

### Presidential Flash Cards

Starting in early October, students will begin creating a set of “Presidential Flash Cards” using **5x8 index cards** for each president, beginning with George Washington and ending with George H. W. Bush. You should create a least on card for each president with the following basic information (**must be hand written**): the president’s name, political party affiliation, the year(s) elected and served, and vice president(s). In addition, you should include some background information, such as college education, previous political offices, unique experiences and characteristics (think “Facebook”). You also should include information from presidential campaign(s), such as major issues, slogans, opponents and results. Additional cards should be created for information related to domestic and foreign policy issues, events, etc. The number of cards you use will depend on the president; some may only need one or two cards (William Henry Harrison, James Garfield) while others may require more than two cards (Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson, FDR).

If done thoroughly and accurately, these cards can be a valuable study resource for chapter quizzes, unit exams, the AP exam and your final exam. Not only will they help you learn about the presidents but also the issues and events that occurred during the time period each one served. As we prepare for a unit test (usually three or four chapters encompassing three to six presidents, the cards will be collected the day of the test, graded and returned the next class. We also will give quizzes on the presidents, and related events, periodically during that year.

Students should keep the cards in a three-ring binder used for the class; the following information will be added during the year as we study each presidential era (the first two will be in Chapter 6)

- ◆ Election(s): opponent(s); campaign issues; campaign slogans; state represented
- ◆ Key advisors (particularly cabinet members)
- ◆ Major issues & events (broken down by domestic or foreign policy)
- ◆ Major accomplishments and failures
- ◆ Presidential “firsts”
- ◆ Background: education; profession; previous political office

You may use any scholarly history book you have at home or the following internet sites for your information:

<http://www.americanpresidents.org/>.

<http://www.history.com/encyclopedia.do?articleId=227265>

<http://www.millercenter.virginia.edu/index.php/academic/americanpresident/>

While you may use the above sites you may NOT cut and paste from. Remember, each card is to be handwritten. Studies show that the process of seeing, reading and writing information (“active learning”) increases the amount of information a student retains).

Not all presidents will have the same amount of information due to length of service, health, national and international events, and personalities. For example, FDR was elected four times and served for a little over 12 years before dying in office. His presidency spanned over half of the Great Depression and most of the Second World War. On the other hand, William

Henry Harrison was elected once and died about 30 days into his first and only term. Both FDR and Harrison are exceptions (although James Garfield only served about six months before dying from an assassin's bullet) but for presidents who served two terms and/or who had a significant number of key events occur during his presidency one card (two if necessary) should be used. In addition to the information you put on the card from your research, you will need to leave room for additional information from lectures and/or videos. For presidents who served only one term and/or had fewer significant events occur during their presidencies, you may use one side of the card for one president and the other side for the next one.

Once the school year has started, you should use your textbook – *American History – A Survey* – and your AMSCO for your research. You also may use any other textbooks in the classroom. In terms of internet sources, the best recommended sites are: