

MOUNT RUSHMORE

# OVERVIEW



The project began in December of 1923 when the state historian of South Dakota suggested a sculpture in the Black Hills.

In order to create the sculpture 820,000,000 pounds of rock were blasted off the mountainside, the details were carved with drills, and these smaller pieces were removed by hand.

On October 31, 1941, Mount Rushmore National Memorial was declared a completed project.

# THE CENTRAL FIGURES

## **Doane Robinson**

*State Historian of  
South Dakota*

- Conceived the original idea
- Invited Borglum to visit and talk over the project
- Worked to secure funding to start the project

## **John Boland**

*President and  
General Manager*

- Worked with Robinson to secure the initial funding
- Maintained adequate funding for the project—even through the Great Depression

## **William Williamson**

*Representative for  
South Dakota*

- Petitioned Congress to appropriate the project funds
- Convinced President Coolidge to visit the Black Hills on a summer vacation

# THE CENTRAL FIGURES (CONT.)

## **Peter Norbeck**

*US Senator for  
South Dakota*

- Orchestrated the political and legislative means for federal support during times when funding was difficult to obtain

## **Gutzon Borglum**

*Sculptor*

- Oversaw all sculpting operations for the project
- Conducted world tours to raise funds

## **Lincoln Borglum**

*Pointer; Chief  
Pointer; Sculptor*

- Worked for several years without pay in different positions
- Took over the role of sculptor after his father's death



# THE WORKERS



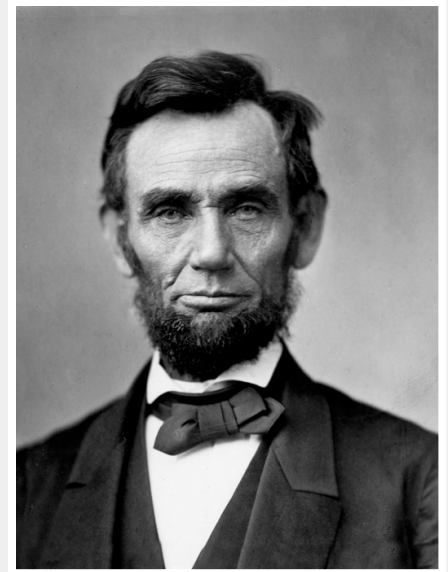
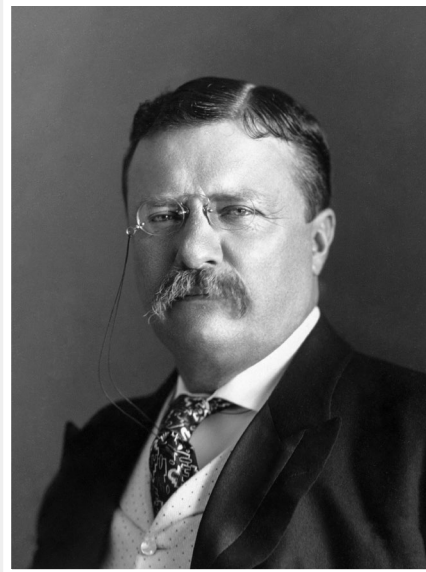
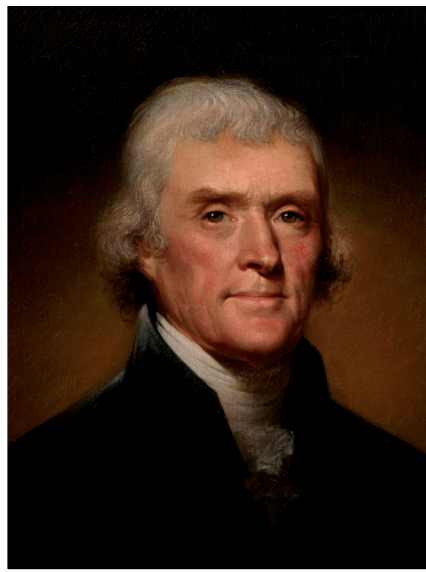
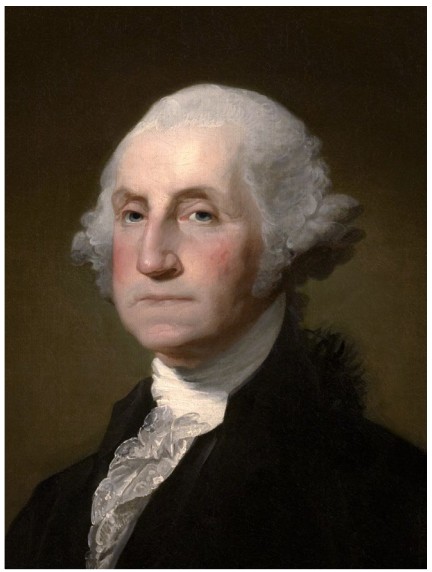
Almost 400 men and women labored for fourteen years to create Mount Rushmore. The laborers worked long hours for low pay, with little certainty as to how long he would be employed.

Despite dangerous and harsh conditions, there were no fatalities during the carving work.

[Learn more about the carving work](https://www.nps.gov/moru/learn/historyculture/carving-history.htm) at <https://www.nps.gov/moru/learn/historyculture/carving-history.htm>.

