



Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

The longest-serving president, FDR (as he was commonly known) served a record four consecutive terms and led the United States through most of the Great Depression and World War II. What else do you know about the thirty-second president? In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn more about FDR's life and election to the presidency.

READ: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt>

1. What is his relationship to Theodore Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth president?

2. Before becoming president, what other political offices did Franklin Delano Roosevelt hold?

3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in a wheelchair for the duration of his presidency. How did he lose the use of his legs?



Take a virtual walk through the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

READ: <https://freetoursbyfoot.com/fdr-memorial/#3>

4. The design of the memorial was thoughtfully completed, keeping in mind President Roosevelt's disability. What considerations were made in the construction of the memorial?

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5. Explain the symbolism of water and the sculptures throughout the memorial.



What was life like in the 1930s? Watch this video to learn more about it!

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkAfjRoINCI>

6. The first room covers the first term of his presidency, from 1933-1937. In 1932, our country was going through the Great Depression. What was life like in the United States when Franklin Delano Roosevelt became president?

7. The second room covers his second term, from 1937-1941, where President Roosevelt rolled out the New Deal. Summarize how the New Deal was meant to stimulate the economy and put people back to work.

8. The third room covers his third term, from 1941-1945. The waterfall in this room is the most turbulent. Why do you think this is? (Hint: Think about what was going on in our country during this time!)



Read this article to learn more about Eleanor Roosevelt and her role at the United Nations.

READ: <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/ARaxRSs->

9. The fourth room only covers 1945, as President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. This room features calm waters and a sculpture featuring the funeral procession. It also holds a statue of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt standing next to an emblem of the United Nations. Why do you think this symbol is here?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*



Read about the controversy surrounding the statue in the area called the Prologue Room in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

READ: <https://freetoursbyfoot.com/fdr-memorial/#3>

1. Why do you think it was important that President Roosevelt be depicted in his wheelchair? Explain.

2. In the first room at the memorial is the quote, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Explain what this quote meant back then and why it is also true today.

3. In Room Two is the "Breadline" sculpture, depicting men standing in line for bread and soup. During the Great Depression, soup kitchens were places operated by the government to feed the hungry. Since many people were unemployed at the time, it was their only means to obtain food. Imagine how those people felt in those lines. Describe your thoughts.

4. During Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency, radio was a new technology. He used this technology in his Fireside Chats. Other presidents have used television to "talk" to citizens. How do presidents communicate with the public today? How has communication changed in the past century? Provide multiple examples to support your thoughts.

5. Often, visitors think it is okay to go into the memorial's water displays and climb on the statues. Why do you think this should not be done?