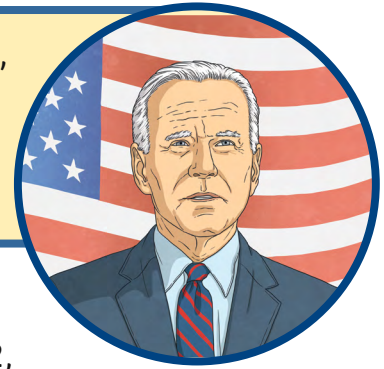


Joe Biden

Joseph Biden is a politician and lawyer. In November 2020, he was named as the **projected** new president of the USA. He could make history in January 2021, by becoming the oldest president ever, at the age of 78.



Early Life

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr was born on 20th November 1942, in Pennsylvania, USA. His parents were Joseph (a car salesman) and Catherine (known as Jean). As a child, Biden had a stammer, which made it difficult for him to speak clearly. He has said that to help him manage it, he practised talking in front of a mirror.

A Political Career

US politicians work in the Senate. Biden worked there from 1973 to 2009 and is one of its longest-serving **senators**. Biden has run for nomination as the Democratic candidate for president twice previously, in 1988 and 2008, but did not win either nomination. He was the **vice-president** of the US for eight years when Barack Obama was the president. In 2020, Joe Biden became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

As Biden is the projected winner of the presidential election race, with more votes than the current president (Donald Trump), he could become the USA's 46th president in January 2021.

In a speech made after he became president-elect, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to divide, but unify'.

Biden's vice-president - Kamala Harris - will also make history; she will be the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian American person to be US vice-president.



The current presidential term of Donald Trump is due to end in January 2021.

Any vote count disputes should be resolved by 8th December 2020; the US congress will count the electoral votes on 6th January 2021 and the president-elect and vice-president-elect will be sworn into office on 20th January. A person serves four years as president unless re-elected for a second term.

Joe Biden

Personal Life

Biden has known tragedy in his life, losing several people close to him. His first wife, Neilia and daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. His two sons were injured and Biden spent the next few years as a single father, ensuring he was around to care for his sons, while also working as a senator.

In 1975, Biden met Jill Jacobs and they were married in 1977.

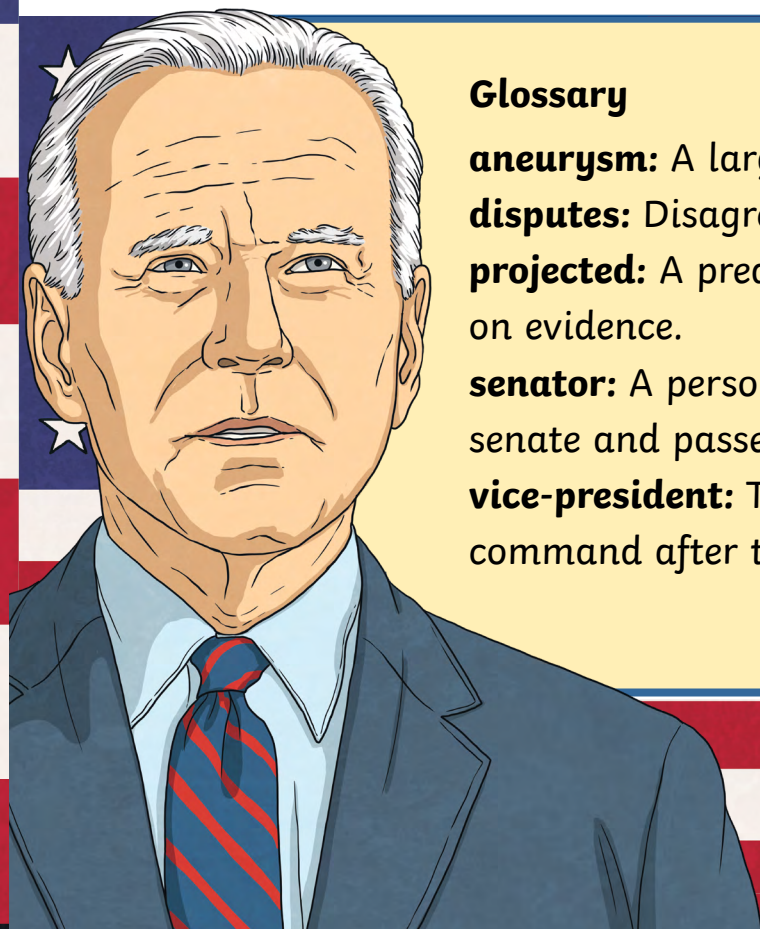
His adult son, Beau, passed away in 2015 from brain cancer. Biden has said that he tries to make his family proud, by doing his best every day.

Biden himself fell ill with two brain **aneurysms** in 1988 and was off work for seven months while he recovered.

Many people believe that the fact Biden has been through difficult times in his own life means that he is able to empathise with a great many people and this is partly what makes him popular with his supporters.

Did You Know...?

The latest US election recorded the highest number of voters in one hundred years, with Biden receiving over 74 million votes - more than any other candidate in history.



Glossary

aneurysm: A large swelling in an artery wall.

disputes: Disagreements on a fact.

projected: A prediction that is made, based on evidence.

senator: A person who is a member of the US senate and passes laws for their country or state.

vice-president: The person who is second in command after the president.

Questions

1. How old is Joe Biden? Tick one.

- 72
 78
 21
 42

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

	Biden was named as president-elect.
	Biden married Jill Jacobs.
	Biden became a senator.
	Joe Biden was born.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden worked there from...**

Find and copy the phrase that means to **work somewhere longer than anyone else**.

4. How might Biden make history in January 2021?

5. Fill in the missing words.

In a speech made after he became _____, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to _____, but unify'.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Biden's character using 25 words or fewer.

7. Explain why you think Biden is popular with large numbers of voters, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

8: How do you think Biden felt when he failed in his bid to be nominated as Democratic party candidate twice? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How old is Joe Biden? Tick one.

- 72
 78
 21
 42

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

4	Biden was named as president-elect.
3	Biden married Jill Jacobs.
2	Biden became a senator.
1	Joe Biden was born.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden worked there from...**

Find and copy the phrase that means to **work somewhere longer than anyone else.**

longest-serving

4. How might Biden make history in January 2021?

He may become the oldest US president ever.

5. Fill in the missing words.

In a speech made after he became **president-elect**, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to **divide**, but unify'.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Biden's character using 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: He is hardworking - he never stopped even when he lost his wife and daughter and he was a single father to two sons. He is determined - he tried again to run as a Democratic candidate for presidency, even though he had failed twice before. He is a survivor - instead of giving up when he suffered loss and illness, he carried on. His family are very important to him - he made sure he was home to look after his boys when he lost his wife and he says he tries to make them proud by doing his best every day.

7. Explain why you think Biden is popular with large numbers of voters, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: His supporters might see him as hardworking - he has spoken about how he works hard every day for his family. They might say that he represents family values and family is important to many people. His supporters might say that he is honest - he has been open about tragedies in his life and if they have gone through something similar, they might feel a connection to him that way.

8. How do you think Biden felt when he failed in his bid to be nominated as Democratic party candidate twice? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: He may have felt disappointed that he didn't get the support he was hoping for. It may have made him even more determined to succeed. He probably felt like giving up after the second time but he didn't, he continued to pursue his dream.