

A FREE ELEMENTARY RESOURCE PACK FROM EDMENTUM

Presidents' Day

PreK-6th

Grade Range

What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teacher, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help you and your students celebrate and honor the first President of the United States, George Washington, and many other presidents too!

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

LESSON PLANS:	
Grades 3-5	Pre-K – Grade 2
Students are to research presidential monuments and propose a new monument to be built for a president of their choice.	Create a class book with facts about US presidents.

REFERENCE SHEET:
Grades 3-5

FACT SHEETS:	
Grades 3-5	Pre-K – Grade 2
Explore the background behind Presidents' Day and how it became an event celebrated by many.	Discover the history of George Washington and why Presidents' Day became a holiday celebrated in the US.

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:	
Grades 3-5	Pre-K – Grade 2
Discuss why we celebrate Presidents' Day with a holiday.	Discuss who your students' favorite US president is and why.

Enjoyed these resources?

Learn more about how Edmentum can support your elementary students!

Email us at www.edmentum.com
or call us on 800.447.5286



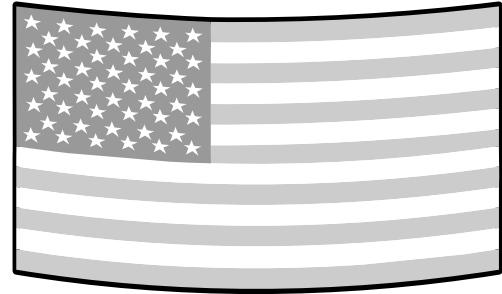


Overview

In this 90-minute task, students will review various existing presidential monuments. They will then choose a president and propose a new monument to be built in that president's honor. The students will research their chosen president, sketch out a monument, choose the materials from which the monument will be built, and determine the proposed monument's location. You may wish to split this activity into multiple class sessions or assign some parts for homework.

Materials

- Resource Sheet depicting presidential monuments
- blackboard or whiteboard
- white copy paper
- colored pencils, crayons, or fine-tip markers
- Internet or library access



Lesson Preparation (30 minutes)

Copy enough Resource Sheets for each student in the class and gather the other required materials. Make some brief notes for your reference about each of the monuments depicted on the Resource Sheet so you can share the information with students. You may want to note whom each monument honors, where each monument is located, when it was built, and the materials used for construction.

Lesson (60 minutes)

Introduction

Tell students that one way that citizens and communities remember presidents is through constructing memorials.

Procedure

Part I

Distribute the Resource Sheet and briefly discuss each monument, using the notes you made during lesson preparation. Discuss with students which monuments are their favorites and why.

Part II

Ask students to name some presidents that they feel should have monuments constructed in their honor. Write the list of names on the board. Tell the students that each of them will make a drawing of a monument to be constructed to honor one of the presidents listed on the board. The students will be responsible for the design of the monument, including

the materials from which it will be constructed. They will also determine a location for the monument to be erected.

Part III

Allow the students time to research their president on the Internet or by using resources available in the school library. Suggest to students that they should research their chosen president's birthplace and where they spent significant amounts of time. This may give them a clue as to where to locate their monument.

Part IV

Bring the class back together and distribute the copy paper and drawing utensils. Allow students sufficient time to sketch their proposed monument. On the back of the paper on which they sketched their designs, have students note who the monument was designed for, the materials that will be used to build the monument, and where it will be located.

Optional Follow Up

Have each student present their sketch to the class and discuss which president they chose to honor with a monument and why. Each student should also describe the materials they chose for the monument's construction and why. Finally, they should tell the class where the monument will be located and why.



Overview

In this 75-minute task, students will research and write facts about US presidents to create a class book. You may wish to split this task into two class sessions.

Materials

- printed pictures of a variety of presidents, either from the Internet or from picture books, enough so each student will receive one picture
- construction paper, one sheet for each student, preferably a mix of red, white, and blue
- safety scissors
- glue
- markers or pencils
- Internet access for students; alternatively, research and write a sentence or two about each of the presidents whose portraits you selected
- three-hole punch
- yarn

Lesson Preparation (30 minutes)

Prepare the portrait printouts to distribute to students. If Internet or library access will not be available to students, research and write a few sentences about the presidents whose portraits you selected. Gather the remaining materials.

Lesson (45 minutes)**Introduction**

Tell students that the President of the United States is among the most powerful leaders in the world. As of 2015, 44 men have served in the office.

