

The American connection
Unit 7

In The White House



PUPIL WORKBOOK

In this unit you will:

- Take part in a group discussion
- Learn about the American Presidency
- Find out about the lives of the Presidents with Ulster-Scots ancestors
- Write a newspaper report
- Design your own game
- Write a letter to the President in the White House or some other influential person
- Use the democratic process to improve your school
- Reflect on your own work



Influential or Powerful?



Task 2

Working in a group discuss

- the difference between someone who is influential and someone who is powerful.
- As a group decide the person who you agree is the most powerful in the world today



Task 1



Work with a partner to answer the following questions.

- Who influences you?
- Who would you want to be like?
- Whom would you like to impress?
- Who would you turn to for advice if you had a problem?
- Whose advice would you listen to?
- Who do you think is the most influential person in Britain?
- Who do you think is the most influential person in the world today?



The American Presidency

**1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington DC**

This must be one of the most famous addresses in the world - the White House, the residence of the President of the United States of America.

George W. Bush became the 43rd President when he took office in 2001. As president he is in command of the armed services - navy, army and air force – as well as the economy of the United States. This makes him very powerful.

Below you can see photographs and paintings of some of the Presidents who came from Ulster-Scots backgrounds. Their ancestors can be traced back to counties, towns or townlands in Ulster. Altogether so far there have been 17 presidents with Ulster-Scots ancestors.

Before we learn about them let's find out some more about the presidency. There have been 43 presidents altogether. How many can you name? On the next two pages you will find a list of all 43 in the order they served in the presidency. You have been given their Christian name and then the first letter of their surname with the number of missing letters to complete the name. How many can you work out?



Here are some websites to help you:

www.americanpresidents.org

www.whitehouse.gov/history

Some of the Presidents who come from Ulster- Scots or Scots-Irish roots.

Can you recognise them?





- | | | |
|----|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 1789 - 1797 | GEORGE W - - - - - |
| 2 | 1797 - 1801 | JOHN A - - - - |
| 3 | 1801 - 1809 | THOMAS J- - - - - |
| 4 | 1809 - 1817 | JAMES M - - - - - |
| 5 | 1817 - 1825 | JAMES M - - - - - |
| 6 | 1825 - 1829 | JOHN QUINCY A- - - - |
| 7 | 1829 - 1837 | ANDREW J - - - - - |
| 8 | 1837 - 1841 | MARTIN VAN B- - - - |
| 9 | 1841 | WILLIAM HENRY H- - - - - |
| 10 | 1841 - 1845 | JOHN T - - - - |
| 11 | 1845 - 1849 | JAMES KNOX P- - - - |
| 12 | 1849 - 1850 | ZACHARY T - - - - - |
| 13 | 1850 - 1853 | MILLARD F - - - - - |
| 14 | 1853 - 1857 | FRANKLIN P - - - - - |
| 15 | 1857 - 1861 | JAMES B - - - - - |
| 16 | 1861 - 1865 | ABRAHAM L - - - - - |
| 17 | 1865 - 1869 | ANDREW J - - - - - |
| 18 | 1869 - 1877 | ULYSSES SIMPSON G - - - - |
| 19 | 1877 - 1881 | RUTHERFORD H - - - - |
| 20 | 1881 | JAMES G - - - - - |
| 21 | 1881 - 1885 | CHESTER ALAN A - - - - - |
| 22 | 1885 - 1889 | GROVER C - - - - - |



23	1833 - 1901	BENJAMIN H - - - - -
24	1893 - 1897	GROVER C - - - - -
25	1897 - 1901	WILLIAM Mc - - - - -
26	1901 - 1909	THEODORE R - - - - -
27	1909 - 1913	WILLIAM HOWARD T - - -
28	1913 - 1921	WOODROW W - - - - -
29	1921 - 1923	WARREN H - - - - -
30	1923 - 1929	CALVIN C - - - - -
31	1929 - 1933	HERBERT H - - - - -
32	1933 - 1945	FRANKLIN D. R - - - - -
33	1945 - 1953	HARRY S T - - - - -
34	1953 - 1961	DWIGHT D E - - - - -
35	1961 - 1963	JOHN F K - - - - -
36	1963 - 1969	LYNDON B J - - - - -
37	1969 - 1974	RICHARD N - - - - -
38	1974 - 1977	GERALD F - - - - -
39	1977 - 1981	JIMMY C - - - - -
40	1981—1989	RONALD R - - - - -
41	1989 - 1993	GEORGE B - - - - -
42	1993 - 2001	WILLIAM JEFFERSON C - - - - -
43	2001 - 2009	GEORGE W B - - - - -





