ELED 3113
Fall 2018
Hayley Nowlin

I Wish I Knew That U.S. Presidents…

Author: Patricia A. Halbert

Genre: Informational

Awards: none

Subject: History

Facts:

1. There are 8 first ladies listed amongst the list of 43 presidents in this book. I found this to be important, because the job of first lady, is just that, a job. There needs to be recognition for the women who did amazing things along side their husbands while they were president.
2. George Washington was the only president who didn’t live in the White House. It hadn’t been build during his two terms. It was built afterwards. I found this interesting because when we think of the president we think of the White House, and come to find out that the very first president didn’t live there.
3. Thomas Jefferson started the world’s biggest library. He loved to read and his personal library was used to start the library of congress. I found this really interesting because Thomas Jefferson was the reason the library of congress was started.
4. John Quincy Adams refused to put his hand on the bible during his presidential oath of office. He thought the bible should be used for religious purposes only. He put his hand on a book of laws instead. I found this to be interesting because if a president tried to do this today, I feel like there would be lots of opinions and backlash concerning this topic.
5. Ulysses S. Grant was invited to Ford’s Theater with Abraham Lincoln on the night that Lincoln was assassinated, but Grant didn’t go because his wife insisted they visit their children in New Jersey instead. I found this interesting because if Ulysses S. Grant had gone to the theater, he might’ve gotten hit by accident maybe.
6. Grover Cleveland accepted the Statue of Liberty from France in 1886 on behalf of the United States of America. I found this important, because it’s sometimes easy to forget that we got the Statue of Liberty as a gift from France, and we didn’t build it ourselves.
7. Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win a Nobel Prize. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for negotiating a treaty that ended the Russo-Japanese War. I found this really interesting because I didn’t know about this awesome little fact!
8. Ronald Reagan was an actor before he was president of the United States. I found this interesting because I didn’t know that Reagan was an actor at all.
9. George W. Bush was head cheer-leader in his senior year of high school. I found this completely surprising, because not only is he a male head cheer-leader, but he also turned out to be the president of the United States.
10. Barak Obama had to recite the oath of office twice because the judge who gave him the oath said it wrong the first time. I found this interesting because this is the first inaugural address that I was old enough to watch on T.V. and at the time I didn’t realize that he had been given the wrong thing to say.

Personal reflection

I really liked this little book because it’s just full of facts about our presidents. I don’t know a lot about most of our presidents, personally. I know if I don’t know about a lot of them, then the other children that I’m teaching won’t know them either. It’s so important for children to know our government’s history and our president’s history, so that they may become effective voters once they grow up.

Activity

 After the student’s read this book, I want them to find their favorite president out of all 43 of them in the book. After they pick their favorite president, they will write a little about them, citing what they take from the book. This is important because the students need to be learning how to cite their work.

Source: Teacher Made