

Let's Celebrate Presidents' Day! Ep.9

Kim: Hi! And welcome back to another episode of Storytime...Anytime! Guess what we're going to learn about today? Yes! You're right—Presidents' Day. You probably know that George Washington was the first President of the United States. He was born on February 22, 1732. So...on the third Monday in February, we honor George Washington, and the birthdays and lives of all U.S. Presidents by celebrating "Presidents' Day!" Presidents' Day is an American holiday. Most schools are closed, and our nation's workers have the day off.

The President meets with the leaders of foreign countries and makes treaties or agreements with these countries. The President also appoints judges and ambassadors, protects the laws of the United States, and pardons criminals. The President of the United States is our nation's leader. It is a great honor to be President of the United States. Perhaps you will decide to run for President someday!

Let's listen to a fun song called "Thank You, Mr. President!"

SONG: Thank You, Mr. President

Kim: Have you ever thought about running for President someday? Who can run for President? The requirements are very simple. The President must be born a U.S. citizen. He or she must be at least 35 years old and must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

The Presidents of our United States have come from many different backgrounds. Some have been rich. Some have been poor. Some were teachers, lawyers, sailors, and one was even a movie star! Yes, that was Ronald Reagan. He was a famous actor before he decided to enter politics.

There are so many fun facts about our presidents. Like...did you know that our 30th President, Calvin Coolidge had a pet racoon named Rebecca that he would walk around on a leash? Or, that Dwight D. Eisenhower, our 34th President, liked golf so much that he had a putting green built on the White House lawn? But what is quite shocking is that our 18th President, Ulysses S. Grant, loved race horses that one day he was arrested for speeding around Washington, D.C., in a horse and buggy. Now that's funny! But my favorite fun fact is about Abraham Lincoln. Did you know when Abraham Lincoln was running for President, he received a letter from a little girl telling him that he would look better in a beard? Well, Abraham Lincoln did grow a beard. In fact, after his election on his way to the inauguration, he visited 11-year old Grace Bedell to say, "thank you!"

The President of the United States has an important job to do. One of the President's responsibilities is being in charge of the U.S. Armed Forces: The Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines.

Speaking of the U. S. Armed Forces, maybe you know the songs in the Armed Services Medley....let's listen and sing-along!

SONG: Armed Services Medley

Kim: Have you ever heard of Yankee Doodle Dandy? It was a song originally sung by the British. This was before the founding father's signed the declaration of independence in 1776. By 1781 the song was used by America and it became a song of national pride.

SONG: Yankee Doodle / Yankee Doodle Dandy

Kim: Do you watch sports like football, basketball or baseball? Before the games begin, someone comes out and sings the national anthem, the star spangled banner. Which was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key, but wasn't officially signed into law as the United States anthem until 1931. And do you know what the colors on the American flag represent? Red symbolizes valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence. And blue, which represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

SONG: The Star-Spangled Banner

SONG: You're A Grand Old Flag

Kim: So, as we celebrate Presidents' Day, let's remember the great leaders that have helped, and continue to help, keep America strong and free!

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