**17 Presidents of the United States of America
have ancestors from Ulster.**

ANDREW JACKSON

JAMES KNOX POLK

JAMES BUCHANAN

ANDREW JOHNSON

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR

GROVER CLEVELAND

BENJAMIN HARRISON

WILLIAM McKINLEY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

WOODROW WILSON

HARRY TRUMAN

RICHARD NIXON

JAMES EARL CARTER Jnr

GEORGE BUSH SENIOR

BILL CLINTON

GEORGE W. BUSH

Presidential Word Search

A	g	k	s	k	s	r	o	o	s	e	v	e	l	t	t	g	j	n
B	e	c	h	v	w	c	l	e	v	e	l	a	n	d	r	c	k	s
C	o	s	w	i	l	s	o	n	b	h	n	k	j	c	u	w	m	v
D	r	q	o	c	l	i	n	t	o	n	u	r	t	n	m	l	l	u
E	g	n	j	o	h	n	s	o	n	h	p	x	r	i	a	b	h	j
F	e	b	u	c	h	a	n	a	n	p	o	l	k	x	n	u	i	m
G	h	y	r	k	c	a	r	t	e	r	z	a	v	o	u	s	q	s
H	b	s	t	d	j	r	d	e	s	j	d	n	c	n	h	h	v	e
I	u	a	p	i	i	n	h	c	t	d	s	a	a	r	t	h	u	r
J	s	o	f	z	l	w	v	v	e	f	i	c	j	y	i	k	m	t
K	h	q	e	p	p	q	i	b	r	c	z	b	g	g	r	a	n	t
L	w	k	r	v	h	j	a	c	k	s	o	n	z	o	l	n	z	r
M	w	a	k	a	m	v	k	h	a	r	r	i	s	o	n	c	g	z
N	g	g	l	z	u	g	u	e	x	k	h	d	y	o	d	u	r	n
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

JACKSON

GRANT

ROOSEVELT

CARTER

POLK

ARTHUR

WILSON

GEORGE BUSH

BUCHANAN

CLEVELAND

TRUMAN

CLINTON

JOHNSON

HARRISON

NIXON

BUSH

WHICH SCOTS-IRISH PRESIDENT IS MISSING?

The Presidency of The United States of America

Many countries in the world with parliamentary forms of government have presidents as Heads of State. In these countries, this is mainly a ceremonial position. In the USA, however, the president has great authority and is arguably the most powerful elected official in the world.

Every four years, on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, millions of Americans vote for their new president. There can be a number of candidates but at least two - one representing the Democratic Party and the other from the Republican Party. They will have been selected by their party at conventions held during the preceding summer.

On Inauguration Day, which is always 20th January, the successful candidate for the presidency takes the oath of office.

“I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

This same oath has been taken by every president since George Washington, the very first.



President Abraham Lincoln takes the Oath of Office on 4 March 1865 at his second inauguration as President.

PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON

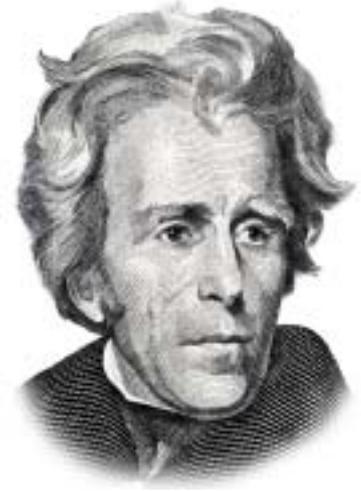
Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States of America, was born just 18 months after his parents left the townland of Boney before outside Carrickfergus in County Antrim. His father and mother sailed out of Larne harbour in 1765 and Andrew was born at the Waxhaws on 15 March 1767, a few weeks after the death of his father.

He was described as having *“piercing blue eyes, face as long as a Lurgan spade, high shock of red hair, and lonely resolution.”**

His mother died while attending the American prisoners of war in the prison ship at Charleston leaving Andrew an orphan by the age of 14. His two brothers were both casualties of the war against the British.

In 1788 Andrew moved to Tennessee trekking along the Wilderness Road over the Allegheny Mountains. When he arrived in Nashville he opened a law office. It was in Nashville that he met his wife, Rachel Donelson, the daughter of one of the men who had founded the first settlement at Nashville. He was Colonel John Donelson.

Rachel had already been married and, as far as she knew, was now divorced. Her first husband, a man named Lewis Robards, had begun divorce proceedings but then had withdrawn them without telling her. Technically then Rachel committed bigamy when she married Andrew Jackson but the situation was settled when Robards completed the divorce and Rachel and Andrew then married again. This event however was one which was to haunt them and would be brought up again and used against them when Jackson ran for the White House.



