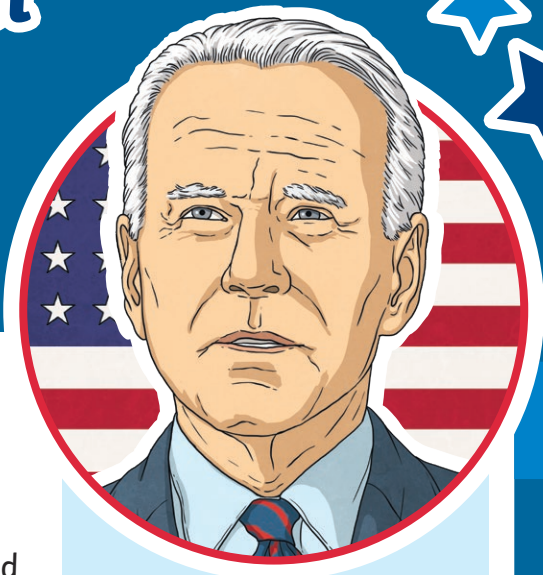


Joe Biden

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

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



★ Growing Up

He was born on 20th November 1942 in Pennsylvania but 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 had to use his perseverance to manage this. When he was older, he attended the respected Archmere Academy. To help pay for his tuition, Joe Biden cleaned windows and weeded the gardens. He went on to the University of Delaware and then studied law at Syracuse University Law School.

In America, there are two major political parties, the **Democrats** and the **Republicans**.

★ Career

In 1971, Joe Biden started his own law firm. He became interested in politics and joined the Democratic party.

In 1972, he ran for the United States Senate and became the fifth-youngest US senator in the nation's history. He went on to serve in the Senate until 2009.

Joe Biden has attempted to become president of the US three times, in 1988, 2008 and in 2020. He was asked to join Barack Obama as his vice-president candidate and became the 47th vice-president when Barack Obama became president in 2009. In the 2020 election, Joe Biden stood as the Democratic candidate against Donald Trump. He received a record number of votes.

Family Life ★

Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy in his life. In 1972, his first wife and one-year-old daughter were killed in a car crash. His two young sons were badly injured. It took all his courage to get through this difficult time and to keep working.

He married again in 1977 and later had another daughter.

There was more sadness to come in 2015 when his eldest son died. Joe Biden had to fight against grief and sadness to carry on.

Did You Know...?

Joe Biden has become the oldest US president at 78 years old.

Questions

1. Where was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- Delaware
 Pennsylvania
 Washington
 London

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

- Joe Biden became a US senator.
 Joe Biden became president.
 Joe Biden opened his own law firm.
 Joe Biden became vice-president.

3. Which sad event happened in Joe Biden's life? Tick one.

- His home was destroyed in an earthquake.
 His parents died when he was young.
 His two sons were killed in a plane crash.
 His wife and daughter were killed in a car accident.

4. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Joe Biden...	• chose Joe Biden as his vice-president.
Donald Trump...	• had a stammer when he was young.
Barack Obama...	• was Joe Biden's opponent in 2020.

5. Which political party did Joe Biden join?

6. Find and copy one word from the **Growing Up** section which shows that Joe Biden keeps trying hard at things.

7. How do you think Joe Biden felt when he knew he had become president? Explain why.

Answers

1. Where was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- Delaware
 Pennsylvania
 Washington
 London

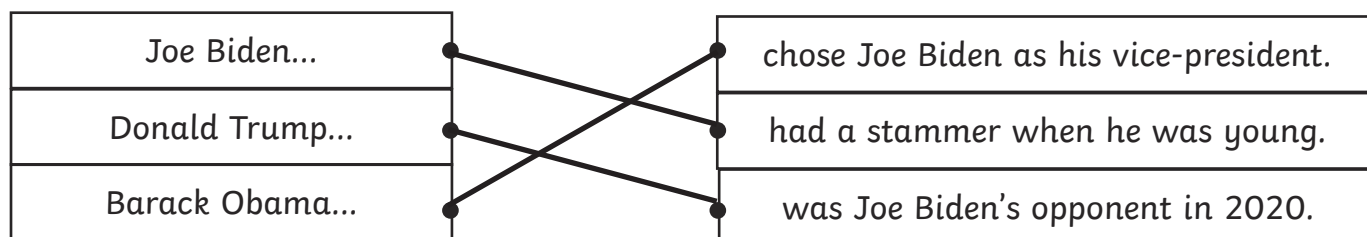
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 1 Joe Biden opened his own law firm.
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- His home was destroyed in an earthquake.
 His parents died when he was young.
 His two sons were killed in a plane crash.
 His wife and daughter were killed in a car accident.

4. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.



5. Which political party did Joe Biden join?

Jo Biden joined the Democrats or the Democratic party.

6. Find and copy one word from the **Growing Up** section which shows that Joe Biden keeps trying hard at things.

persevere or perseverance

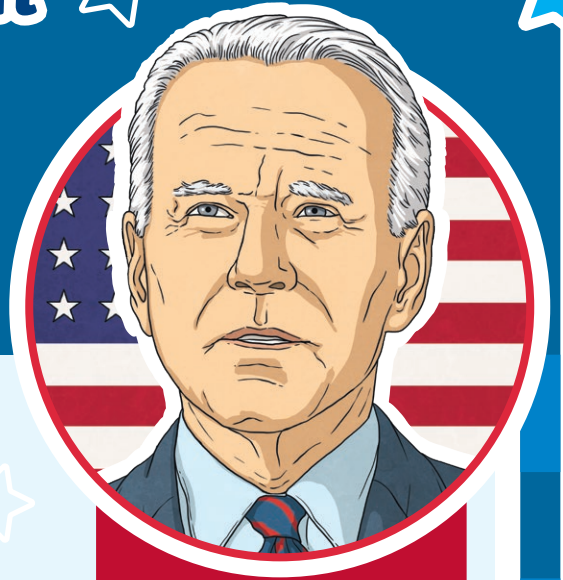
7. How do you think Joe Biden felt when he knew he had become president? Explain why.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Joe Biden would have felt happy when he knew he had become president because he had finally achieved his dream.

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 but 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 had to use his perseverance to manage this. When he was older, he attended the respected Archmere Academy. To help pay for his tuition, Joe Biden cleaned windows and weeded the gardens. He went on to the University of Delaware and then studied law at Syracuse University Law School.

Did You Know...?

In America, there are two main political parties. These are the Democrats and the Republicans.



Career

In 1971, Joe Biden started his own law firm. He became interested in politics and joined the Democratic party.

In 1972, he ran for the United States Senate and became the fifth-youngest US **senator** in the nation's history. He went on to serve in the Senate until 2009.

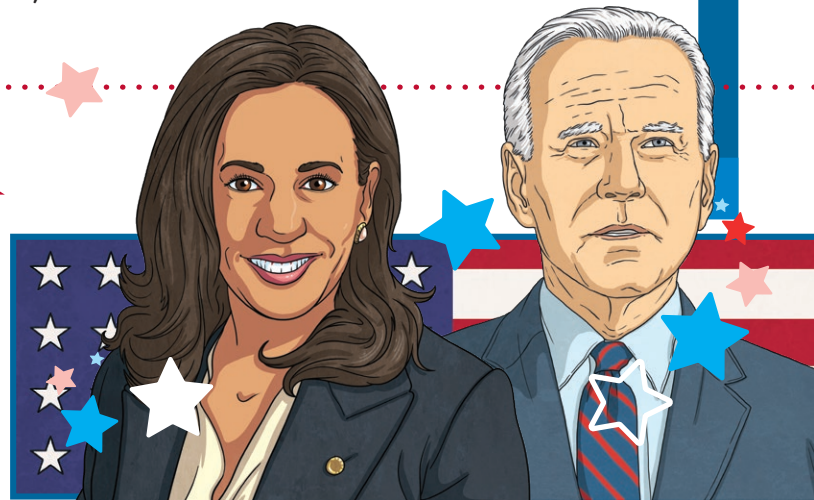
★ Family Life

Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy in his life. In 1972, his wife and young daughter were killed in a car crash. His two sons were badly injured. Joe Biden felt like giving up but found the courage to overcome this **adversity**.

He married again in 1977 and had another daughter. Unfortunately, there was more sadness to come, when in 2015, Joe Biden's eldest son died. Once again, despite his grief and sadness, he continued to think of the people that he served.

Becoming President

Joe Biden first decided to run for the US presidency in the 1988 election but later dropped out of the election.



In 2008, Joe Biden made his second bid to become president. He was unsuccessful but was chosen as the 47th vice-president when Barack Obama became president of the US in 2009.

