



Child's Guide to the Presidents of Mount Rushmore

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Originally published in 1903 as portions of the author's larger "The Lives of the Presidents and How They Reached the White House," this Kindle edition, equivalent in length to a physical book of approximately 50 pages, describes, in language suitable for children, the lives of the four Presidents of Mount Rushmore: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Sample passages:

(Washington) When the time came to elect the first President, there was one man in the United States that everybody wanted. This man was George Washington, to whom the people felt that they owed their liberty. It was a great day for the new nation when he was declared President. All along the way, as he rode from Mount Vernon to New York, people came out to welcome him. They fired cannon and rang bells, and made bonfires and put up arches and decorations; little girls scattered flowers in his path and sang songs of greeting, and whenever he came to a town or city every, one marched in procession, escorting Washington through their town.

(Jefferson) Congress, you may be sure, had plenty to do in those days, and Jefferson was kept busy enough. His great work was the "Declaration of Independence." No doubt all of you have read this famous document, which told England and the world that America was determined to be free. When the time came for writing this great paper, five men, three of whom were Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, were chosen to do it. But it was Jefferson that wrote it, and it was John Adams that presented it to Congress in a splendid speech. Ever since that day Jefferson has been of worldwide fame as the author of the "Declaration."

(Lincoln) During all those four years of war Abraham Lincoln lived in the President's house at Washington--the White House, as it is called. He had but one wish--to save the Union. He did not mean to let war, nor trouble, nor wicked men destroy the nation that Washington had founded, if he could help it. He was always ready to say, "We forgive you," if the men of the South would only stop fighting and say, "We are sorry." But they would not do this, much as the great, kind, patient, loving President wished them to do it.

(Roosevelt) When he got older he did not let anybody impose on him. One day, when he was only a little fellow and went to a private school, he set out with his chum in a fine new sailor suit. Some of the public-school boys got in his way and called him a "dude." But they did not stay long, for Teddy and his chum went at them with their fists and fought their way through. Every day for a week it was the same thing. One day, after a hard battle, Teddy said to his chum: "Let's go 'round the block and come back and fight them again." He seemed to like fighting as much as he did later on.

About the author:

Charles Morris (1833-1922) was the author of numerous books for young and old, including "Young People's History of the World for One Hundred Years," "Tales from the Dramatists," and "Primary History of the United States."

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Paul Skeens:

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Bess Cook:

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