

READING AND SPEAKING

Two famous firsts

1 Translate these words.

nouns

grocer slaves politician twins widow (in) tears

verbs

agree bomb grow fight own resign survive

2 Look at the photographs and complete these sentences.

George Washington was the first _____.

Margaret Thatcher was the first _____.

What else do you know about these people?

3 Work in two groups.

Group A Read about George Washington.

Group B Read about Margaret Thatcher.

4 Are the sentences true (✓) or false (✗) about your person? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 He/She came from a rich family.
- 2 He/She loved being a politician.
- 3 He/She worked hard.
- 4 He/She had a lot of other interests.
- 5 He/She had a good education.
- 6 He/She married, but didn't have any children.
- 7 He/She was in office for eight years.
- 8 Finally he/she was tired of politics and resigned.

5 Find a partner from the other group. Compare George Washington and Margaret Thatcher, using your answers.

6 Complete the questions about the other person. Then ask and answer them with your partner.

About George Washington

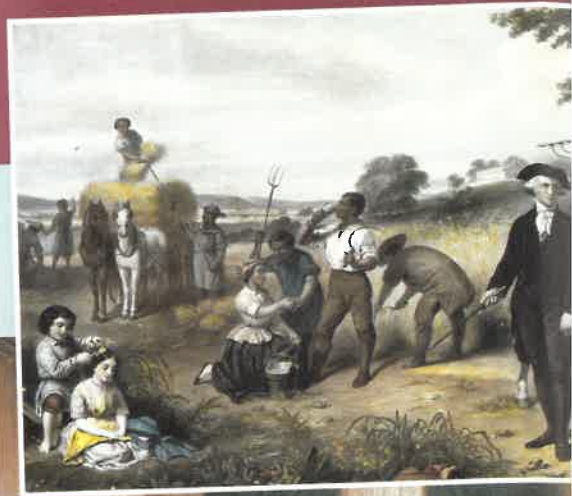
- 1 How many jobs did he ... ?
- 2 When did he ... President?
- 3 What did he ... doing in his free time?
- 4 Did George and Martha have any ... ?
- 5 What ... he build?
- 6 How long ... he President?

About Margaret Thatcher

- 7 What ... her father's job?
- 8 When did she ... Denis?
- 9 How many children did they ... ?
- 10 How much sleep ... she need?
- 11 When did the terrorists ... her hotel?
- 12 How long ... she Prime Minister?

What do you think?

Who were famous leaders in your country?
What did they do?



Two Famous Firsts

George Washington (1732–1799)

He was the first President of the United States. He became President in 1789, eight years after the American War of Independence.

His early life

George was born in Virginia. His family owned a big farm and had slaves. George didn't have much education. During his life he had three jobs: he was a farmer, a soldier, and a politician. He loved the life of a farmer. He grew tobacco and owned horses. He worked hard but he also liked dancing and going to the theatre. In 1759 he married a widow called Martha Custis. They were happy together, but didn't have any children.

His later life

He was Commander-in-Chief of the army and fought the British in the War of Independence. When the war ended in 1781 he was happy to go back to the farm, but his country wanted him to be President. Finally, in 1789, he became President, and gave his name to the new capital city. He started the building of the White House, but he never lived in it. By 1797 he was tired of politics. He went back to his farm and died there two years later.



Margaret Thatcher (1925–)

She was the first woman prime minister in Europe. She became Prime Minister of Britain in 1979.

Her early life

She was born above a shop in the small English town of Grantham. Her father, Alfred Roberts, was a grocer. He worked very hard for little money. Margaret also worked hard, and she went to Oxford University, where she studied chemistry. In 1951 she married Denis Thatcher, a rich businessman. They had twins, a girl and a boy. The love of her life was politics. She didn't have much time for other interests. She said she only needed four hours' sleep a night.

Her later life

She became a politician in 1959, leader of the Conservative Party in 1975, and Prime Minister of Britain four years after that. She had a strong personality. A lot of people were afraid of her, and she was called 'The Iron Lady'. In 1984 Irish terrorists bombed her hotel, but she survived. She was Prime Minister for eleven years. She finally resigned in 1990, but she didn't want to, and she was in tears when she left 10 Downing Street.

