

JAMES MADISON Reading Comprehension

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751, in King George County, Virginia. He graduated in 1771 from Princeton University at the age of 20. He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1776. In 1780, Madison served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Madison served as the chief recorder at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He is generally regarded as the "Father of the Constitution." Later in 1787, Madison teamed with Alexander Hamilton (and to a small extent, John Jay) to write the Federalist Papers, a series of persuasive essays designed to convince the states to ratify the Constitution. Written under the pen name "Publius," the Federalist Papers is considered one of the most important documents in American history.

In 1789, Madison was elected to the House of Representatives, where he helped draft The Bill of Rights and fought against passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts. Madison married Dolley Payne Todd in 1794. He helped found the Democratic Party and was chosen as Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of State in 1801.

Madison was elected as America's fourth president in 1808. George Clinton was appointed vice president but died in office in 1812. Madison's first term was plagued by tensions with Great Britain, and his foreign policy was widely criticized. Despite the problems that characterized his first term, Madison was re-elected in 1812 for a second term. Elbridge Gerry was appointed vice president, but he too died in office in 1814. During Madison's second term, he guided the nation through The War of 1812 with Great Britain, which many called the second American Revolution. Unfortunately, the peace treaty signed between the two countries ultimately settled few of the issues between the countries.

In 1817, after his second term, James Madison retired to his estate at Montpelier, Virginia. In 1829, he served as a delegate to the Virginia Constitutional Convention before his death on June 28, 1836. He was the last surviving signer of the Constitution. Madison was honored on the United States \$5,000 bill before it was taken out of circulation.

1.) What state was James Madison born in?

- a.) King George County
- b.) Virginia
- c.) Washington
- d.) North Carolina

2.) James Madison helped draft the Bill of Rights while in the...

- a.) Presidency.
- b.) Second Continental Congress.
- c.) Constitutional Convention.
- d.) House of Representatives.

3.) What happened first?

- a.) Madison graduated from Princeton University.
- b.) Madison helped draft the Bill of Rights.
- c.) His political career began.
- d.) He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention.

4.) Which of the followed happened during Madison's presidency?

- a.) He married Dolley Payne Todd.
- b.) He was secretary of state.
- c.) George Clinton died.
- d.) He retired to Montpelier

5.) James Madison helped to guide the United States through the War of ____.

6.) What happened last?

- a.) Elbridge Gerry died.
- b.) George Clinton died.
- c.) Madison was re-elected for a second term.
- d.) He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention.

7.) Select all that are true.

- a.) Madison was secretary of state.
- b.) Madison was vice president.
- c.) Madison helped draft the Bill of Rights.
- d.) Two of Madison's vice presidents died in office.

8.) What does "plagued" mean?

- a.) surprised
- b.) troubled
- c.) lost
- d.) replaced

9.) Which of the following was James Madison involved with? Select all that are true.

- a.) Civil War
- b.) Bill of Rights
- c.) Constitution
- d.) Democratic Party

10.) What was the major event of Madison's presidency?

- a.) The death of George Clinton
- b.) He founded the Democratic party
- c.) Tension with Great Britain
- d.) The War of 1812