Procedure**Part I**

Tell students that in observance of Presidents' Day, they will be creating a class book about some of the US presidents. Distribute the construction paper, glue, and markers or pencils to each student. Then stack the presidential portraits and circulate around the room to allow each student to choose a portrait at random.

Part II

Allow students time to cut the portraits and paste them on their construction paper. Tell students to be certain to leave enough room at the bottom of the page to write a sentence or two about their chosen president.



Part III

If the resources are available, allow students to use the Internet or library to research a few facts about their president. Suggest to the students that they include the full name of the president, when he served in office, and at least one notable fact about the president's accomplishments while in office. Students may either print out their findings or handwrite them on their construction paper pages. Alternatively, you may provide the facts that you researched and have the students copy the facts onto their portrait sheets.

Part IV

Once all of the portrait pages are complete, have students arrange the portraits in order according to when each president served in office. Assemble the pages by using a three-hole punch and yarn to secure the pages.

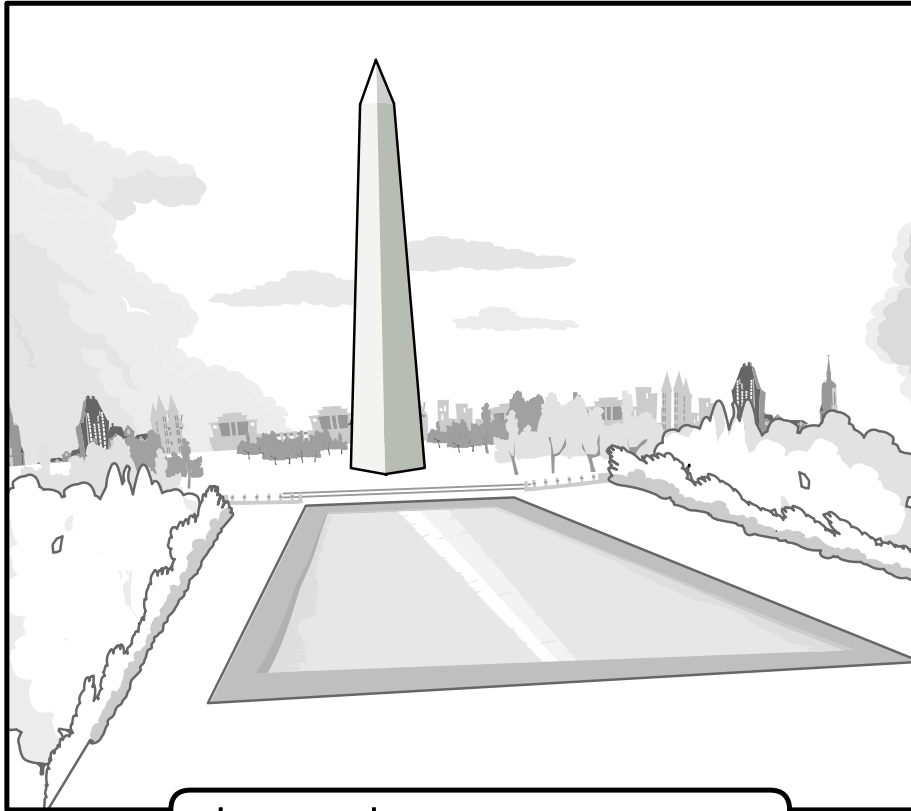
Part V

Have a class reading of the book. Allow students to come to the front of the class and read the page in the book they were responsible for creating.

