

THE MOUNT RUSHMORE PRESIDENTS

By THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

A National Icon

Somewhere in the black mining hills of South Dakota there lives Mount Rushmore - the quintessential American monument. It took over fourteen years for workers to carve the faces of four presidents into the side of a mountain. It's a work of art, unmatched in its scale and beauty.

But, this national monument lies in the heart of sacred land of the Lakota. To the Lakota, Mount Rushmore is a symbol of invasion. Down the road from the presidents, you'll find another monument - this one dedicated to Native Americans. The Crazy Horse Memorial is a work in progress and much larger than Mount Rushmore. In fact, the presidents' four heads could fit on Crazy Horse's outstretched arm.

The Black Hills of South Dakota tell a story of our country's past. Let's take a closer look at Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, and the stories that surround these national treasures.

National Parks

Mount Rushmore is a national park. TR worked to set aside land for our national parks.

Mount Rushmore Badge

Look on the PTOTP and you'll see this icon in each of these presidents' cells.

By the Numbers

- » **14+ years:** Time to complete
- » **8.10.1927:** Start date
- » **10.31.1941:** End date
- » **\$989,992.32:** Total cost
- » **3,000,000+:** Visitors per year
- » **60 feet:** Height of each head

Location

13000 Hwy. 244
Keystone, SD



Who was Crazy Horse?

Crazy Horse was a Lakota leader who fought to protect his land from American settlement. He is riding on a horse and pointing southeast to the land where many of his ancestors are buried. Crazy Horse's face is 87 1/2 feet tall, and his arm stretches out 263 feet.

Who is making the Crazy Horse Memorial?

In 1947 Henry Standing Bear, an Oglala Lakota Chief, invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to carve a monument for all Native American people. Korczak began his work in 1948 and continued until his death in 1982. Today, Korczak's family continues the work of the project.



George Washington
#1
25c
1
2
GW
1789-1797



Founding

Washington led the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, became the first president, and is known as the Father of His Country.

Thomas Jefferson
#2
5c
3
2
Tj
1801-1809



Expansion

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and doubled the size of the U.S. with the Louisiana Purchase. He sent Lewis and Clark to explore the new land.

Abraham Lincoln
#5
1c
16
2
AL
1861-1865



Preservation

As president during the Civil War, Lincoln preserved the Union through a time of rebellion and upheaval. His work led to slavery's end in America.

Theodore Roosevelt
#26
VP
1
Tr
1901-1909



Unification

Roosevelt took on corporate monopolies to ensure the rights of the working man. TR also gets credit for unifying the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans with the Panama Canal.

How did Mount Rushmore get its name?

In 1885 a New York attorney named Charles Rushmore traveled to the Black Hills to do some law work for a mining company. According to the popular account, while out on horseback, Rushmore asked his guide the name of the tall peak. His guide replied that it had no name. The guide called it Rushmore, and the name stuck.

Who made Mount Rushmore?

Before his work on Rushmore, Gutzon Borglum was a well-known sculptor on both sides of the Atlantic. He had experience in carving mountains with his work on Stone Mountain - a Confederate monument in Georgia.

Borglum devoted most of his later life to Rushmore. He passed away in 1941, before the project's completion. It was Gutzon's son, Lincoln, who saw the project to completion.



Why these presidents?

"The purpose of the memorial is to communicate the founding, expansion, preservation, and unification of the United States with colossal statues of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt."

-Gutzon Borglum

The sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, had the final say in who would appear on Mount Rushmore. Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln were obvious choices, but Roosevelt drew some criticism. TR's inclusion on the monument might have been helped by the fact that Borglum and Roosevelt were friends.

An Abandoned Secret Room in Lincoln's Head?

The Hall of Records was intended to be a great a room located behind Lincoln's head. The room was never finished, but a smaller carved out space contains a sealed written record of why Mount Rushmore was created, who carved it, and the identities of the four presidents. The words are etched on porcelain tile plates placed in a teakwood box that's inside a titanium vault.

Calvin Coolidge
#30
VP
1
CC
1923-1929



Keeping Cool in the Summer White House

Avoiding the hot, humid weather of our nation's capital, President Coolidge made his summer home near Mount Rushmore, at a lodge in Custer State Park. Coolidge dedicated the site of Mount Rushmore in 1927, calling it "worthy of our Country."