

Grover Cleveland Printable Reading Comprehension

Name

Grover Cleveland was born on March 18, 1837, in Caldwell, New Jersey. His family moved to New York when he was young, but he could not attend college because of his father's death. Nevertheless, he studied hard, and in 1859 he was admitted to the New York Bar Association.

Grover's political career quickly blossomed in Buffalo, New York. In 1863, he became assistant district attorney; in 1871, he became sheriff; in 1881, he became mayor; and in 1882, he became governor of New York. In 1884, he defeated Republican James Blaine in the presidential race. In 1885, he entered office. During his first term as president, Grover enlarged the civil service and vetoed pension raids on the Treasury. In addition, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated and the American Federation of Labor was formed. Despite his popularity, Grover Cleveland was defeated by Benjamin Harrison in his bid for reelection in 1889.

In 1892, Grover Cleveland defeated Benjamin Harrison in the popular election and became the first and only president to serve two non-consecutive terms as president (his two terms were separated by Benjamin Harrison's presidency). Unfortunately for Cleveland, he entered his second term in a difficult position. The country was experiencing a money crisis brought about by a lowered gold reserve and questionable spending. Cleveland was unsuccessful in his attempt to thwart an impending depression and refused to interfere in business matters or rising unemployment. In 1894, an unemployed worker named Jacob Coxey mobilized an army of jobless workers who walked from the Midwest to Washington, D.C., demanding unemployment relief and legislation. Cleveland rejected Coxie's demands, and Coxie was arrested for trespassing. In 1896, the Democratic Party chose to nominate William Jennings Bryan as their presidential candidate rather than Grover Cleveland. Grover Cleveland died on June 24, 1908. He was honored on the United States \$1,000 bill before it was taken out of circulation.

1. Which is NOT true about Grover Cleveland?

- A. He was assistant district attorney in Buffalo, NY
- B. He was vice-president
- C. He was New York's governor
- D. In 1884, he ran for president

2. Grover Cleveland...

- A. became politically successful in New Jersey.
- B. defeated Benjamin Harrison in his bid for reelection in 1889.
- C. enlarged the civil service during his first presidential term.
- D. defeated James Blaine in the election of 1892.

3. In between the times Grover Cleveland was president...

- A. he served as vice-president.
- B. Benjamin Harrison was president.
- C. Cleveland went back to New York.
- D. the Statue of Liberty was dedicated.

4. What does the word "thwart" mean in the following sentence?

Cleveland was unsuccessful in his attempt to **thwart** an impending depression and refused to interfere in business matters or rising unemployment.

- A. progress
- B. transform
- C. describe
- D. halt

5. Why did Cleveland's second term start with so much difficulty?

- A. The nation was about to endure a depression
- B. Benjamin Harrison was very popular
- C. Jacob Coxie mobilized protests that ultimately made Cleveland look bad
- D. Cleveland became the first and only president to serve two non-consecutive terms

6. Which question is not addressed in the passage above?

- A. Who did the Democratic Party nominate for president after Cleveland's second term?
- B. Why was America experiencing a money crisis when Cleveland entered office for the second time?
- C. Why did Benjamin Harrison defeat Grover Cleveland after his first term?
- D. How was Cleveland honored after his death?

7. What happened first?

- A. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated
- B. 1890
- C. Grover Cleveland began his second term as president
- D. Cleveland defeated James Blaine