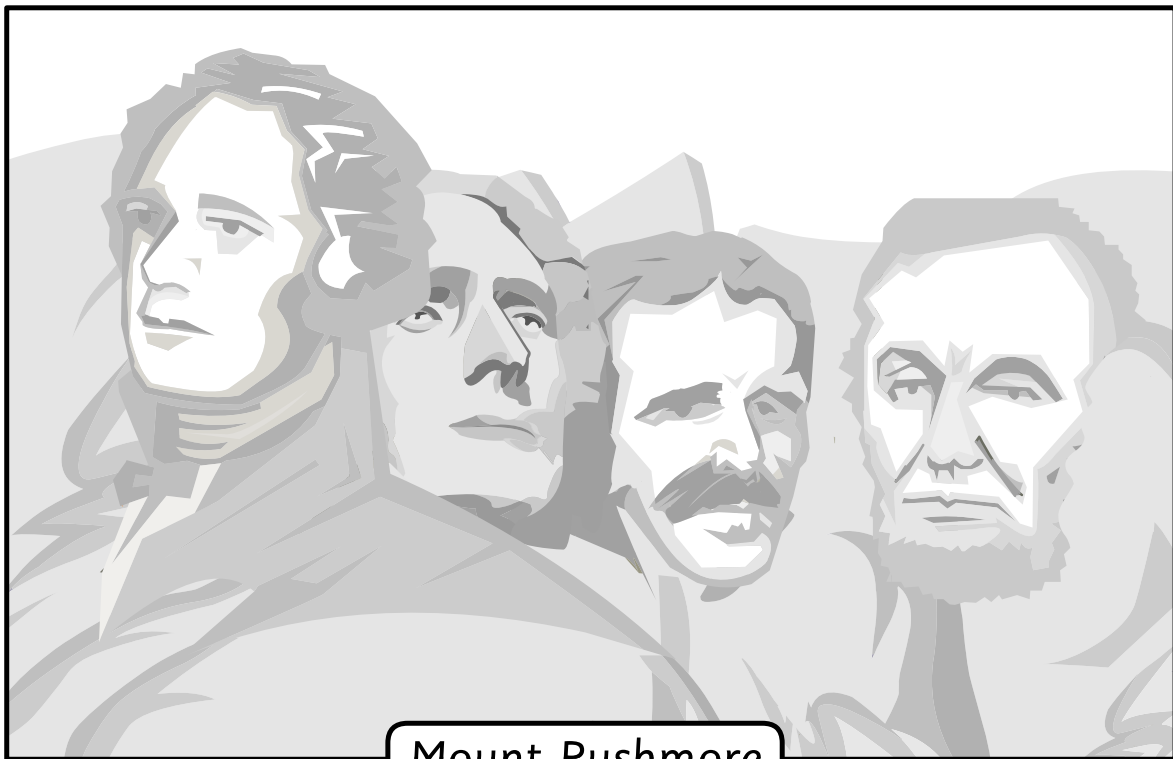
Optional Follow Up

Allow students to work in groups to create front and back covers for the book. After all the covers are complete, let the class vote on which covers they would like to add to the book.

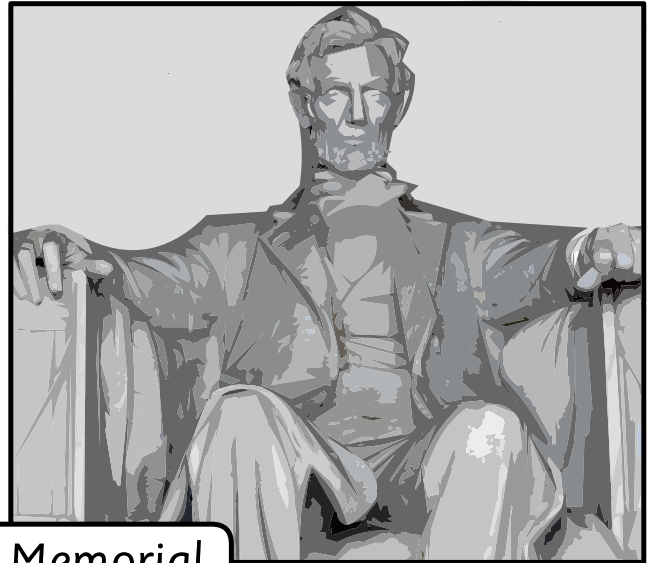
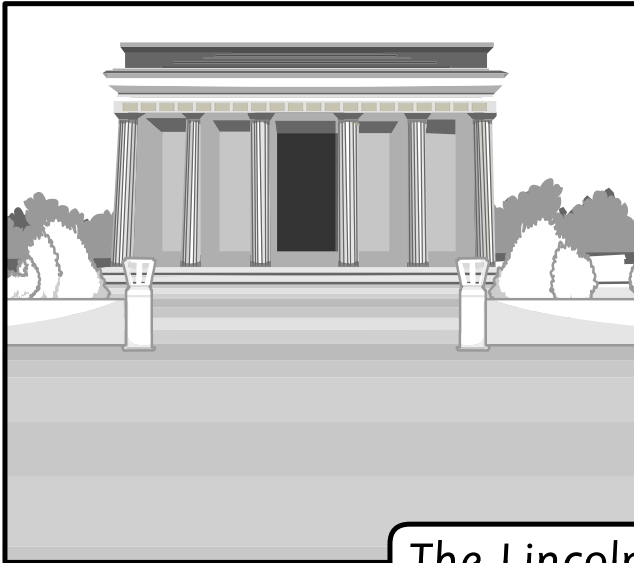




