SO, YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT

So, you want to be president. IT’S A BIG JOB, so first you need to know what will be required of you.

The job of the president of the United States is actually seven jobs rolled into one! Every day the president does most or all of the following jobs:

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE** — makes sure the Federal Government runs according to the laws of the United States.
2. **PARTY LEADER** — boosts your political party’s ideas, whichever political party you are a member of (Democrat, Republican, or something else).
3. **MANAGER OF THE ECONOMY** — makes sure people have jobs and the United States stays prosperous.
4. **NATIONAL LEADER** — helps the nation take on challenges and inspire Americans to be the best they can be.
5. **CHIEF DIPLOMAT** — represents the people and ideas of the United States around the world.
6. **CEREMONIAL HEAD OF STATE** — celebrates with the country in good times; comfort and encourage the country in hard times.
7. **COMMANDER IN CHIEF** — leads the United States military in times of war and times of peace.

**SEE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE PRESIDENT FOR A DAY!**

**JOURNAL**

Which part of the job do you think would be the most fun?

Which part of the job do you think would be the hardest?

I could do that!

Who was president when your parents were born?

Who was president when you were born?

**DID YOU KNOW?**

YOU HAVE TO BE 18 YEARS OLD TO VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN WHAT YEAR WILL YOU BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME?
1 1803—The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.

2 1814—The Star-Spangled Banner flew at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

3 1846—The Smithsonian Institution was founded.

4 1865—The slaves were freed by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

5 1872—The United States’ first National Park, Yellowstone, was established.

6 1903—The Wright Brothers had their first successful flight.

7 1912—The Titanic sank.

8 1932—Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic.

9 1959—Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th states, respectively.

10 1969—The first humans walked on the moon. (Hint: The man who was president during this event had been sworn in as president in late-January of 1969.)

Using the presidential timeline on this page, find out who was in charge of the U.S. when these important events happened.

Try this at home!

POP QUIZ


For more activities like these, check out Awesome Adventures at the Smithsonian: The Official Kids Guide to the Smithsonian Institution at SmithsonianEducation.org/OfficialKidsGuide