

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

Whig Presidents

Introduction:

Catching pneumonia after giving a two hour inaugural address. Getting kicked out of your own political party and eventually joining the Confederacy. Becoming deathly ill after eating cherries and drinking milk. Creating the first White House library and signing the Compromise of 1850. These are some of the deeds of our often overlooked Whig presidents.

Born as a party opposed to Andrew Jackson, the Whigs took their name from Revolutionary Era Patriots who fought against rule by a king. The Whig Party believed in a strong Congress and aimed to end the reign of a powerful president they called “King Andrew” Jackson. The Whig Party was a coalition of many viewpoints, but overall, it supported industrial modernization and social reform.

Questions:

1. The Whig party formed in opposition to which president?
2. What military ranks were both Harrison and Taylor?
3. What precedent did Tyler set upon Harrison’s death?
4. What amendment made Tyler’s precedent an official part of the Constitution?
5. Which Whig president would eventually side with the Confederacy during the Civil War?
6. What famous Confederate leader married Zachary Taylor’s daughter?
7. Who created the first White House library?
8. Which Whig leader was known as, “The Great Compromiser”?
9. Who ran the first modern presidential campaign and then served only 32 days in office?
10. Why would Tyler and Fillmore both be nicknamed, “His Accidency”?