The Washington Monument



Mount Rushmore



The Lincoln Memorial



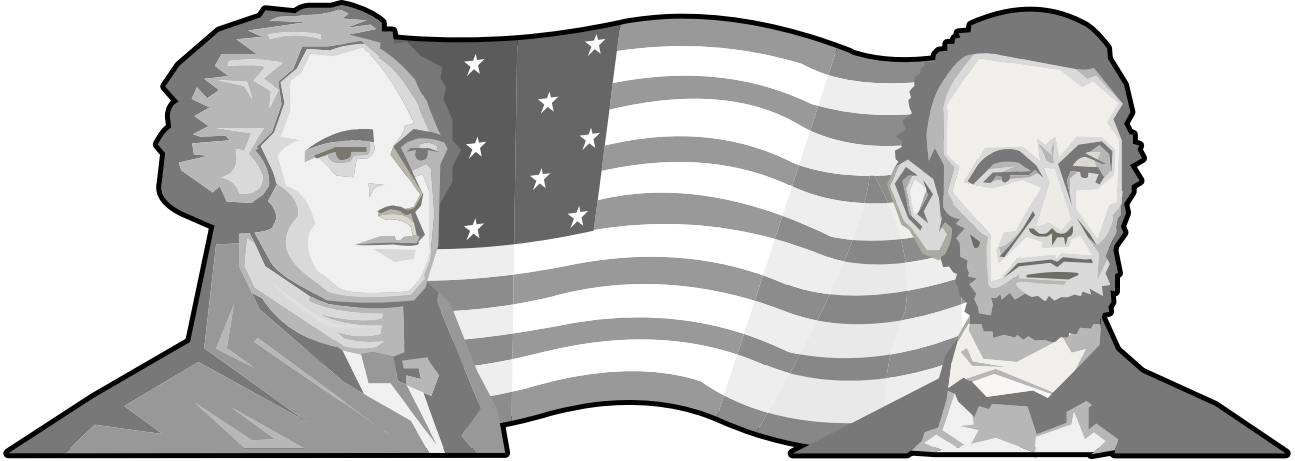
The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial



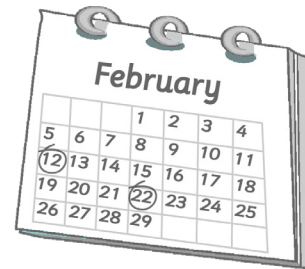
The Jefferson Memorial

Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day has an interesting history. Did you know that the US government recognizes George Washington's birthday but not Presidents' Day? How did it come to be a holiday celebrated by so many?



- George Washington was born on February 22nd, 1732. After his death in 1799, many people celebrated his achievements on his birthday. In 1885, Washington's birthday became a national holiday.
- In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect in the United States. The act moved several federal holidays from fixed dates to specific Mondays. This gave American workers more three-day weekends. The act declared that Washington's Birthday would be observed as a holiday on the third Monday in February.
- Because the new holiday fell on a date between Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12th and Washington's birthday on February 22nd, some people thought that the holiday was meant to celebrate both men. This is when it became popular to use the label "Presidents' Day."
- Although the federal government still calls the February 22nd holiday "Washington's Birthday," many states have officially adopted the name "Presidents' Day."
- There is disagreement over the spelling of the holiday. In some states it is known as "Presidents' Day," while in others it is labeled "Presidents Day" or "President's Day."
- Presidents' Day is a time for patriotic celebration, much like Independence Day. Communities often have celebrations to honor Washington, Lincoln, and other presidents. These celebrations sometimes include reenactments of historical events.
- Because of the three-day weekend, many US businesses have sales on Presidents' Day hoping to bring in shoppers for items like cars, furniture, and clothing.

