

# Mount Rushmore America's Shrine of Democracy [B1]

Scopri i segreti del Mount Rushmore National Memorial, noto come santuario della democrazia americana.

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The Mount Rushmore National Memorial, [nestled](#) in the granite stone of the Black Hills of South Dakota, stands as a monumental tribute to four of the most influential presidents in United States history. Renowned as America's [Shrine](#) of Democracy, it [features](#) the eighteen-metre-high faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The [inception](#) of Mount Rushmore began with a vision by South Dakota historian Doane Robinson, who initially proposed a monument featuring Western heroes such as Buffalo Bill or the formidable warrior chief Red Cloud. However, the sculptor Gutzon Borglum chose to immortalise four US presidents as a monument that would appeal to all Americans. Borglum's selection was symbolic: George Washington, the nation's founding father and Revolutionary War hero, represented the birth of the United States; Thomas Jefferson was chosen for his role in the nation's expansion; Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War, stood for unity and equality; and Theodore Roosevelt symbolised the modern development of the country. Construction of the Mount Rushmore Memorial began on 4 October 1927. Under Borglum's direction, a team of forty men dynamited the rocks and used [power tools to carve](#) the heads of the presidents into the mountain. But the project faced numerous [setbacks](#), including severe weather conditions and financial [constraints due to](#) the Great Depression and the [outbreak](#) of World War Two. After nearly fourteen years of work, Gutzon Borglum died while [en route to](#) Washington to [secure](#) additional [funding](#). His son, Lincoln Borglum, [took over](#) and finally completed the monument on 31 October 1941, just a few months after his father's death.

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# Glossary

- **nestled** = annidato
- **Shrine** = santuario
- **due to** = dovuto a
- **power tools** = utensili elettrici
- **features** = presentare
- **inception** = principio, inizio
- **to carve** = scolpire
- **setbacks** = contrattempi
- **en route to** = dirigersi a
- **secure** = ottenere
- **funding** = finanziamenti
- **constraints** = limiti
- **outbreak** = scoppio
- **took over** = prendere, assumere