

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 says that to help him manage it, he practised talking in front of a mirror.

While studying at university in Delaware, Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool. He also enjoyed playing American football and his team was unbeaten for a season. He later attended Syracuse University Law School in New York.

A Political Career

US politicians work in the Senate. Biden worked there from 1973 to 2009, was re-elected six times 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. However, he was elected as vice-president of the US in 2009, when Barack Obama became president and held this role for eight years. Barack and Biden were said to be friends as well as colleagues.

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 current president and Republican candidate, 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 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. 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.

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Personal Life

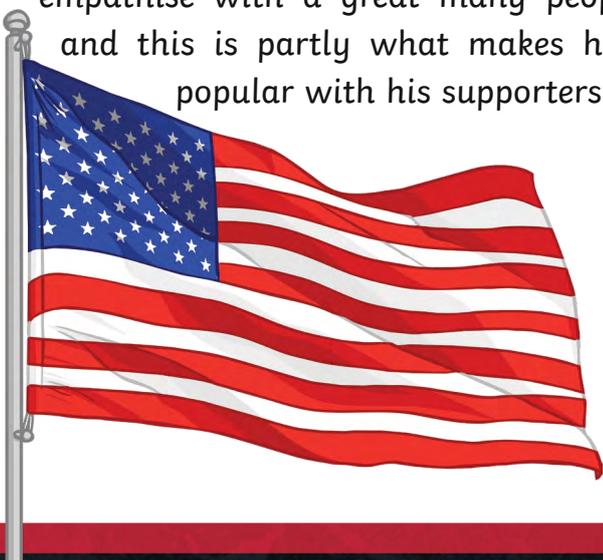
Biden has encountered many tragedies in his life, losing several people close to him. His first wife, Neilia and daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. His two sons were injured and Biden spent the next few years as a single father, travelling long distances to work as a senator each day while ensuring he was around to care for his sons.

In 1975, Biden met Jill Jacobs - a teacher; they were married in 1977 and later welcomed a daughter.

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 life-threatening brain **aneurysms** in 1988 and was off work for seven months while he recovered from surgery on them.

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...?

He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2017.



In 2017, Biden and his wife set up a charity called The Biden Foundation.

Glossary

aneurysm: A large swelling in an artery wall.

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.

Questions

1. What year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- 1973
 1942
 1924
 1975

2. Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

Joe Biden is a...	Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool.
Kamala Harris...	'that seeks not to divide, but unify'.
Biden promised to be a president...	politician and lawyer.
While studying at university...	will also make history.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden has encountered...**

Find and copy the phrase that means '**very sad events**'.

4. Name **two** places that Biden has lived

- _____
- _____

5. Fill in the missing words.

The latest US election recorded the _____ number of _____ in one hundred years...

6. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career and explain why you think they were important.

7. '...Biden is the **projected** winner'. Explain why Biden could only be named as the 'projected' winner in November 2020.

8. How do you think Biden felt when he became president-elect? Explain your answer.

9. Do you think that Biden will make a good president? Tick one.

yes no

Fully explain your choice.

Answers

1. What year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- 1973
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2. Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

Joe Biden is a...	Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool.
Kamala Harris...	'that seeks not to divide, but unify'.
Biden promised to be a president...	politician and lawyer.
While studying at university...	will also make history.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden has encountered...**

Find and copy the phrase that means '**very sad events**'.

tragedies

4. Name **two** places that Biden has lived

Accept any two of the following: Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The latest US election recorded the **highest** number of **voters** in one hundred years...

6. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career and explain why you think they were important.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 2009 because he became vice-president of the USA which is a phenomenal achievement for a politician. November 2020 because he became president-elect and received more votes than any other presidential candidate in history.

7. ‘...Biden is the **projected** winner’. Explain why Biden could only be named as the ‘projected’ winner in November 2020.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: Donald Trump is still the president until his term ends in January 2021. Biden cannot be officially named as the winner until all the votes have been re-counted and checked. He does not become the president until he is sworn into office on 20th January 2021.

8. How do you think Biden felt when he became president-elect? Explain your answer.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: He had previously run for nomination as the Democratic party’s candidate twice but had been unsuccessful, so he might have felt proud of himself for not giving up and for achieving his goal.

9. Do you think that Biden will make a good president? Tick one.

Fully explain your choice.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: Yes - He will be a good president because he is a family man, which means he is caring and kind, so hopefully he will be the same towards everyone. He has promised to help unite the USA, which means he does not want arguments and fighting, but people to work together.