

Name _____

Family Times

Summary

So You Want to Be President?

President of the United States is a tough job that many people strive to get. This book tells you what it takes to be president, but also how our past presidents stayed true to themselves and their unique personalities while in office.

Activity

Presidential Decisions With your family, talk about the types of changes and decisions you would make if you were president of the United States. Explain why these changes are important to you and the country.



Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** of a passage makes a point about the passage's topic and has at least one supporting detail. **Details** are smaller pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Activity

Radio News Together with a family member, listen to a news report on the radio. Pay close attention to what is being discussed. On a piece of paper, write down what you think is the main idea of the report and two supporting details. Compare your notes. Did you agree?

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *So You Want to Be President?* Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

Constitution the written set of fundamental principles by which the United States is governed

howling very great

humble not proud; modest

politics the work of government; management of public business

responsibility the act or fact of taking care of someone or something; obligation

solemnly seriously; earnestly; with dignity

vain having too much pride in your looks, ability, etc.

Conventions

Plural Possessive Nouns

Plural possessive nouns show that something is owned by more than one person, place, or thing. Like singular possessive nouns, plural possessive nouns are created by adding an *-s* to the noun. However, if the noun already ends in *s*, add only an apostrophe to the end of the word. *For example: men's shoes, geese's feathers, books' covers, buildings' windows.*

Activity

Animal Parts Describe a recognizable feature of a certain type of animal. *For example: These are long, spotted, and stretch into the trees.*

Have a family member respond with the plural possessive name of the animal and the feature. *For example: giraffes' necks.*

Practice Tested Spelling Words

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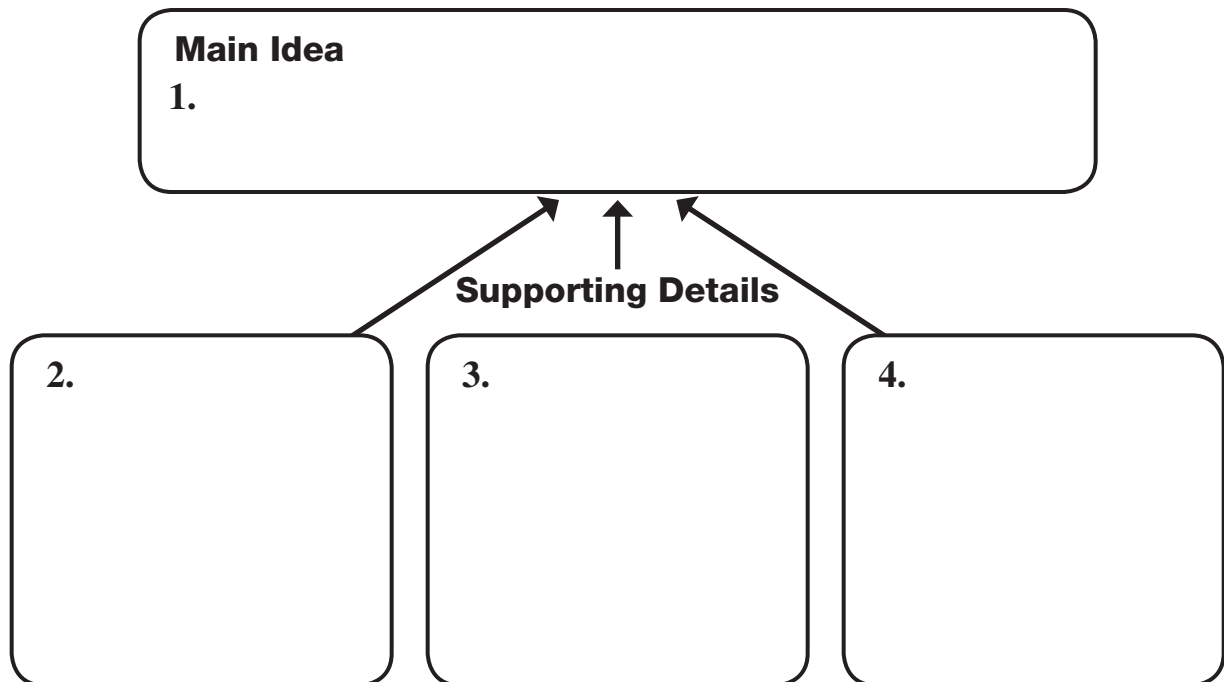
Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the following passage. Complete the diagram by stating the main idea and three supporting details. Then answer the question below the diagram.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>The President has a difficult job, but at least there are people to help the President along the way. These special people are called the Cabinet. The President gets to choose the members of the Cabinet, but the members of the United States Senate must approve them.</p> <p>Each member of the Cabinet represents</p> | <p>a department of the government. Some examples of these departments are Education, Homeland Security, and Transportation. The Cabinet meets with the President to talk about issues that affect their departments. In these meetings, the President gets good advice on what decisions to make.</p> |
|---|---|



5. What is a one-sentence summary of this passage?



Home Activity Your child used a graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of a passage. Work with your child to identify the main idea and supporting details for individual paragraphs in a magazine or newspaper article about government. Challenge him or her to summarize the entire article.

