The U.S. Citizenship Test As a Window into Advanced Civics

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Vanderbilt Fall Term 2022



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1. The Presidency -

Established by Constitution; Second Continental Congress



2. Founders as the First Presidents

a. George Washington - established first cabinet and national bank; warned against political parties

b. John Adams - Alien and Sedition Act

c. Thomas Jefferson - good steward of country's finances; presidency not mentioned on tombstone



d. James Madison - War of 1812

3. Considered the Greatest on Most Lists

a. Abraham Lincoln - kept the union together / Civil War

b. FDR - New Deal

c. Theodore Rosevelt - conservation efforts; Panama Canal; Progressive Party

d. George Washington - 1st President and was willing to step down



4. Presidents from Tennessee

a. Andrew Jackson - Led early Democrat Party / Trail of Tears

b. Andrew Johnson - Reconstruction - Almost removed from office

c. James K. Polk - annexed Republic of Texas



5. Powers of President

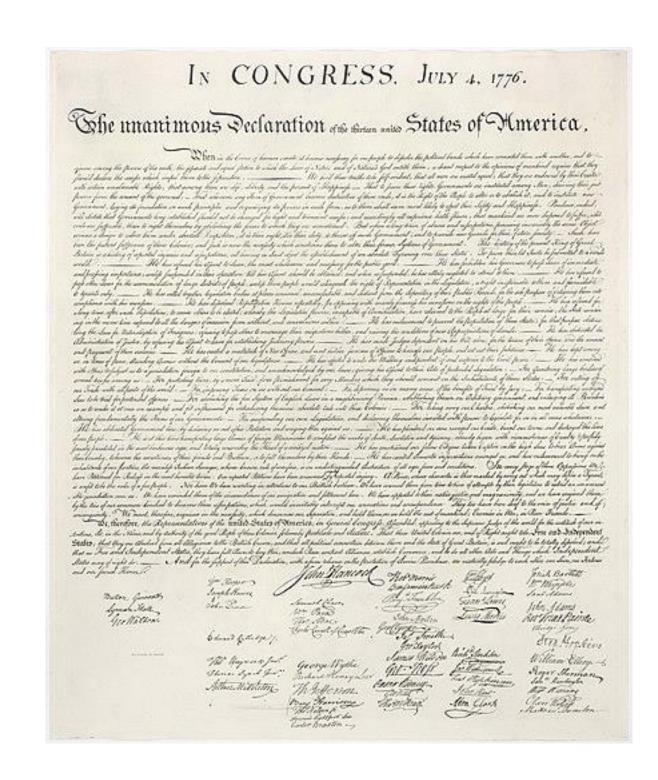
- a. Treaties with Approval of Senate
- b. Veto Power / Pocket Veto
- c. Represent nation in Foreign Affairs
- d. Enforce Laws Executive Orders
- e. Commander in Chief of Military
- f. Protect nation against attacks



Presidential Trivia



1. Presidents died on same day 50 days after Declaration



2. Four presidents were assassinated



3. Four presidents died in office of natural causes



4. Father / Son Presidents



5. Rhodes Scholar



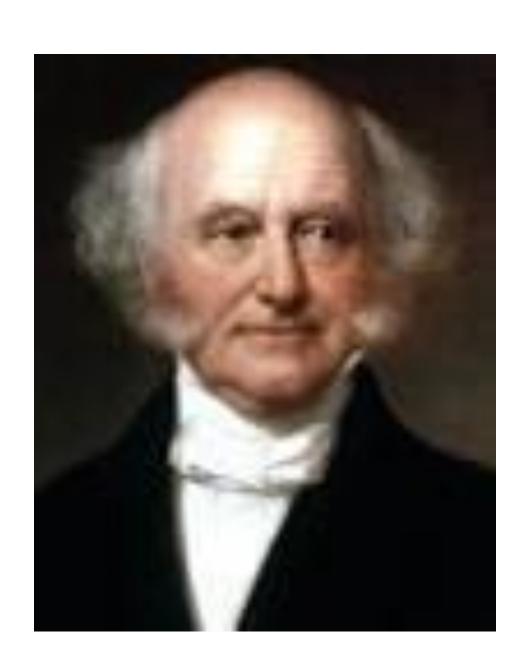
6. Bush / Gore Election



7. Truman and the Atomic Bomb



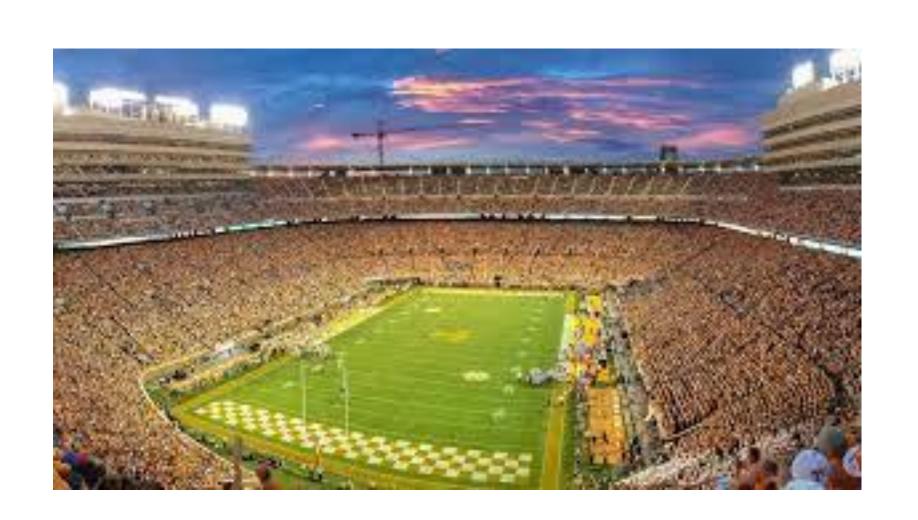
8. Martin Van Buren



9. Classically - trained pianist



10. Turned down offers to play professional football



11. 46 presidencies and 45 different individuals



12. First clash of political parties



Congress



1. Bicameral



2. Powers of Congress

- a. Enact Legislation
- b. Declare War
- c. Investigate Powers
- d. Confirm Presidential Appointments



3. House of Representatives

- a. Initiate Revenue Spending Bills
- b. Issue Articles of Impeachment
- c. 435 Members
- d. 2 Year Terms



e. Determine Presidential Electoral College

4. Senate

- a. 6 year terms
- b. Tries Impeachments
- c. VP is Speaker, or in their absence, President Pro Temp
- d. Filibusters / Cloture



5. Legislative Process

a. Bills must pass both Houses in the same form

b. Conference Committee

c. Overriding Vetos



Cabinet Positions



1. Original Cabinet

- a. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson
- b. Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton
- c. Secretary of War Henry Knox
- d. Attorney General Edmund Randolph



2. 15 Cabinet Departments

- a. State
- b. Treasury
- c. Defense
- d. Attorney General
- e. Interior

2. 15 Cabinet Departments - Continued

- f. Agriculture
- g. Commerce
- h. Labor
- i. Health and Human Services
- j. Housing and Urban Development
- k. Transportation

2. 15 Cabinet Departments - Continued

k. Transportation

1. Energy

m. Education

n. Veterans Affairs

o. Homeland Security

3. Secretaries serve at the pleasure of the President

4. Constitution does not speak to Cabinets

