

US presidential election

Elementary

1 Warmer

Answer the questions.

- Who was the first president of the USA?
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - George Washington
- Who was president of the USA before Barack Obama?
 - George W Bush
 - Bill Clinton
- When did Barack Obama become president of the USA?
 - 2009
 - 2010
- Where is the White House?
 - New York
 - Washington, DC

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

vote

candidate

policies

election

support

- When people _____, they choose a candidate in an election. (para 1)
- An _____ is a time when the people of a country decide who their next government will be. (para 1)
- A _____ is someone people can choose in an election. (para 1)
- _____ are a set of plans that a candidate in an election has. (para 3)
- If you _____ a candidate in an election, you like that candidate and hope they will win. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

- Who was the Republican candidate in the US presidential election?
- Where was Hillary Clinton born?
- When was Bill Clinton president of the United States?
- How many people voted in the 2012 US presidential election?
- Who was the 44th president of the United States?
- Who won the 2016 US presidential election?

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10 November, 2016

- 1 On 8 November, 2016, Americans voted in the United States presidential election. Barack Obama won the 2008 election and he became the 44th president of the USA in January, 2009. He also won the 2012 election but the US constitution does not allow anyone to be president three times so he was not a candidate in this election.
- 2 The two main candidates in the presidential election were Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party and Donald Trump for the Republican Party. Hillary Clinton was born in Chicago in 1947 and is married to Bill Clinton, who was the 42nd president of the USA from 1993 to 2001. She was United States Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013. Donald Trump was born in New York in 1946. He is a billionaire businessman who made his money from buying and selling buildings.
- 3 The two candidates had very different policies. Hillary Clinton said she would increase some taxes and have more gun control. She also wanted to close the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba. Donald Trump said he would reduce taxes, have less gun control and build a wall along the border between Mexico and the USA. He promised to keep the Guantanamo Bay prison open.
- 4 In the 2012 election, 126 million people voted, just 57.5% of the 219 million people with the right to vote. Most people believed that it was very difficult to say which candidate would win but no-one was sure how many people would vote this time. Many voters supported Hillary Clinton and hated Trump, while others supported Trump and hated Clinton. In the end, the American people decided that Donald Trump would be the better president and voted for Donald Trump to be the 45th president of the United States of America.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Hillary Clinton said she would ... | a. ... would have more gun control. |
| 2. Donald Trump promised ... | b. ... US Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013. |
| 3. Donald Trump said he ... | c. ... would build a wall along the border between Mexico and the USA. |
| 4. Hillary Clinton said she ... | d. ... increase some taxes. |
| 5. Donald Trump promised to ... | e. ... to keep the Guantanamo Bay prison open. |
| 6. Hillary Clinton was ... | f. ... have less gun control. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. the wall a border along build
2. the to vote right
3. was but no-one sure
4. 8 on 2016 November
5. main the candidates two
6. to difficult was very say it

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6 Vocabulary focus

Match the words from the text with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. border | a. money people have to pay to the government |
| 2. reduce | b. the set of laws of a country |
| 3. billionaire | c. someone who votes in an election |
| 4. constitution | d. the official line between two countries |
| 5. tax | e. make something less |
| 6. voter | f. someone who has more than a billion dollars |

7 Verbs

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs.

reduce

make

win

support

- Both candidates hoped they would _____ the election.
- Many voters _____ Clinton and hated Trump.
- Trump said he would _____ taxes if he became president.
- Trump _____ money from buying and selling buildings.

8 Discussion

Will Donald Trump be a good president? Why? Why not?

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KEY

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1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b

2 Key words

1. vote
2. election
3. candidate
4. policies
5. support

3 Find the information

1. Donald Trump
2. Chicago
3. 1993 to 2001
4. 126 million
5. Barack Obama
6. Donald Trump

4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. e
3. c
4. a
5. f
6. b

5 Chunks

1. build a wall along the border
2. the right to vote
3. but no-one was sure
4. on 8 November, 2016
5. the two main candidates
6. it was very difficult to say

6 Vocabulary focus

1. d
2. e
3. f
4. b
5. a
6. c

7 Verbs

1. win
2. supported
3. reduce
4. made/makes