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Choose a word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line to the left.

- _____ 1. A ____ person might look in a mirror all the time.
- _____ 2. The President has much ____.
- _____ 3. He behaved ____ as he took the oath.
- _____ 4. The ____ is an important document.
- _____ 5. Many people voted, so the election was a ____ success.

Check the Words You Know

- ___ **Constitution**
- ___ **howling**
- ___ **humble**
- ___ **politics**
- ___ **responsibility**
- ___ **solemnly**
- ___ **vain**

Directions Choose the word from the box that best matches each numbered clue below. Write the letters of the word on the blanks. After you are finished, the boxed letters will spell a secret word.

- 6. seriously
- 7. government work
- 8. the act of taking care of someone
- 9. having too much pride
- 10. not proud

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Write a Speech

Pretend you have just been elected President of the United States. On a separate sheet of paper, write a short speech you would give to the public. In the course of explaining how you will approach your new job, use as many vocabulary words as you can.



Home Activity Your child identified and used vocabulary words from *So You Want to Be President?* Together, read an article about politics or government. Discuss the article, using as many vocabulary words from the selection as you can.

Name _____

Vocabulary • Unfamiliar Words

- **Dictionaries** and **glossaries** provide alphabetical lists of words and their meanings.
- Sometimes looking at the words around an unfamiliar word can't help you figure out the word's meaning. If this happens, use a dictionary or glossary to find the meaning.

Directions Read the following letter. Then answer the questions below. Use your glossary or a dictionary to help you with unfamiliar words.

Dear Mr. President,
I became interested in politics after studying the Constitution in school. I hope this doesn't sound vain, but I think I'm a pretty smart student, and I believe that my ideas are sound. I think that the government should take on the responsibility of making sure that every person in the country knows how

to read and write. Then everyone would be able to communicate better and solve problems easier. I solemnly believe this. Please look at the plan I've written on the following pages.

Sincerely,
Benita

1. Look up the word *Constitution* in your glossary. What part of speech is it?

2. What is the meaning of the word *communicate*?

3. Why does Benita want to avoid sounding *vain*?

4. The word *sound* can mean "vibrations that can be detected by hearing organs" or "sensible, reasonable." Which meaning is used in this letter? How do you know?



Home Activity Your child used a glossary to identify the definitions of unfamiliar words. Read a short story together. Create a glossary for the story by writing down all the unfamiliar words and using the definitions from a dictionary.

Name _____

Generalize

- A **generalization** is a broad statement or rule that applies to many examples.
- You can test generalizations with knowledge you already have to see if they make sense.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

There have been forty-two Presidents of the United States. Eight of these men were born in Virginia. Seven were born in Ohio. The states of Massachusetts and New York each can claim four presidents as native sons. Two Presidents were born in North Carolina, Vermont, and Texas. Thirteen other states have each produced one President.

Eighteen Presidents have been members of the Republican party. Fourteen others have been Democrats. Presidents have been members of four other parties, all of which have now disappeared. The Whig party and the Democratic-Republican party each claimed four Presidents. Two Presidents (in fact, the first two) were Federalists.

1. Write a valid generalization based on the information in the first paragraph.

2. Write a valid generalization based on the information in the second paragraph.

3. What examples support your second generalization?

4. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about why some states might have produced more Presidents than other states. Use at least one generalization.



Home Activity Your child made generalizations based on information in an article. Together, write a list of generalizations you could use to describe your family.

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Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The government of the United States has its share of responsibilities, but so do you. In order for the nation to do well, citizens have to do their part.

One responsibility of citizens is to take part in elections. Once you turn eighteen years old, you are given the right—and the responsibility—to vote. Citizens vote for

officials to be their representatives. In this way, each citizen has a say in governing the country.

Another responsibility of all citizens, no matter what age, is to obey laws. The nation’s laws are written to keep citizens safe and protected.

1. In three or four words, write what the passage is about.

2. What is the main idea of the passage?

3. What is one important detail that tells more about the main idea?

4. What is another detail that supports the main idea?

5. In one sentence, write a summary of this passage.

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Home Activity Your child identified the main idea and supporting details in a short nonfiction article and wrote a summary of it. Read a magazine or newspaper article about citizens’ involvement in government. Work together to write a short summary of the article.

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Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the passage and complete the diagram. State the main idea and three supporting details. Then answer the question below the diagram.

Rosalynn Carter, the wife of President Jimmy Carter, took her role as First Lady seriously. She did not let her time in the White House pass her by. Mrs. Carter attended official meetings and represented the United States on business trips. Mrs. Carter also supported programs to help

needy citizens. For example, she worked to improve the lives of elderly people and citizens with mental health problems. Another accomplishment of Mrs. Carter was pointing out the importance of the performing arts to our society.

