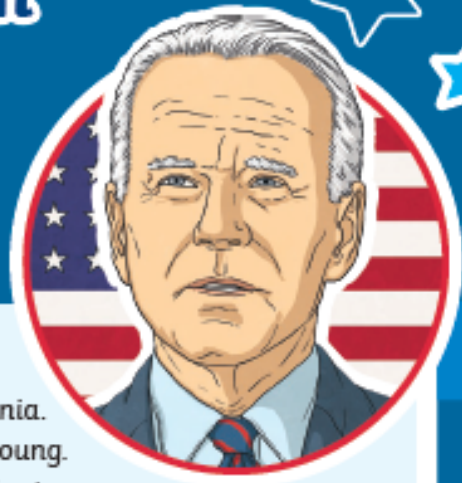


Joe Biden

Joe Biden is a politician and president of the United States. He was inaugurated as the 46th president on 20th January 2021.

He served as the 47th vice-president to Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017.



★ Early Life

He was born on 20th November 1942 in Pennsylvania. His family moved to Delaware when he was still young. His parents were very hard-working and taught him to be tough and to persevere in life.



As a child, Joe Biden had a stammer and was sometimes teased by other children.

To manage his stammer, he learnt long poems and practised reciting them in front of the mirror.



Joe Biden earned a place at the prestigious Archmere Academy. To help pay for his tuition, he cleaned windows and weeded the gardens.



He was a good leader and was elected class president. He went on to study history and political science at the University of Delaware and then studied law at Syracuse University Law School.

★ Career

In 1971, Joe Biden started his own law firm but also became more interested in politics. He joined the Democratic party. In 1972, he ran for the United States Senate, and at the age of 29, he became the fifth-youngest US senator in the nation's history. He went on to serve in the Senate until 2009.

★ Tragedy Strikes

Joe Biden married his first wife in 1966 and had three children. Sadly, in 1972, tragedy struck when Joe Biden's wife and children were involved in a car accident. His wife and daughter died and his sons were badly injured.

Joe Biden

It took all his courage and perseverance to keep going at this difficult time. He married again in 1977 and had another daughter. Unfortunately, there was more sadness to come for Joe Biden, when in 2015, his eldest son died from brain cancer. Once again, despite his grief and sadness, Joe Biden had to overcome this **adversity** and carry on with his work.

★ Becoming President

In 1987, Joe Biden decided to run for the US presidency in the 1988 election. Unfortunately, he had to drop out of the election race; soon afterwards, he had to have two operations to treat dangerous brain **aneurysms** and linked complications.



Twenty years later, in 2008, Joe Biden made his second bid to become president. He was unsuccessful but was asked to be Barack Obama's running mate. In January 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as president and Joe Biden became the 47th vice-president of the US.

On 12th January 2017, Barack Obama awarded Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom- the nation's highest honour for a civilian. Obama called him 'the best vice-president America has ever had'.

In 2020, Joe Biden made a third attempt at becoming president. He stood as the Democratic candidate against Donald Trump and received more votes than any other presidential candidate in history. He became the oldest US president to be sworn into office on his inauguration day at 78 years old.

Glossary

adversity:	A difficult or unpleasant situation.
aneurysm:	A large swelling in the wall of an artery (a large blood vessel).
inaugurated:	Sworn in at a special ceremony to mark the start of a president's four-year term of office.
senator:	A person who is a member of the US Senate and passes laws for their country or state.

Questions

1. What word describes the ceremony for swearing in new presidents? Tick one.

- election
- graduation
- inauguration
- adversity

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Joe Biden married his first wife in 1966.
- Joe Biden's wife and daughter died in a car accident.
- Joe Biden made his second bid to become president.
- Joe Biden started his own law firm.

3. What record did Joe Biden set when he was inaugurated on 20th January 2021?

4. Look at the section called **Early Life**.

Find and copy one word which tells you that Archmere Academy was a well-respected place.

5. Fill in the missing words.

He served as the _____ vice-president to Barack Obama from _____ to 2017.

6. Joe Biden received more votes in the 2020 election than any other presidential candidate in history. How do you think that made him feel? Explain your answer.

7. Do you think that Joe Biden's early life helped him in his career? Explain your answer.

8. What do you think Barack Obama's opinion of his vice-president was? How do you know?

Answers

1. What word describes the ceremony for swearing in new presidents? Tick one.
 - election
 - graduation
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2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.
 - Joe Biden married his first wife in 1966.
 - Joe Biden's wife and daughter died in a car accident.
 - Joe Biden made his second bid to become president.
 - Joe Biden started his own law firm.
3. What record did Joe Biden set when he was inaugurated on 20th January 2021?
Joe Biden set the record of being the oldest US president to be sworn in when he was inaugurated on 20th January 2021.
4. Look at the section called **Early Life**.
Find and copy one word which tells you that Archmere Academy was a well-respected place.
prestigious
5. Fill in the missing words.
He served as the **47th** vice-president to Barack Obama from **2009** to 2017.
6. Joe Biden received more votes in the 2020 election than any other presidential candidate in history. How do you think that made him feel? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: It made him feel proud that he had so much support. It made him feel happy that so many people wanted him to be president.
7. Do you think that Joe Biden's early life helped him in his career? Explain your answer.
Pupil's own responses, such as: Yes, his parents taught him to be tough and to persevere and he needed these qualities to finally become president.
8. What do you think Barack Obama's opinion of his vice-president was? How do you know?
Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack Obama thought highly of his vice-president because he chose him as a running mate / he awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom / he called him 'America's best vice-president'.