

**Family Exhibition Guide
For Kids and Their Adults**

THE PRESIDENT'S PHOTOGRAPHER



FIFTY YEARS INSIDE THE OVAL OFFICE

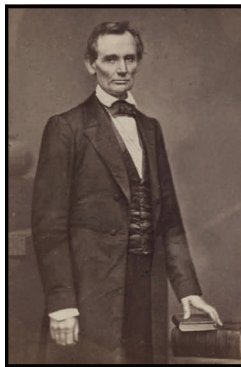


Early Presidential Photos

The Age without Television

Have you ever traded baseball or Pokémon cards?

Before television, the only way people could see a President was in pictures or in person. During the mid- to late 1800s, **visiting cards**, like the one of Abraham Lincoln to the right, were very popular. People had their picture taken and then traded cards with friends. Lincoln's trading card was handed out when he was running for President. He said that **the trading card helped him win the election!**

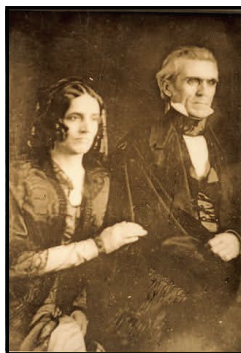


Lincoln's Trading Card!

Here he is as a presidential candidate, 1860.

Change in Technology=More Photos

- ◆ **President Polk** (1845-49) was the first President to be photographed in office. He had around **10 photos** taken during his presidency.
- ◆ **President Lincoln** (1860-65) had over **100 photos**.
- ◆ Now we have digital cameras that allow today's photographers to take **millions of photos of President Obama** (2009-17).



President Polk with wife Sarah Childress Polk, photograph probably by John Plumbe, Jr., c. 1846

Presidential Pets

Fun Facts



Did you know? President Obama's **dog Bo** was a gift to his daughters when he first became President.



Did you know? Before Ronald Reagan was President, he was a famous **Hollywood movie star!** He even **rode horses in the movies.** Here is President Reagan and his wife Nancy at Camp David, where they loved to ride horses on the weekend.



Did you know? Caroline Kennedy (left), daughter of President Kennedy (right), had a **pony named "Macaroni."** In fact, the Kennedys had **over twenty pets.** Among them were several **horses, dogs, a cat, a canary, parakeets, a salamander, hamsters,** and a **rabbit.**

Early Presidential Photos

Serious Business

When Photography was New

Photography was still new in the mid-1800s, and sometimes it could take 10 to 20 minutes to take a picture. That meant **NO MOVING for 10 to 20 minutes!** People had to sit still without moving or the picture would be blurry. A **head brace or clamp** was sometimes used to keep a person's head from moving during the photo.



A cartoon from 1855 shows what happens if you move during a photograph. Top: family posing for a photo; Bottom: the funny aftermath of moving during their photo.

Are any of the Presidents smiling on our paper money?

Even if a person only had to sit still for seconds, they often didn't smile.

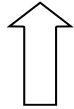
Unlike today, **people didn't have their photo taken or portrait drawn often, so perhaps that's why they look more serious.**



A Day In The Life

Today's Presidential Photographers

No day is the same—a presidential photographer could be on an airplane, in the White House, or in another country.



Pete Souza and his staff take **20,000-80,000 photos** of the Obamas **each month!** This means that they sometimes take up to 20,000 a week. In 16 months, they made 1 million pictures.

Where do you think this photo was taken? In President Lyndon B. Johnson's bedroom. (He's on the bed having a meeting.) As official photographer, you have to be awake when the President is. This means working all hours, even into the night. Yoichi Okamoto, photographer of President Johnson, gave this **advice to a future presidential photographer**, "You just have to be there all the time. You can't not be there."



Meeting the President

What would you say or do if you could meet the President?



The Story Behind the Photo

The White House staff member, Carlton Philadelphia, brought his family in to meet the President. At one point, his son declared that he'd been told that he and the President had the same haircut. President Obama bent over so the child could get a better look, "and he helpfully pointed out all the gray hairs and then he decided to pat me on the head, just to get a feel for it," the President explained.

- ◆ If you had your picture taken with the President, what would you wear?
- ◆ What would you do in the photo with the President?
- ◆ Where would you want the photo to be taken?
- ◆ Would anyone else be in the photo with you and the President?
- ◆ What would you say to the President?

Meeting the President

What would you say or do if you could meet the President?



Sometimes meeting the President means standing in a big crowd.
President Kennedy is seen here in Fort Worth, Texas, 1963.

- ◆ Can you find the President?
(Hint: Look in the lower right part of the photo.)
- ◆ If you were in this picture, what sounds do you think you would hear?

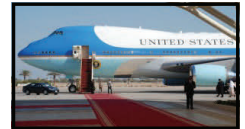
A Day In The Life

Official Presidential Photographer



Job Description

- ◆ Office in the White House
- ◆ Travel the world on Air Force One
- ◆ Ride in the presidential motorcade
- ◆ Meet people from all over the world
- ◆ Work all hours of the day and night (You could work 12-15 hours in a day and 6-7 days a week, which means you wouldn't get to see your family or friends much.)
- ◆ Follow the President's every move
- ◆ Go on vacation with the President and his family
- ◆ Run to capture the perfect picture
- ◆ Keep secrets (You can't talk about what you hear in top secret meetings.)



When you grow up, would you like to be a presidential photographer?

Why or why not?

Hard
Work

Being President (and his Photographer) is Hard Work



Can you tell what type of building President Bush is working in?
**Find the carpet with numbers and letters, the American Flag,
and a chalkboard.**

The President is in a classroom at the Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida. President Bush was visiting this school when a terrorist group attacked America on 9/11/2001. He got to work taking notes and finding out important information while watching the news on the television.

Hard
Work

Being President (and his Photographer) is Hard Work



What's going on in this
photo?

What do you think
President Clinton and the
First Lady are thinking?

Who's talking to them and
what are they being told?

We know they are being told important news on Air Force One (the plane the President travels on). But, we will never know what they are being told. Part of being official presidential photographer is to keep secrets; you never talk about what you hear behind the scenes.