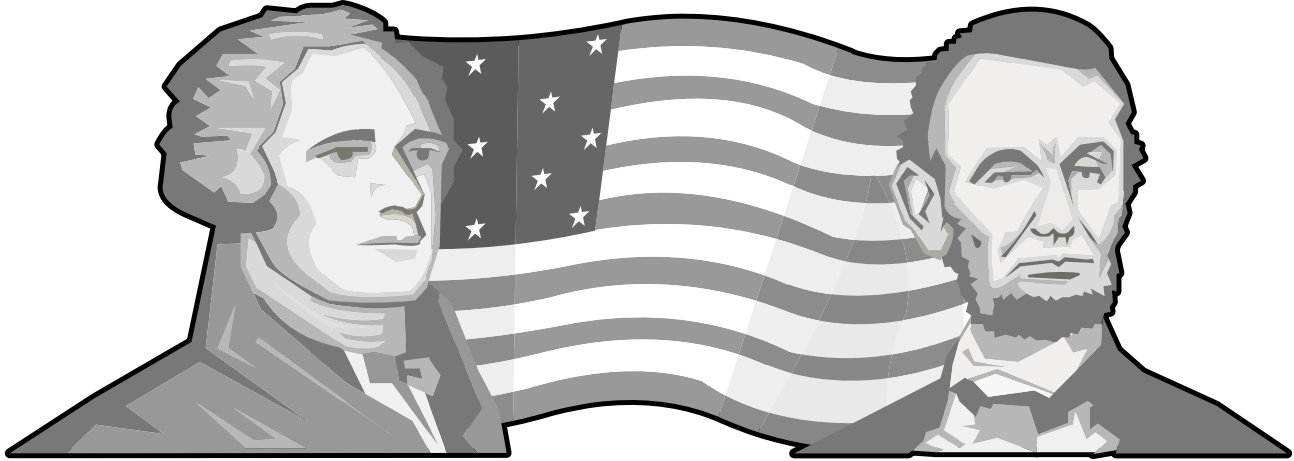


☆ Happy Presidents' Day ☆



Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day has an interesting history. Did you know that the US government recognizes George Washington's birthday but not Presidents' Day? How did it come to be a holiday celebrated by so many?



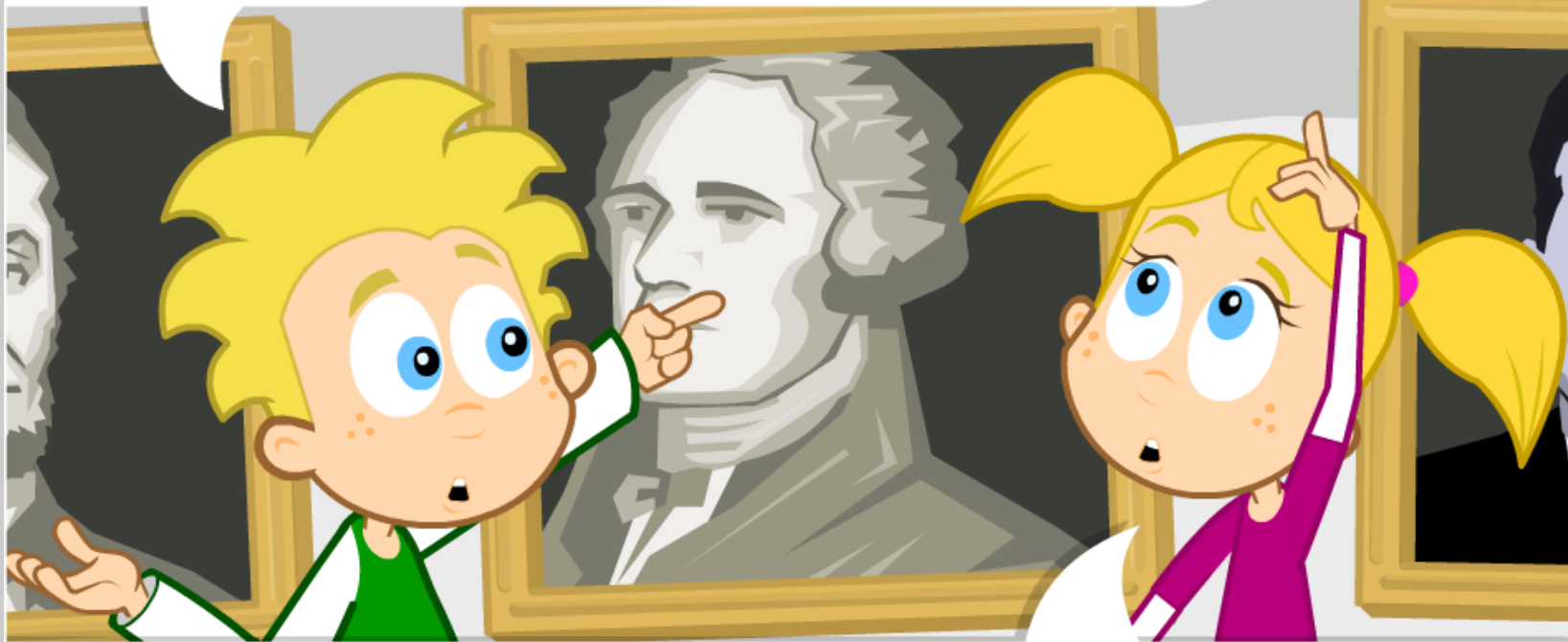
- George Washington was the first President of the United States.
- He was born on February 22nd, 1732. He died in 1799.
- Because he did so many important things for our country, people celebrated his achievements on his birthday. In 1885, Washington's birthday became an official national holiday.
- In 1971, the US government decided to move the celebration of George Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February.
- Abraham Lincoln, another of America's most important presidents, was born on February 12th, 1809. He died in April, 1865.
- The new Monday holiday for Washington's birthday was very close to the date of Lincoln's birthday. Because of this, many people began calling the Washington's Birthday holiday Presidents' Day. They felt that the new date meant that both men should be celebrated.
- Today, although the federal government still calls the February 22nd holiday "Washington's Birthday," many states have officially adopted the name "Presidents' Day."
- Some states celebrate just George Washington on Presidents' Day. Others add in Abraham Lincoln. Massachusetts celebrates other presidents who have roots in Massachusetts, like John F. Kennedy and John Adams.

