

Name _____

Date _____

George Herbert Walker Bush

George H.W. Bush was born in Massachusetts on June 12, 1924. His family however moved to Greenwich, Connecticut soon after his birth. George was able to attend elite schools. He entered the prestigious Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts where he distinguished himself in scholarship and academics.

George was accepted at Yale University but he chose to join the U.S. Navy so that he could train to become a pilot. Commissioned as an Ensign a few days before his nineteenth birthday, the future 41st President of the United States was the youngest pilot in the Navy and was assigned to a torpedo dive bomber group.

During World War II Bush's bomber group was active in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. Having been promoted to Lt. J.G. the youthful Bush and his crew flew more missions, one of which encountered such intense anti-aircraft fire that his plane caught fire. In spite of the danger Bush completed a successful bombing of their target. However, in the process of returning from the attack, Lt. J.G. Bush had to bail out of his plane. He was the only survivor of his plane's crew. George was finally picked up by a rescue submarine where he assisted in the recovery of other downed pilots over the next month. Since his squadron suffered the loss of half of its pilots, the squadron was sent back to the U.S. Mainland.

The young Bush was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, and a Unit Citation. Due to his extensive combat experience he was assigned to a training school for bomber pilots and then reassigned as a pilot to a new torpedo bomber squadron. But his service in this unit was quite short due to Japan's final surrender.

Discharged from the Navy in 1945, Bush finally was able to enter Yale where he again showed both his athletic prowess and educational achievements, ultimately receiving scholastic recognition as a Phi Beta Kappa.

When George was reassigned to the States in 1944 he married Barbara Pierce. After graduating from Yale, George and Barbara moved to Texas so he could work in the oil industry. By 1953 Bush formed an oil company with the Liedtke brothers which ultimately was quite successful.

By 1964 George Bush became involved in the political scene first as the Republican nominee for Senator of Texas. Although he lost the election he ran again for the position of U.S. Congressional Representative in 1966 and won handily against the incumbent. Although new to the U.S. Congress Bush was appointed to the very influential House Ways and Means Committee.

Influenced to again run for the Senate by President Nixon, George set out again to win the highly contested seat. Again he was defeated this time by Lloyd Bentsen.

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George Herbert Walker Bush (Cont'd)

After this defeat Nixon appointed George Bush as the Ambassador to the United Nations. Two years later Bush became the Chairman of the Republican National Committee. These times were very difficult as the Watergate incident occurred and George was loyal to President Nixon and the Republican National Committee. When Nixon resigned and Gerald Ford became President, Ford appointed Bush as the Chief of U.S. Liaison Office to the People's Republic of China. In 1976 President Ford brought Bush back to Washington to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. His appointment finally approved, Bush has historically been credited with restoring the morale and integrity of the CIA.

In 1980 George Herbert Walker Bush launched his campaign for the Presidential nomination of the Republican Party. However, California Governor and actor Ronald Reagan ultimately became the Republican candidate. At this point Reagan asked Bush to be his running mate. This team won the 1980 Presidential Election and was re-elected in 1984. In 1988 then Vice President Bush was elected as the forty-first President of the United States easily defeating Michael Dukakis.

President Bush is most greatly remembered for his handling of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He organized major world leaders in the United Nations to form a formidable coalition. Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. By 1991 the coalition that had created Operation Desert Shield which evolved into Operation Desert Storm on January 17th 1991 when Saddam Hussein refused to leave Kuwait. By the end of February, 1991 the combat was over and President Bush ordered a cease fire. However he left Hussein in power in Iraq.

With the breakdown of the Russian block, President Bush and Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev brought forth the end of the Cold War and the formation of a Strategic Partnership. NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, although not passed during Bush's administration made great progress. However, George Bush could not put together a winning campaign in 1992 against William Jefferson Clinton because Bush was seen as not having a real understanding of the very serious state of the economy.

After losing the 1992 election George and Barbara Bush retired to their home outside of Houston, Texas and during the summer time enjoy the serenity of their property in Maine. The former President has been knighted by the Queen of England and had the last of the Nimitz Class super carriers named after him. He was also presented with the Ronald Reagan "Freedom Award" in February of 2007.

George and Barbara Bush's son, George Walker Bush, became the forty-third President of the United States in 2001.

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George Herbert Walker Bush Questions

1. George Bush was a distinguished pilot in the U.S.
 - a. Air Force
 - b. Marines
 - c. Navy

2. During World War II, in his area of the military George Bush was
 - a. The youngest pilot
 - b. The oldest pilot
 - c. Neither the youngest nor the oldest pilot

3. After World War II, George Bush
 - a. Attended Phillips Academy
 - b. Attended Yale University
 - c. Attended Phi Beta Kappa

4. George Bush formed a company in what industry?
 - a. Automotive
 - b. Steel
 - c. Oil

5. When George Bush entered politics his first position was
 - a. U.S. Representative
 - b. U. S. Senator
 - c. Governor

6. Richard Nixon appointed George Bush as Ambassador to
 - a. China
 - b. The United Nations
 - c. Both a. and b. above

7. George Bush served as Vice President under
 - a. Richard Nixon
 - b. Gerald Ford
 - c. Ronald Reagan

8. George Bush was responsible for defending Kuwait with
 - a. Operation Desert Shield
 - b. Operation Desert Storm
 - c. Both a. and b. above

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George Herbert Walker Bush Answers

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. a.
3. b.
4. c.
5. a.
6. b.
7. c.
8. c.