

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #27 - President's Day



*Today's lesson is about PRESIDENT'S DAY. Since its founding, the United States has had over 40 people serve as president of our country. The President of the United States is the leader of our country and has many responsibilities. The President represents the United States internationally, is in charge of U.S. troops, and has the power to make laws through special, **Executive Orders**. President's Day is the chance for all citizens to celebrate the people who have served our country as president and the contributions they made. We celebrate this holiday every year on the third Monday in February.*

Sticky Situation: Presidents have many responsibilities, including addressing the nation during major events and holidays. Imagine that you are the President of the United States, and the U.S. Olympic swimming team has just won the gold medal. You want to honor the team for doing so well, so you decide to write a speech to congratulate them. Now, write that speech, and include comments telling the team how proud you are of them for representing our country so well. Then deliver the speech you wrote to your class, a friend, or your parents. Was writing this speech easy or difficult to put together? How did you like reading the speech out loud? Do you think that addressing the country is an important role of the president's job?

Activity: Do research on a U.S. president about whom you want to learn more. When your research is complete, answer the following questions:

1. When did this president serve in office? (What years?)
2. How many terms did this president serve?
3. What were this president's contributions to the United States?
4. Who served as the vice president during this president's term(s)?
5. If you were old enough to vote at the time this president served, would you cast your vote for them? Be prepared to explain your answer.

Bonus Activity: Read the book or watch the YouTube video of the read-aloud *If I Were President* by Catherine Stier (illustrated by Diane DiSalvo-Ryan), then check out our [Read Aloud Lesson](#) for the book