

Grade 8
Reading Biography
Biography: Franklin D. Roosevelt - Leading America Through Challenges

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often referred to as FDR, was the 32nd President of the United States. Born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York, he hailed from a wealthy and influential family. Despite the comforts of his upbringing, Roosevelt would come to be known for his dedication to the common man and his efforts to lift the country out of two major crises: the Great Depression and World War II.

Franklin attended Harvard University and later, Columbia Law School. However, he didn't complete his law degree, choosing instead to dive into politics. In 1910, he won a seat in the New York State Senate. His leadership and charisma were evident from the beginning.

In 1921, at the age of 39, Roosevelt faced a personal challenge that would shape the rest of his life. He was diagnosed with polio, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. But Roosevelt was undeterred. With determination and rigorous physical therapy, he regained some use of his legs, although he would rely on braces and a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Roosevelt's experience with polio deepened his empathy for others facing struggles. This would play a key role in his approach to the presidency. In 1932, amid the Great Depression, Roosevelt promised a "New Deal" for the American people, aiming to provide relief for the unemployed, reform of business and financial practices, and recovery of the economy. Once in office, he implemented numerous programs and policies that changed the face of American society and its government.

The late 1930s and early 1940s saw the world plunged into conflict with the onset of World War II. Although initially reluctant to enter the war, the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 left Roosevelt with no choice. He demonstrated exceptional leadership, working with allies and mobilizing the American war effort.

Roosevelt served four terms as President, a feat no other President has achieved. He passed away in office in 1945, but his legacy lives on. His leadership through the country's most challenging times left an indelible mark on America and the world.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. In which state was Franklin D. Roosevelt born?
 - A. Massachusetts
 - B. New York
 - C. Pennsylvania
 - D. New Jersey

2. What major personal challenge did Roosevelt face in 1921?
 - A. Heart Attack
 - B. Polio
 - C. Tuberculosis
 - D. Blindness

3. Which university did Roosevelt attend first?
- A. Yale University
 - B. Harvard University
 - C. Princeton University
 - D. Columbia University
4. How many terms did Roosevelt serve as President?
- A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Four
 - D. One
5. What did Roosevelt promise during the 1932 election?
- A. Golden Deal
 - B. Fair Deal
 - C. New Deal
 - D. Real Deal
6. In which year did World War II begin?
- A. 1937
 - B. 1938
 - C. 1939
 - D. 1940

7. What event prompted the U.S. to enter World War II?

- A. Battle of Britain
- B. Attack on Pearl Harbor
- C. Invasion of Poland
- D. Fall of France

8. Why did Roosevelt not complete his law degree?

- A. He failed his exams.
- B. He chose to enter politics.
- C. He became ill.
- D. He lost interest in law.

9. Which of the following was NOT a goal of the New Deal?

- A. Relief for the unemployed
- B. Military expansion
- C. Reform of business practices
- D. Recovery of the economy

10. When did Franklin D. Roosevelt pass away?

- A. 1942
- B. 1943
- C. 1944
- D. 1945

Answers and Explanations:

1. B. New York

Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park, New York.

2. B. Polio

In 1921, Roosevelt was diagnosed with polio.

3. B. Harvard University

Roosevelt first attended Harvard.

4. C. Four

Roosevelt is the only President to have served four terms.

5. C. New Deal

Roosevelt promised a "New Deal" during the 1932 election.

6. C. 1939

World War II began in 1939.

7. B. Attack on Pearl Harbor

The U.S. entered the war after Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941.

8. B. He chose to enter politics

Roosevelt left law school to enter politics.

9. B. Military expansion

The New Deal focused on relief, reform, and recovery, not military expansion.

10. D. 1945

Roosevelt passed away in 1945 while still in office.