Jackson's wife, Rachel, inherited money and property

The Jackson's home was called The Hermitage. It started as a plantation log house and farm but was later replaced with a brick mansion and estate.

* *Ireland, Irishmen and Revolutionary America* by D.N. Doyle



Imagine that Andrew Jackson is running for election to the White House today.

You are a reporter with a newspaper. You have discovered that Rachel Jackson was married bigamously.

Write your front page story. A template of your newspaper page is available on computer.

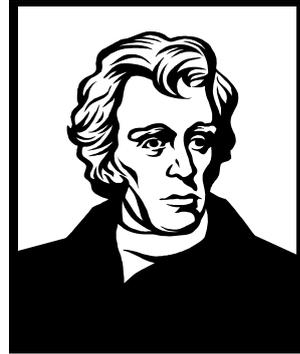
YOU WILL NEED TO THINK ABOUT

- The facts that you need to have before you can write the story
- What type of paper you are writing for—tabloid or broadsheet (See Newspaper Help Sheet if you are not sure)
- How you will write the story
- Creating a good headline



DAILY MESSENGER

Price 50 cents



Andrew Jackson

PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON

Part 2

MILITARY CAREER

Jackson's political career began when he entered the Constitutional Convention of Tennessee in the 1790s. He went on to become the first Congressman to represent that state and eventually to become Senator for Tennessee.

In 1802 another very important aspect of Jackson's life began. He was appointed Major- General of the Tennessee Militia. The army was to be his life for the next twenty years.

The most famous battle he took part in was the Battle of New Orleans on 8 January 1815 when his troops routed the British. In just 30 minutes 2000 British troops were killed or injured while only 13 Americans died. He became a national hero as a result of this.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Andrew Jackson could be said to be the founder of the Democratic Party. He developed his doctrine of Jacksonian democracy which said that the United States government should give no privilege to one class over another and should protect the weak and poor against the rich and powerful.

LAST DAYS

Rachel Jackson died on 22 December 1828 just a few weeks before her husband took up residence in the White House for his first term as President. She had been badly affected by a public scandal during the presidential campaign surrounding her first marriage and divorce and also the death of her adopted Indian son, Lyncoya. She was buried at The Hermitage.

Jackson lived for another 25 years and served two terms in the White House. He eventually died from chronic tuberculosis on 8 June 1845 aged 78.

Jackson fought a duel in 1806 in Kentucky. He challenged Charles Dickinson who had criticised Rachel.

Dickinson died of his wounds from the duel.

The Andrew Jackson centre



The Andrew Jackson Centre is located in a traditional Ulster-Scots single range thatched cottage adjacent to the seashore in the townland of Boneybefore just outside Carrickfergus on the road to Larne. The cottage collection reflects rural Ulster life including articles associated with dairying and some local patchwork quilts. The exhibition gallery interprets the life of Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of America whose parents emigrated from Ulster in 1765.

The US Rangers Centre is located in the garden of the centre. The US Rangers exhibition is dedicated to the volunteer soldiers of the First US Ranger Battalions, which were activated in Carrickfergus on 14 June 1942. The collection was donated to the town and contains personal material including photographs, documents, uniforms.



Some of the exhibits in what would have been the main living area of the homestead.

American Politics

There are two main political parties in the United States of America today - the Republican party and the Democratic Party.

Congress is made up of two legislative bodies—the House of Representatives and the Senate.

LET'S FIND OUT

- To which party the current President belongs
- Which party has a majority in the Senate
- Which party has a majority in the House of representatives
- Choose any state and find out who the Governor is and which party he/she belongs to
- Make a list of all the Scots-Irish presidents and find out which party they belonged to



WEBSITES TO HELP YOU

<http://www.rnc.org/>

<http://www.democrats.org/>

<http://www.senate.gov/>

Let's Look At Home

The word 'Stormont' is associated in Northern Ireland with government. Stormont Castle on the edge of East Belfast has an interesting history. It did not start out as a government building at all.

Let's find out some more about it.



Go to this website. www.nics.gov.uk/castle/castle.htm

Read the information on this website and then answer the following questions:

- 1 Name 2 great historical figures associated with Stormont.
- 2 Who built the first dwelling at 'Storm Mount' about 1830?
- 3 Why was the original site called 'Storm Mount'?
- 4 What was the name of the architect who designed the castle on the site?
- 5 What kind of mythical creature would you find to this day guarding the entrance to the castle?
- 6 Charles E. Allen rented the house in the early part of the twentieth century. He was the director of a Belfast shipyard at that time. What was the name of this ship building firm?
- 7 The castle became the official residence of the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. What was his name?
- 8 Various famous and influential politicians from the twentieth century are mentioned in the passage. Choose any one of the following and find out more about him:

Lord Brookeborough	Lord Gerry Fitt
Captain Terence O'Neill	Brian Faulkner



Presidential Trump

A card game



Task

There have been 17 Presidents of the USA who can trace their family roots to Ulster-Scots ancestors. You are going to make a Trumps Card Game which you will be able to play with a partner.

