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President William Jefferson Clinton

William Jefferson Clinton, the forty-second president, was born on August 19, 1946 in Hope, Arkansas. He is usually called Bill Clinton by the news media. Bill Clinton served two terms as president from 1993 until 2001.

Bill Clinton never knew his father, William Blythe. William Blythe died in a car accident three months before Bill was born. His mother went to work after he was born and he was raised by his grandparents until he was four years old. At this time his mother married Roger Clinton and Bill became part of a new family. Roger Clinton officially adopted Bill and William (Bill) Blythe changed his name to William (Bill) Clinton.

Bill Clinton was a good student in high school and he also played the saxophone very well. Born in 1946, Bill Clinton is part of the Baby Boomer generation. During the early 1960s, John Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King were both involved in the Civil Rights Movement which influenced many Baby Boomer teen-agers, including Bill Clinton. Bill Clinton actually met President Kennedy in the Rose Garden of the White House in his senior year of high school because Clinton was a Boys Nation delegate. After this meeting, Bill Clinton decided that someday he would be president.

After high school Bill studied International Affairs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. After graduating in 1968, he studied at Oxford University in England where he had a Rhodes Scholarship. Getting a Rhodes Scholarship is a great achievement. After studying in England, Bill Clinton received a law degree from Yale Law School in 1973.

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President William Jefferson Clinton (Cont'd)

Bill Clinton returned to Arkansas and in 1974 he was teaching law at the University of Arkansas. He also ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 but was defeated. He married Hillary Rodham in 1975. He was elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1976 but no one was running against him. In 1978 he was elected the governor of Arkansas when he was just 32 years of age. But when he ran for re-election in 1980, he was defeated. He tried again in 1982 and was once again elected governor of Arkansas.

In 1991 Bill Clinton decided to run for president. He ran against George H. W. Bush who had been Vice President under Ronald Reagan for eight years and had been elected as President in 1988. Bill Clinton won the election and kept George H. W. Bush from serving a second term. Bill Clinton was a popular president and he was re-elected to a second term as president in 1996.

Part of why Bill Clinton was such a popular president is that the economy was doing well during his time in office. President Clinton wanted to have a national healthcare system but he could not get this idea approved by the Congress. But during his term in office the Family and Medical Leave Act was passed which let employees have time off from work for illness and pregnancy.

Meanwhile Bill Clinton's personal behavior with women started to get him in trouble. In 1994, he said on a radio broadcast, "I don't suppose that there's any public figure that's ever been subject to any more violent personal attacks than I have." His problems were only just beginning.

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In 1998, Paula Jones, who was an Arkansas state employee when Bill Clinton was governor, filed a lawsuit against Bill Clinton. During the investigation of Paula Jones' lawsuit Bill Clinton was accused of lying to a federal grand jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky who was an intern at the White House. Lying in court is known as the serious crime of perjury.

Because of they believed that President Clinton committed perjury, the U.S. House of Representatives decided to impeach President Clinton on December 19, 1998. Impeaching an elected government official is the first step to removing the person from office. Impeachment lists the charges against the official and the next step is a vote that decides whether or not the person is guilty. If the vote is guilty, the person is removed from office. On February 12, 1999 the Senate decided that Bill Clinton was not guilty of perjury and he stayed in office for the rest of his term.

Since leaving office, Bill Clinton has given many speeches and oversees the William J. Clinton Foundation devoted to international health and economic issues.

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President William Jefferson Clinton Questions

1. What was Bill Clinton's relationship to his father?
 - a. They got along well.
 - b. They did not get along well.
 - c. Bill Clinton never knew his father.

2. Bill Clinton is well known for playing what musical instrument?
 - a. Clarinet
 - b. Saxophone
 - c. Drums

3. What subject did Bill Clinton study at Yale University?
 - a. Law
 - b. Politics
 - c. International History

4. Besides being President, what other office did he hold?
 - a. Governor of Arkansas
 - b. U.S. Senator from Arkansas
 - c. U.S. Congressman from Arkansas

5. Bill Clinton was a popular president but he could not get the following legislation passed
 - a. Family and Medical Leave Act
 - b. Economic Reform
 - c. National Healthcare Program

6. Lying in court after swearing to tell the truth is called
 - a. Perjury
 - b. Impeachment
 - c. Lawsuit

7. After leaving office Bill Clinton became head of the
 - a. Bill Clinton Healthcare Program
 - b. William J. Clinton Foundation
 - c. Rhodes Scholarship Committee

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President William Jefferson Clinton Answers

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