★ **Happy Presidents' Day** ★



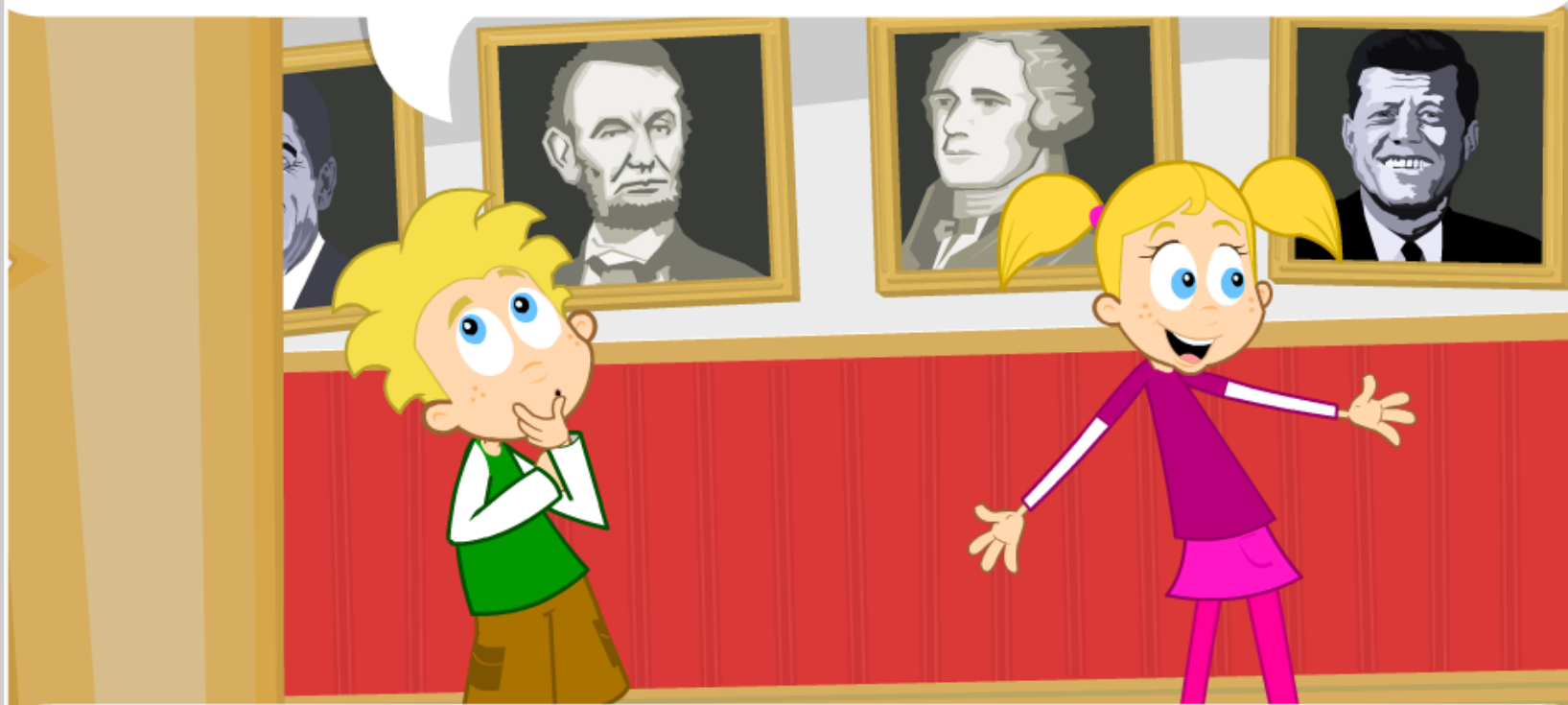
Critical Thinking Question

I think it's great that we have a **federal holiday** for George Washington's birthday. He is the father of our country, after all.



