



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 49

Today's lesson is about President's Day: America has had over 40 people serve as president since its founding! The President of the United States is the leader of our country and has many responsibilities. The President represents the U.S. internationally, is in charge of American troops, and has the power to make laws through special, executive orders. President's Day celebrates America's presidents and their contributions to our country. President's Day is celebrated the third Monday of February.

Sticky Situation: Presidents have many responsibilities, including addressing the nation during big events and holidays. Imagine that the United States' Olympic swimming team just won the gold medal and you are the president. You want to honor the team for doing so well, so you think it's best to write a speech to congratulate them. Write a speech telling the Olympic swimming team how proud you are of them. Deliver the speech to a friend. Was writing the speech difficult or easy? Did you like reading the speech out loud? Do you think addressing the country is an important part of the president's job?

Activity: Research an American president you want to learn more about and answer the following questions.

- During which years did this president serve?
- Was this president a one- or two-term president?
- What is this president most famous for?
- Who was this president's vice president?
- If you were able to vote when this president was running for office, would you have voted for them? Why or why not?

Bonus Activity: Click the following link to listen to *If I Ran for President* by Catherine Stier read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYtFJf19KMA>