significant precedent did Washington set upon leaving office?
10. As a general rule, how did the Founding Fathers view political parties?

# John Adams 19:45-25:45

1. Adams had a great background that made him appear perfect for the presidency. What did he lack?
2. What did the Alien & Sedition Acts do? Why were these acts especially problematic?

# Thomas Jefferson 25:45-31:15

1. Historian Libby O’Connell said, “One of the things that Jefferson brings [to the presidency] is this sense of acting out democracy.” What do you think she means by this?
2. What power did the Supreme Court claim in Marbury vs. Madison?
3. In what ways did the Louisiana Purchase represent a challenge to Jefferson’s principles?

# James Madison 31:15-37:34

1. Describe James Madison.
2. How did Dolly Madison define the role of first lady?
3. The U.S. declared war against Britain in 1812. Why was this a huge problem for the U.S.?
4. In August of 1814, the British captured Washington, D.C. and set fire to the White House. How do you think this impacted Americans psychologically?
5. How did the War of 1812 change the way Americans viewed themselves?

# James Monroe 37:34-44:10

1. In what ways was James Monroe the last of his kind?
2. What issue had the previous presidents avoided that Monroe had to finally confront? Why did he have to confront it?
3. What did Monroe claim in the Monroe Doctrine?
4. How did the post-Monroe time represent a new era for the presidency?

*Ultimate Guide to the Presidents*:

“Power to the People” - 1824-1849

John Quincy Adams 00:00-13:37

1. John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy’s parents, had spent a significant amount of effort preparing him to be president. What was the downside of this preparation?
2. What advantages did Andrew Jackson have in the election?
3. Andrew Jackson easily won the popular vote. Why did he fail to win the presidency?
4. Adams dreamed of a nation based on ancient Rome, with a strong federal government building roads, running universities, and making scientific inquiries. How much of this was Adams able to accomplish? *Why?*

Andrew Jackson 13:37-26:04

1. Describe the Election of 1828.
2. What was Jackson’s approach toward the Native population? How did most Americans feel about this approach?
3. How did Jackson interact with Congress?
4. According to historian Carol Berkin, what was the result of Jackson’s fights against Congress?

Martin Van Buren 26:04-31:43

1. The video talks about Van Buren’s recession and says that he inherited it from Andrew Jackson. What do they mean when they say he “inherited” the recession?
2. What criticisms did the American people level at Van Buren?

William Henry Harrison 31:43-33:19

1. Why did Harrison choose to give his inaugural address without a coat and a hat?

John Tyler 33:19-36:59

1. Why did Tyler fail to get along with Congress?
2. Tyler was a less effective president. Because of this, he needed an important issue to help him win re-election. What issue did he find *and how did this impact the U.S.*?

James K. Polk 37:00-44:10

1. Why did they begin playing “Hail to the Chief” to welcome the president?
2. Historian George Forgie said, “President Polk represents the shift from the politics of economics, which was central to the Jacksonian period, to the politics of expansion.” What does this mean?
3. Polk’s greatest legacy is American expansion. This expansion, though, came at a cost. What problem stemmed from it?