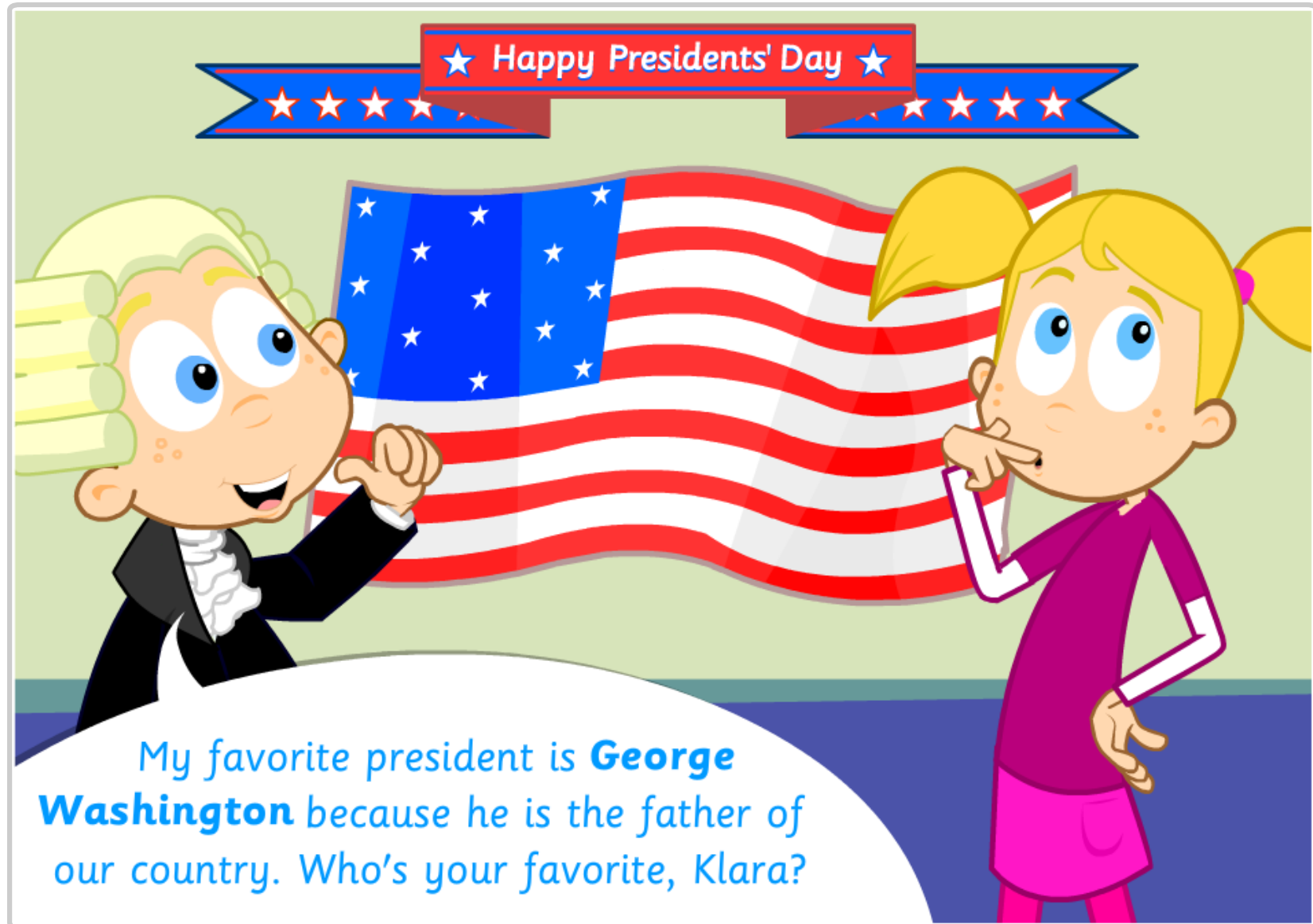
You're right, Sten. But what about the **other presidents**?
Should we recognize them with a holiday, too?

