

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

Mount Rushmore Presidents

Introduction:

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.

Questions:

1. Which four presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore?
2. What four ideals was Gutzon Borglum communicating by choosing these four presidents?
3. Where is Mount Rushmore located?
4. How long did it take to carve Mount Rushmore?
5. Who was Crazy Horse?
6. What is significant about the location of the Crazy Horse Memorial?
7. How does Thomas Jefferson exemplify expansion?
8. What is included in the Hall of Records?
9. What president worked to set aside land for our national parks?
10. What president would you like to see added to Mount Rushmore? Why?

Answer Key

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Questions:

1. Which four presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore?
George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, & Theodore Roosevelt
2. What four ideals was Gutzon Borglum communicating by choosing these four presidents?
Founding, expansion, preservation, & unification
3. Where is Mount Rushmore located?
Black mining hills of South Dakota, 13000 Highway 244, Keystone, South Dakota
4. How long did it take to carve Mount Rushmore?
14+ years
5. Who was Crazy Horse?
A Lakota leader who fought to protect his land from American settlement
6. What is significant about the location of the Crazy Horse Memorial?
It is just down the road from Mount Rushmore, the Lakota see Mount Rushmore as a symbol of invasion
7. How does Thomas Jefferson exemplify expansion?
Thomas Jefferson doubled the size of the U.S. with the Louisiana Purchase.
8. What is included in the Hall of Records?
A record of why Mount Rushmore was created, who carved it, and the identities of the four presidents
9. What president worked to set aside land for our national parks?
Theodore Roosevelt
10. What president would you like to see added to Mount Rushmore? Why?
Answers will vary