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MARTIN VAN BUREN

http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/martin_van_buren.html



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THE READING / LISTENING TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/martin_van_buren.html

Martin Van Buren was the eighth President of the United States, serving one term in office. He was born on December 5, 1782 in Kinderhook, New York and died of heart failure in 1862. His father was a tavern keeper and farmer. Van Buren was the first president born as a citizen of the U.S.A., as all previous presidents were born before the American Revolution.

Van Buren studied law and entered New York politics at the age of 17. He faithfully fulfilled his official duties for a decade and a half. His skill at gathering support for his party earned him the nickname "The Little Magician". In 1821, he was elected to the United States Senate representing New York. President Andrew Jackson rewarded Van Buren's loyalty by appointing him Secretary of State in 1829.

Van Buren's rise to the Presidency continued in 1833 when he was appointed Andrew Jackson's Vice President. Van Buren was President Jackson's first choice to take over from him from 1837. He easily won the 1836 election. Van Buren devoted his Inaugural Address to explaining how the American experiment and its prosperity was an example to the rest of the world.

His Presidency was largely dominated by the recession that followed the "Panic of 1837". Hundreds of banks and businesses failed. Thousands lost their land. It was the worst depression to hit America in its short history. Many blamed him for it and nicknamed him "Martin Van Ruin". He was voted out of office in 1840 and was an unsuccessful candidate for President as an independent in 1848. He died in 1862.

Text adapted from www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/martinvanburen



LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/martin_van_buren.html

Martin Van Buren was the eighth President of the United States, serving _____. He was born on December 5, 1782 in Kinderhook, New York and _____ in 1862. His father was a tavern keeper and farmer. Van Buren was the first president _____ the U.S.A., as all previous presidents were born before the American Revolution.

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CORRECT THE SPELLING

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UNJUMBLE THE WORDS

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____





STUDENT MARTIN VAN BUREN SURVEY

From: http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/martin_van_buren.html

Write five GOOD questions about Martin Van Buren in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET INFO: Search the Internet and find more information about Martin Van Buren. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Martin Van Buren. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. MARTIN VAN BUREN POSTER Make a poster about Martin Van Buren. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

5. MY MARTIN VAN BUREN LESSON: Make your own English lesson on Martin Van Buren. Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Teach the class / another group when you have finished.

6. ONLINE SHARING: Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter stream, Del-icio-us / StumbleUpon account, or any other social media tool to get opinions on Martin Van Buren. Share your findings with the class.

