

Name _____

Date _____

President George Walker Bush

Born on the 6th of July in 1946 in New Haven, Connecticut, George W. was the first child of George H.W. Bush and Barbara Pierce Bush. George Bush spent his childhood in Midland and Houston, Texas. George Bush was accepted by the prestigious Kincaid School. Upon completing his studies there George Bush attended the Phillips Academy in Massachusetts prior to attending Yale. He was active in sports, especially playing baseball.

George Bush completed his college studies at Yale University in 1968. He then joined the Texas Air National Guard Reserve and was a pilot of F-102 aircraft. George Bush went to Harvard University and received a Master's degree in Business Administration in 1975. He returned to Texas and worked in the oil industry. In 1977 he met and married his wife, Laura.

In 1978 George Bush tried unsuccessfully to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas and he returned to work in the oil industry. In 1988 George Bush moved his family to Washington D.C. so that he could help his father, George H.W. Bush, run for the presidency. With the election of his father as President, George W. moved back to Texas to be an active partner in his baseball franchise, the Texas Rangers.

George Bush ran for governor of Texas in 1994 and he beat the sitting Governor, Ann Richards. With his election Governor Bush worked to get funding for many social programs that he wanted to see become successful. Among these were programs to help with domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and recognizing a citizen's legal right to carry a firearm concealed for self protection. Thus he fulfilled many of the promises he had made during the election campaign. In 1998 George Bush was re-elected as Governor by an even greater margin than in 1994. He was the first governor of Texas to be elected to consecutive terms.

George Bush was the nominee of the Republican Party in the 2000 Presidential election. He was running against Democratic Vice President, Al Gore. This was one of the closest presidential elections in history. The election finally was decided by the vote in Florida. Winning Florida would give either George Bush or Al Gore enough electoral votes to become president. After many checks and re-checks of the votes, George Bush was declared the winner in Florida and became president.

However, his victory was greatly overshadowed by the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks. His strong will, immediate leadership in the world against the terrorist forces gave him a very high approval rating both at home and abroad. While the global hunt to find the terrorists responsible for 9/11 was going on, President Bush launched a major military effort against Iraq and a much smaller effort was initiated in Afghanistan.

President George Walker Bush (Cont'd)

Saddam Hussein was the leader of Iraq and a dictator. The war in Iraq was defined as a war against Saddam Hussein's "Weapons of Mass Destruction" (WMD). The U.S. along with European allies, predominantly England, conquered the Iraq military forces and then began the long effort to install a democratic government in Iraq.

Slowly however, George Bush's standing with other world leaders began to decline especially after no specific WMD's were found during inspections by United Nations (UN) officials. But many people believed that all of these weapons were just moved across the border so that they would not be found in Iraq. So even though the UN and much of the free world were completely against the dictator Saddam Hussein, the long and difficult change of Iraq to a democracy caused many to go against the President. His ratings in the United States fell from some of the highest recorded approval ratings to some of the lowest.

At home the President worked hard to implement programs to improve education so that American students would be more able to compete in the global marketplace. He worked on the Medicare Act of 2003 which would help senior citizens to pay for prescription drugs. In the same year the President struggled to get legislation passed that would more tightly control the operations of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the two institutions that controlled many home loan programs for ordinary citizens. This however was stalled in the Senate and never passed.

In 2006 there was no presidential election by there were elections for new members of the U.S. Congress. These are called interim elections. By the time the 2006 interim elections were over, the Democrats had taken control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks the President Bush wanted federal agencies to have more ways to get information about American citizens who might be helping terrorists. President Bush also wanted more information about people who might be terrorists. So he worked to pass legislation that allowed federal agencies more ways to get information about people. Some the ways to get information, like recording telephone conversations, used to need approval from a judge. But with the new laws federal officials could get wire taps for recording phone calls and other information without asking a judge. Many Americans do not agree with these new laws.

The disaster in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina struck another blow against President Bush's standing with the American people. Many people felt that the government was incompetent in handling the crisis and that no one knew how to deal with the massive amount of destruction in the Gulf Coast region.

President Bush was the forty-third President of the United States. Since he served two terms as president, he cannot run for president again. His plans are to return to Texas.

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President George Walker Bush Questions

1. George Bush served in the military reserves as a
 - a. Pilot
 - b. Soldier
 - c. Sailor

2. In college George Bush studied
 - a. Aviation
 - b. History
 - c. International Relations

3. How did George Bush serve the State of Texas?
 - a. As U.S. Representative
 - b. As U.S. Senator
 - c. As Governor

4. The presidential election of 2000 was decided by the electoral votes of
 - a. California
 - b. Texas
 - c. Florida

5. Weapons of mass destruction were the reason for invading
 - a. Afghanistan
 - b. Iraq
 - c. Iran

6. George Bush lost popularity with the American people because of
 - a. The way Hurricane Katrina was handled
 - b. The Medicare Act of 2003
 - c. The war in Afghanistan

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President George Walker Bush Answers

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