

Name_____

Date_____

Which First Lady lived in the White House when it was burned down by the British in the War of 1812?



Dolley Madison was born on May 20, 1768, in North Carolina. Her parents were Quakers in Virginia. Quakers were a religious society that opposed slavery. Dolley was raised with little formal education. Dolley grew into a beautiful young lady and married John Todd, Jr., a lawyer, in 1790. Sadly, just three years after marriage, an outbreak of yellow fever killed her husband and her youngest child.

Not long after her husband's death, U.S. Senator Aaron Burr helped introduce Dolley to James Madison, who was well known for his service to his country, including helping to draft the Constitution of the United States. After some persuasion by Martha Washington, George Washington's wife, she married James Madison in 1794 and moved to Virginia with him.



When James Madison was appointed Secretary of State by Thomas Jefferson, they moved to Washington, D.C. Because President Jefferson's wife had died, Dolley Madison would play the part of hostess at the White House, organizing dinners, and balls, and other social events.



In 1809, James Madison was elected the fourth President of the United States. Madison served two terms in the White House. During this time, Dolley Madison was admired for her social graces and her role as First Lady. During the War of 1812, British soldiers attacked the capital and burned down the White House. Dolley saved many documents and a portrait of George Washington before fleeing from the advancing British army.

James Madison died in 1836. Dolley Madison spent the next years organizing and copying her husband's papers, which she would sell to help pay for her living expenses. Dolley Madison died on July 12, 1849, at the age of 81. She was buried next to her husband, James Madison, at their Montpelier plantation in Virginia.



Name _____

Date _____

Answer The Questions.

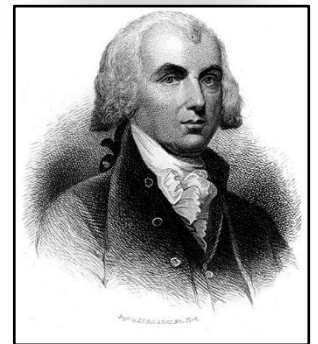
1. Who was Dolley Madison's first husband?

- A. James Madison
- B. John Todd, Jr
- C. George Washington
- D. Thomas Jefferson



2. Who was the fourth president of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Johnny Appleseed
- C. Frederick Douglas
- D. James Madison



3. Who burned down the White House in the War of 1812?

- A. Canadian Soldiers
- B. Indian tribes
- C. Mexican Soldiers
- D. British Troops

4. How many terms did James Madison serve as President?

- A. One term
- B. Two terms
- C. Three terms
- D. Four terms



5. What did Dolley Madison do with her husband's historical papers?

- A. She organized and sold them.
- B. She kept them safe in her attic.
- C. She gave them to her children.
- D. They were lost in a fire.