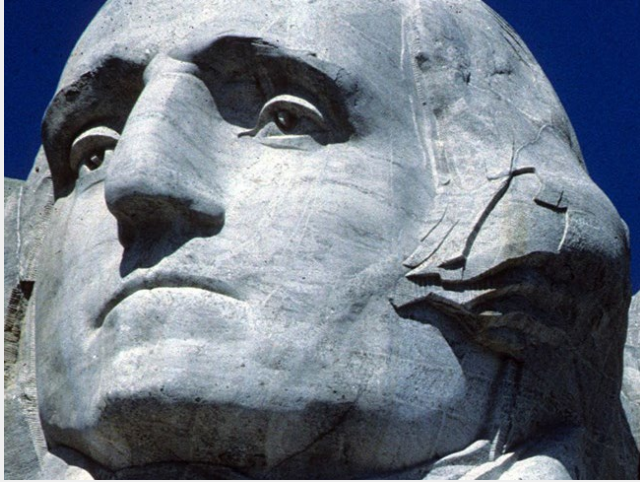
# THE PRESIDENTS

Borglum chose the four presidents that he believed represented the most important events in the history of the United States. From left to right the presidents pictured below are Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln. Each man's portrait is linked to his Wikipedia page.





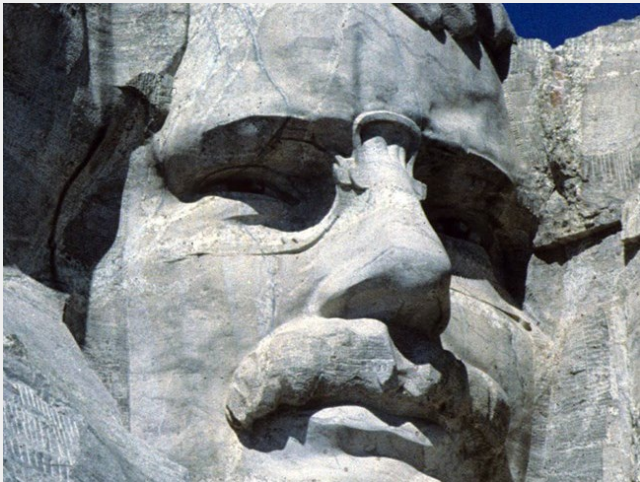
*George Washington*



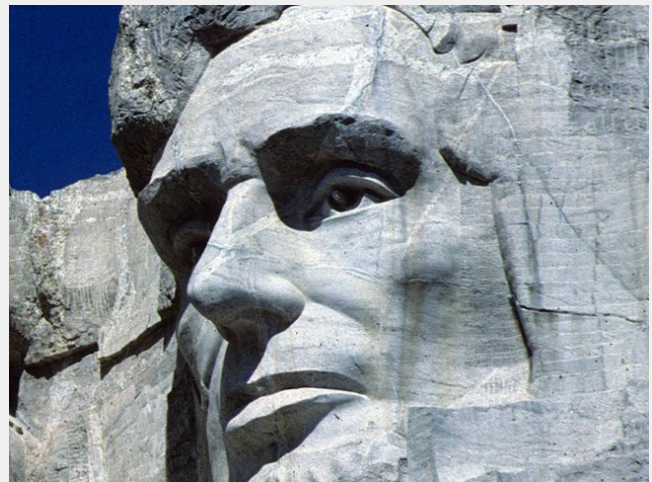
*Thomas Jefferson*



*Theodore Roosevelt*



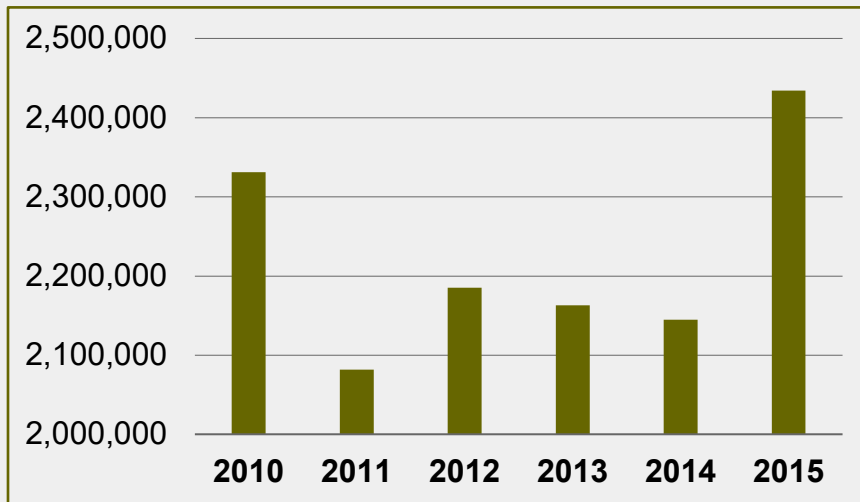
*Abraham Lincoln*



# TODAY'S VISITORS

The park is open seven days a week—all year—with the exception of December 25. Over two million people visit the park each year.

## Park Attendance



Year	Visitors
2010	2,331,237
2011	2,081,722
2012	2,185,447
2013	2,162,998
2014	2,144,808
2015	2,434,297

Over the years, new visitor facilities have been added, including a visitor center, the Lincoln Borglum Museum, and the Presidential Trail.