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Auszug aus:

Work sheet: The Presidents of the U.S.A.

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The Presidents of the United States of America

1. George Washington (1789-1797)

As the first president of the U.S.A., Washington is still seen as the "father of his country". He took part in creating the United States Constitution. Before his presidency, he was commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and led his country to independence of Great Britain in 1783.

2. John Adams (1797-1801)

John Adams followed Washington's lead: he continued to strengthen the central government and stood for republican values. His term was marked by the struggle to stay out of the ongoing war between Britain and France.

3. Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)

The 3rd president of the United States was the principal author of the *Declaration of Independence* (1776). During his presidency, the United States tried to remain neutral in the *Napoleonic wars*.

4. James Madison (1809-1817)

As Jefferson, Madison was one of the "founding fathers" of the United States. As a political theorist, he was the key author of the "United States Bill of Rights" and also helped creating the "United States Consitition". He led the U.S. through the "War of 1812".

5. James Monroe (1817-1825)

Monroe's presidency was defined by the political calm called "Era of Good Feelings" and shadowed by the first financial crisis of the country, the "Panic of 1819". Monroe is famous for the "Monroe Doctrine": "America to the Americans!"

6. John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)

The son of John Adams promoted education and modernization of the American economy. He is seen as a great diplomat and negotiated many international treaties.

7. Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)

Jackson aggressively enforced the "Indian Removal Act" and supported slavery. He also played an important role in protecting democracy and individual liberty for the United States citizens.

8. Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)

President Van Buren was a key figure in organizing the *Democratic Party*. He was blamed for the depression "*Panic of 1837*" and was known for seeking peace at home and abroad — in contrast to his predecessor. Many of his political opinions (e.g. endorsement of slavery) were ambiguous.

9. William Henry Harrison (1841)

Harrison's presidency was the shortest in U.S. history: he died three weeks after his inauguration.

10. John Tyler (1841-1845)

The former Vice President Tyler succeded to the office of president after Harrison's death. Tyler supported the single state's rights and was against nationalism.

11. James Polk (1845-1849)

James Polk expanded the U.S. territory to the Pacific and to the river Rio Grande. He introduced the first stamp of the United States and initiated the construction of the Washington Monument.

12. Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)

Zachary Taylor was, after Harrison, the second member of the *Whig Party* who became president. Even though he supported slavery, he was against a division of the country resulting from the dispute over slavery.

13. Millard Fillmore (1850-1853)

The 13th president signed the "Compromise of 1850", an agreement between the free states of the North and the slave states of the South, which prevented a civil war for a few years.

14. Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)

During his presidency, Pierce was accused of supporting the South in spreading slavery. He tried to convince Britain to sell Cuba and persuaded Japan to open its markets to the U.S.

15. James Buchanan (1857-1861)

The lifelong bachelor Buchanan was viewed by many as a diplomat between the two sides of the slavery question. But the fact that he didn't have a position in the dispute and also didn't prevent the alienation between North and South marks him as one of the weaker presidents.

16. Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

Shortly after Abraham Lincoln was elected president, some Southern States left the Union. Lincoln led the Northern States in the following civil war between the Union (North) and the Confederates (South) and eventually achieved the abolition of slavery. Lincoln is regarded as one of the most important presidents. He was assassinated in 1865.

17. Andrew Johnson (1865-1869)

Andrew Johnson's term was defined by post-war "Reconstruction", the reintegration of the Southern States into the Union. He was criticized because he vetoed the "Civil Rights Act of 1866", an act that was supposed to improve the living conditions of former slaves.

18. Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877)

A series of scandals, corruption and economic disasters defined Gant's terms. Nevertheless, his reputation improved because of his support of African American voting rights and citizenship rights.

19. Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)

Hayes was elected in one of the most hotly disputed elections. He pledged protection of the rights of Negroes in the South. When the "*Reconstruction*" ended, he ordered the Union's troops out of the Southern capitals.

20. James A. Garfield (1881)

During his limited time in office (he was assassinated 4 months after his inauguration), Garfield called for civil service reforms. He managed to strengthen the position of the president and supported equilibrium between the executive and the legislative.

21. Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885)

Arthur realized some of the civil service reforms his predecessor called for and reduced corruption.

22. Grover Cleveland (1885-1889)

Grover Cleveland was known for his integrity. He supported the U.S. administration by raising the number of functionaries. Cleveland opposed the planned annexion of Hawaii. The statue of liberty was dedicated in Cleveland's term.



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