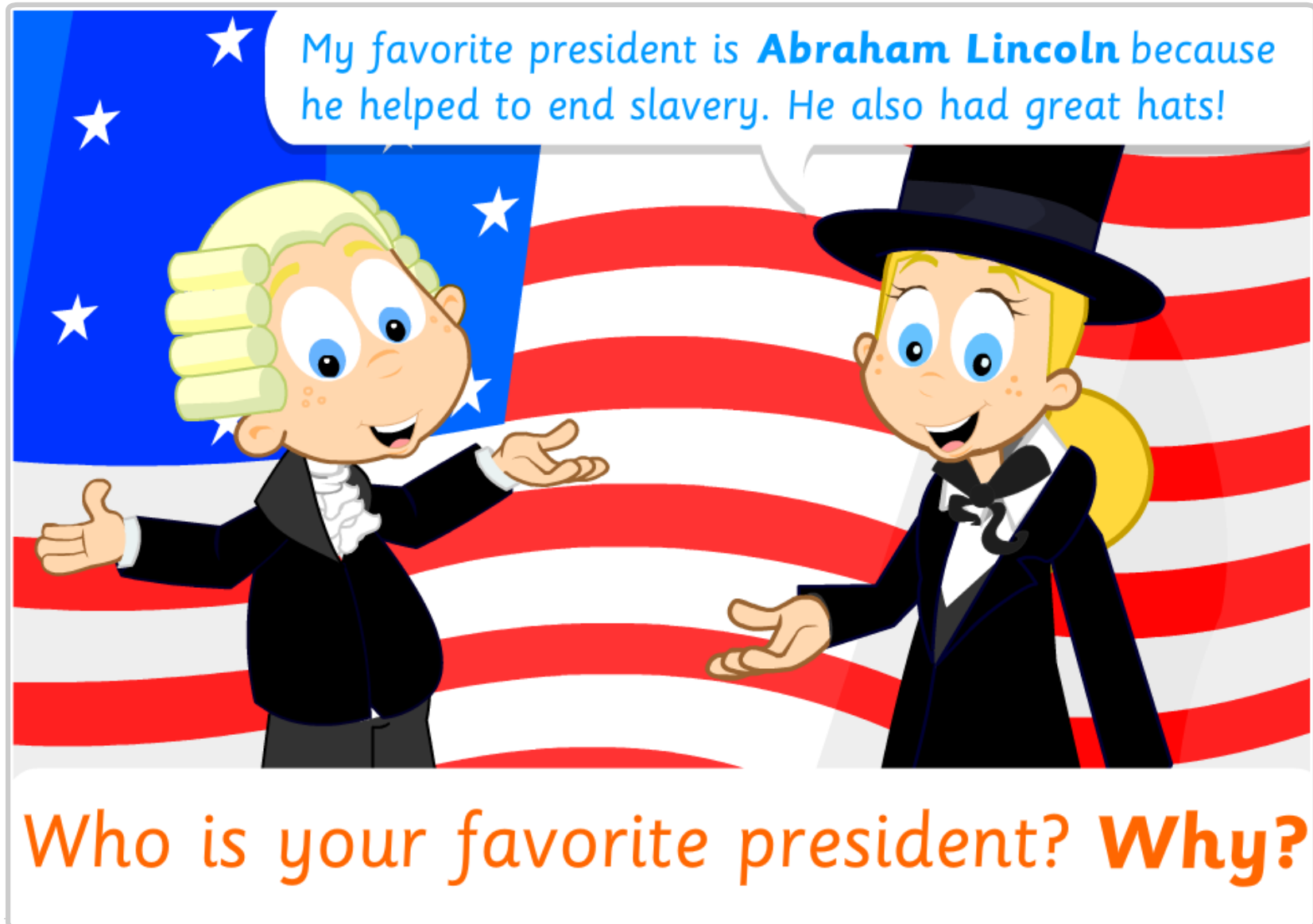
I think we should! We've had **many** presidents who did great things for our country. We should celebrate all of them on the same day. **What do you think?**



Should the federal government officially change the Washington's Birthday holiday to Presidents' Day?

Critical Thinking Question







EDUCATOR FIRST

Moving education forward

Contact us today for more information.
www.edmentum.com - 800.447.5286

edmentum

edmentum.com
800.447.5286
info@edmentum.com
AC008-141 120120

5600 W 83rd Street
Suite 300, 8200 Tower
Bloomington, MN 55437
©2020 EDMENTUM, INC.