First you will need to find out the following information about each President:

- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Birthplace
- Where in Ulster their roots are
- When they became President
- How long they served as President



When you have all this information then design and set it out on 17 individual cards.

In a group decide on the rules for playing the game e.g. will someone born further north trump someone else? Will an earlier President trump a later one or the other way round?

WEBSITES TO HELP YOU



www.ulsterscotsagency.com
www.americanpresident.org
www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents
www.ulstersociety.org/resources/american-pres
www.jeannepasero.com/presidents.html



Presidential Bingo

RULES OF THE GAME

- Choose an Ulster-Scots president for each square. Write his name on the square. You may use the same president on up to 3 squares.
- The teacher (or person 'calling') will ask questions. If your president's name is the answer to the question you may mark that name out. You may only mark out 1 name for 1 answer (not every time you have used that president's name).
- The winner is the person who has completed all the names on his /her card first.

TO HELP YOU HERE ARE THE NAMES OF THE ULSTER-SCOTS PRESIDENTS

ANDREW JACKSON

JAMES KNOX POLK

JAMES BUCHANAN

ANDREW JOHNSON

U. S. GRANT

CHESTER ARTHUR

GROVER CLEVELAND

BENJAMIN HARRISON

WILLIAM McKINLEY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

WOODROW WILSON

HARRY TRUMAN

RICHARD NIXON

JIMMY CARTER

GEORGE BUSH Snr

Dear Mr. President

The President of the United States of America is one of the most powerful people in the world. Decisions he takes can affect your life even though you may live thousands of miles away.

There are other powerful people who can make decisions which affect you. At national level the Prime Minister and his ministers who lead various departments like Education or Health and Employment, take decisions which affect schools, hospitals and jobs in your area.

At a local level your Town Council will take decisions about local issues like rubbish collection, recycling of waste, licensing of public houses and clubs, and the work of dog wardens.

In your school, your principal and Board of Governors will decide on everything to do with your school buildings, subjects taught, school rules and trips to name but a few things.

NOW IT'S YOUR CHANCE! You can write a letter about something you really care about and have opinions on. It could be to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister, your Mayor, your principal or anyone else you wish. Give your opinions and try to convince them what you think is correct.

If you need help setting out your letter ask your teacher for the Letter Writing Help Sheet.

REMEMBER

You will not get anywhere being abusive. You need to put forward a good argument for what you believe in.

When you have your letter written address your envelope and give the finished work to your teacher.

You may need to use the telephone directory or the internet to get the appropriate address.



Making a Difference

Many people choose to enter politics - in America or here - because they would like to help make life better for others.

GROUP ACTIVITY

In groups discuss what changes in your school or local community would make life better.

- Consider different types of people e.g. people living near your school / the teachers as well as the pupils.
- Think about the financing of the changes you would like to make. Money is always an important issue in making changes. Try to consider some actions or initiatives which would either be free or cost very little or consider how you would help to raise funds to make the changes.
- Prepare a presentation for your school council to convince them your idea should be put into practice. You will probably need to collect some 'evidence' or carry out a survey to prove your point and back up your argument.
- Each group then makes their presentation to the class. The class votes for the best suggestion. Use a secret ballot for the vote.



Self Evaluation Sheet

Now is your opportunity to reflect on the work you have done during this unit; to see your own strengths and weaknesses in your work so that you can improve next time.

Rate yourself with a mark out of 5 (1 being the weakest performance and 5 being the best)

SCORE

- In the group discussion 'Influential or powerful?' I expressed my ideas clearly and listened and responded positively to the opinion of the others in the group 
- I managed my time well when completing the Missing Letters task and persevered until I completed it 
- I developed my ideas well for the Andrew Jackson newspaper article and wrote in an appropriate style 
- I used internet search engines to retrieve the necessary facts to answer the questions on American Politics and/or Let's look at Home 
- I worked well with my team in establishing the rules for the Presidential Trump game 
- I planned and redrafted my 'Dear Mr President' letter 
- I worked well with my group in the Making a Difference Task 

CONSIDER

What would you consider to be a good mark out of the possible total of 35?



Does **your** mark indicate you are working to the best of your ability?

TOTAL MARK