Main Idea

1. Rosalynn Carter took

Supporting Details

2. She attended

3. She represented

4.

5. What is a one-sentence summary of this passage?



Home Activity Your child identified the main idea and supporting details in a nonfiction passage. Together, read an article about a famous person. Work with your child to identify the main idea and supporting details of the article. Then ask your child to summarize the article.

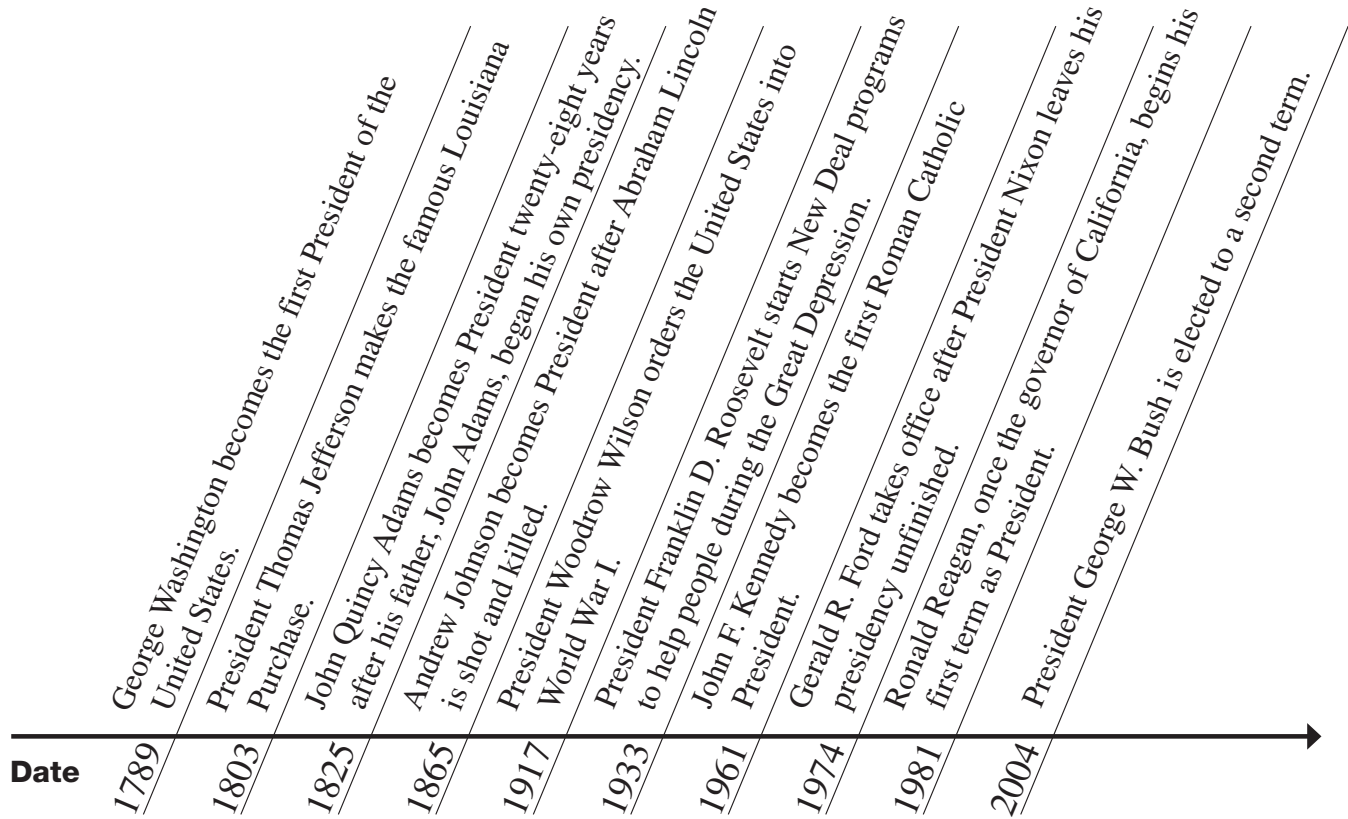
Name _____

Time Line

A **time line** is a chart that shows a sequence of events. A time line uses a bar divided into periods of time to show the order of events.

Directions Study the time line below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Presidential Time Line



1. What information does this time line provide?

2. How are the dates organized on this time line?

3. According to the time line, what event happened most recently?

Name _____

4. When did President Jefferson make the Louisiana Purchase?

5. What happened in 1974 before Gerald R. Ford became President?

6. What happened for the first time in 1961?

7. How many years passed between the start of George Washington's presidency and President Wilson's decision to enter World War I?

8. Why did Andrew Johnson become President?

9. In what year did John Quincy Adams's father become President? How do you know?

10. How might you use this time line as you do research for a report on American Presidents?



Home Activity Your child learned about time lines and used a time line to answer questions. Together, read an encyclopedia entry about an American President. Write key facts about the President's life and career in a time line. Encourage your child to illustrate the time line with pictures, where appropriate.