



Upper-Grade Presidential Spelling Boxes

Name _____

1. Spell the name of the president who founded the University of Virginia.

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This president built and lived in a house he named "little mountain" in Italian. Today it is a home that people from around the world visit. Create a brochure or poster that encourages visits to this historic residence. Proofread!



Name _____

2. Spell the name of the president who had more children than any other president- fifteen.

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This president had no vice president—why? Explain your response in writing. Then explain the process that would avert this situation today. Proofread!



Name _____

3. Spell the name of the president who was born on our nation's birthday in July.

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Who were the two presidents who passed away on this U.S. holiday? Then explain in writing how these two men played an important role in making it a day Americans celebrate. Proofread!



Name _____

4. Spell the name of the president who was the youngest at the time he became president.

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What did this president accomplish that you think is the most important to people today? Write reasons for your opinion. Proofread!

Name _____

5. Spell the name of the president who never married.

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The president's wife has traditionally been given the title of the "First Lady." Research and explain how this terminology came to be. Then decide an appropriate title for the spouse of a female president and explain why you think it is suitable. Proofread!

Name _____

6. The shortest president was James Madison, who stood five feet, four inches tall. Who was the tallest president at six feet, four inches?

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This president is one of America's most celebrated, yet his positions on some issues often made him unpopular with part of the population during his presidency. Why did some people denounce him and what was one result of this? Explain your answer in writing. Give your response a beginning, middle, and an end.

Name _____

7. Spell the name of the president who served the longest, more than two terms in office.

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History tells us that this president had great determination to overcome obstacles. What obstacles? State your response with a beginning, middle, and an end. Proofread!

Name _____

8. Spell the name of the president who served as Chief Justice of the United States following his presidency.

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Which office has more power to shape U.S. policy, the US President or the U.S. Chief Justice? Write your answer. Provide reasons for your opinion with specific examples to support it. Proofread! Then be prepared to state your opinion orally and defend your answer.

Name _____

9. Spell the name of the president whose vice president was John Adams.

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In what ways have we commemorated this president? Research, then make a list. Proofread!

Name _____

10. Spell the name of the president who was first a senator of the state called The Golden State.

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Fifteen U.S. presidents were formerly senators. Who were they? Why do you suppose over a third of U.S. presidents were senators? Write your answer with reasons to support your opinion. Remember, your writing needs a beginning, middle, and an end. Proofread!

Name _____

11. Spell the name of the only U.S. president to have served two nonconsecutive terms.

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Discover one element about this man's presidencies that you would have supported, then tell about one of his policies that you would have opposed. Explain your responses in writing with reasons. Proofread!

Name _____

12. One president was predicted to lose the election—all the polls predicted his opponent would win, and early newspaper headlines even declared that he had! Who was the surprise winner in the 1948 election?

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From what you can find out about this election, why do you think this president's opponent was expected to win? Surprises happen! Explain your answer in writing. Remember to give your response a beginning, middle, and an end.

Upper-Grade Presidential Spelling Boxes Answer Key

1. answer: Thomas Jefferson

answer: Jefferson built Monticello, which is located outside of Charlottesville, VA

2. answer: John Tyler

answer: Nominated by his political party, Vice President Tyler became president when President William Henry Harrison died, a time when there were no provisions for succession. The succession process now ensures that there is always a president and a vice president.

3. answer: Calvin Coolidge

answer: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the nation's 50th birthday.

4. answer: Theodore Roosevelt Note: John Kennedy was the youngest elected president when he was 43. Teddy Roosevelt was 42 when he succeeded McKinley when he was assassinated.

answer: Responses will vary, but may include Roosevelt's conservation measures, a topic of interest today.

5. answer: James Buchanan

answer: President Zachary Taylor called Dolley Madison "First Lady" in a eulogy at her death in 1849, but James Buchanan's niece, Harriett Lane, acted as her uncle's White House hostess (1857-1861) and established the title, First Lady.

6. answer: Abraham Lincoln

answer: Lincoln's denouncement of slavery and support of the Civil War made him unpopular among some people. John Wilkes Booth assassinated him because of his advocacy of these issues.

7. answer: Franklin Roosevelt

answer: Responses will vary, but may include his approach to the Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, his paralysis.

8. answer: William Taft

9. answer: George Washington

answer: Responses may include Washington being pictured on the dollar bill and quarter, his face carved on Mount Rushmore, the Washington Monument, books written about him, and numerous locales and institutions named in his honor (i.e., Washington D.C., Washington state, streets, cities, universities, buildings, counties, parks, bridges, highways, elementary and high schools).

10. answer: Richard Nixon

answer: presidents who were senators: James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Harrison, Warren G. Harding, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon

11. answer: Grover Cleveland

12. answer: Harry Truman