



# TOURNAMENT OF PRESIDENTS

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An Official Periodic Table of the Presidents Bracket Game

## Ranking the Presidents

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Abraham Lincoln       | 23 Martin Van Buren        |
| 2 Franklin D. Roosevelt | 24 Rutherford B. Hayes     |
| 3 George Washington     | 25 Chester A. Arthur       |
| 4 Teddy Roosevelt       | 26 Benjamin Harrison       |
| 5 Thomas Jefferson      | 27 Calvin Coolidge         |
| 6 Harry S. Truman       | 28 Gerald Ford             |
| 7 Andrew Jackson        | 29 Jimmy Carter            |
| 8 Woodrow Wilson        | 30 Ulysses S. Grant        |
| 9 Dwight D. Eisenhower  | 31 Zachary Taylor          |
| 10 James K. Polk        | 32 Herbert Hoover          |
| 11 James Madison        | 33 Richard Nixon           |
| 12 James Monroe         | 34 John Tyler              |
| 13 John Adams           | 35 Millard Fillmore        |
| 14 John F. Kennedy      | 36 Franklin Pierce         |
| 15 Grover Cleveland     | 37 Andrew Johnson          |
| 16 Lyndon B. Johnson    | 38 Warren G. Harding       |
| 17 Ronald Reagan        | 39 James Buchanan          |
| 18 William McKinley     | Inc William Henry Harrison |
| 19 John Quincy Adams    | Inc James A. Garfield      |
| 20 Bill Clinton         | TS George W. Bush*         |
| 21 William Howard Taft  | TS Barack Obama            |
| 22 George H. W. Bush    | TS Donald Trump            |

Inc = Incomplete    TS = Too Soon  
\*We included Bush in the tournament to round out the field.

## Presidential Ranking Sources

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much about the American Presidents*. New York: Hyperion, 2014. Print.

"Rating the Presidents of the United States, 1789-2000: A Survey of Scholars in History, Political Science, and Law." *The Federalist Society*. Web. 14 Mar. 2017.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. "Rating the Presidents: Washington to Clinton." *Political Science Quarterly* 112.2 (1997): 179. Web.

"U.S. Presidents Study." *Siena College*. Web. 14 Mar. 2017.

## Round 1

10 John Tyler

13 Millard Fillmore

14 Franklin Pierce

15 James Buchanan

17 Andrew Johnson

29 Warren G. Harding

31 Herbert Hoover

37 Richard Nixon

## Round 2

## Finals

THE  
BEST  
OF THE  
REST

Champion

## Our Rationale

Ranking the presidents can be a difficult job. When compiling our list, we consulted several key resources and arrived at a composite score for each president. Our tournament is not meant to judge our presidents, but rather to be a conversation starter to spark discussion and debate. We believe that an open discussion of our presidents' triumphs and pitfalls is essential to understanding our country's past. Plus, who doesn't enjoy some good, healthy competition?

## A few words from Kennedy...

"No one has the right to grade a President...who has not sat in his chair, examined the mail and information that came across his desk, and learned why he made his decisions."



John F. Kennedy  
Spoken to David H. Donald  
from *Lincoln* (1995, p.13)

@periodicprez

Who's the winner of your bracket?  
Share your bracket with us on Twitter.