In 2020, Joe Biden stood as the Democratic candidate against Donald Trump and received a record number of votes. At 78, he is the oldest US president to be sworn into office.

Glossary

adversity:

A difficult or unpleasant situation.

inaugurated:

Sworn into office at a special ceremony to mark the start of a new presidency.

senator:

A member of the US Senate who passes laws for their country.

Questions

1. In what year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.
 - 2020
 - 1942
 - 1971
 - 2008
2. What did Joe Biden work as before he became a senator? Tick one.
 - a firefighter
 - a doctor
 - a lawyer
 - a vice-president
3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.
 - Joe Biden became the 47th vice-president.
 - Joe Biden's eldest son died.
 - Joe Biden graduated from Delaware University.
 - Joe Biden studied law at Syracuse University Law School.
4. To what political party does Joe Biden belong? Tick one.
 - the Conservatives
 - the Democrats
 - the Senate
 - the Republicans
5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy...**
Find and copy one word that means the same as **bravery**.

6. Who was president when Joe Biden was vice-president?

7. Think of a word that you think best describes Joe Biden.
Explain why you have chosen that word.

8. Do you think that Joe Biden is hard-working?
Find two pieces of evidence in the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. In what year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

1942

2. What did Joe Biden work as before he became a senator? Tick one.

a lawyer

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

3 Joe Biden became the 47th vice-president.

4 Joe Biden's eldest son died.

1 Joe Biden graduated from Delaware University.

2 Joe Biden studied law at Syracuse University Law School.

4. To what political party does Joe Biden belong? Tick one.

the Democrats

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **bravery**.

courage

6. Who was president when Joe Biden was vice-president?

Barack Obama was president when Joe Biden was vice-president.

7. Think of a word that you think best describes Joe Biden.

Explain why you have chosen that word.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would describe Joe Biden as courageous because he kept on going even when things were difficult for him. / I would describe Joe Biden as determined because he kept trying until he achieved his goal.

8. Do you think that Joe Biden is hard-working?

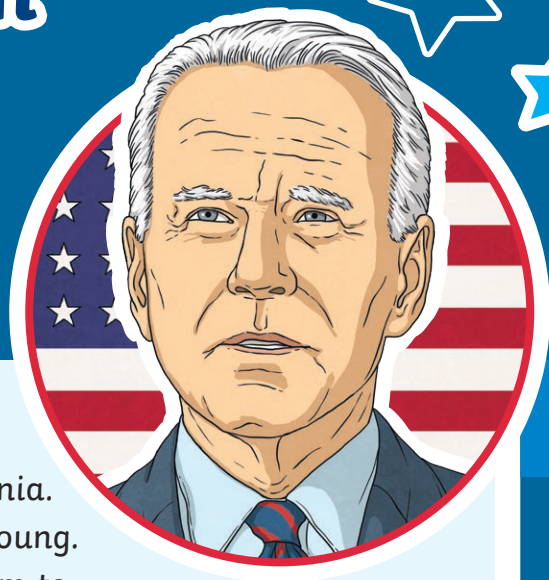
Find two pieces of evidence in the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Joe Biden is hard-working because he washed windows and weeded the garden to help pay his tuition. He also worked hard to manage his stammer.

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.

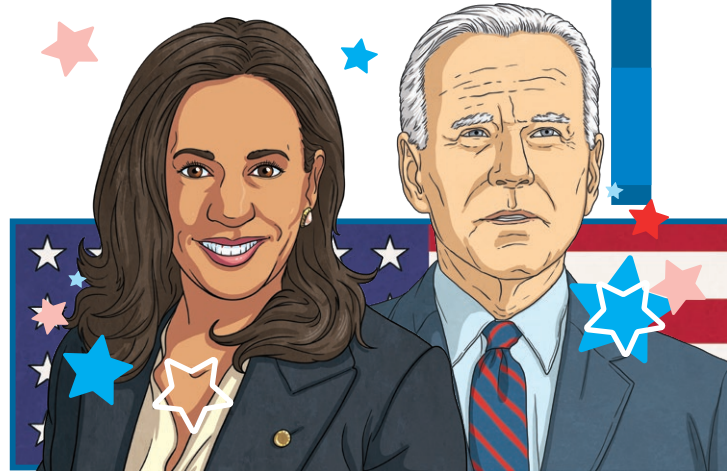
★ Tragedy Strikes

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.

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
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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.
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 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'.