

THE AGES (IN YEARS) AT INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST 44 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.57, 61,

THE AGES (IN YEARS) AT INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST 44 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.57, 61, UNDERSTANDING THE AGES AT WHICH U.S. PRESIDENTS HAVE ASSUMED OFFICE PROVIDES FASCINATING INSIGHTS INTO THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP. IT REVEALS TRENDS RELATED TO EXPERIENCE, YOUTH, AND THE CHANGING POLITICAL CLIMATE OVER MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES. FROM THE YOUNGEST TO THE OLDEST, EACH PRESIDENT'S AGE AT INAUGURATION REFLECTS A UNIQUE STORY, INFLUENCED BY HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PERSONAL AMBITIONS, AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE DELVE INTO THE AGES OF THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS, EXPLORING WHAT THESE AGES REVEAL ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY AND LEADERSHIP.

OVERVIEW OF PRESIDENTIAL AGES AT INAUGURATION

THE AGES AT WHICH PRESIDENTS HAVE TAKEN OFFICE HAVE VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY, RANGING FROM UNDER 40 TO OVER 70. THE TYPICAL AGE HAS SHIFTED OVER TIME, INFLUENCED BY FACTORS SUCH AS LIFE EXPECTANCY, POLITICAL STABILITY, AND THE NATURE OF CAMPAIGNS. THE FIRST PRESIDENTS, LIKE GEORGE WASHINGTON, WERE IN THEIR EARLY 60s, WHILE RECENT PRESIDENTS, SUCH AS JOHN F. KENNEDY, ASSUMED OFFICE IN THEIR EARLY 40s. THESE VARIATIONS UNDERScore HOW DIFFERENT ERAS DEMANDED DIFFERENT QUALITIES IN LEADERSHIP AND HOW SOCIETAL PERCEPTIONS OF AGE HAVE EVOLVED.

HISTORICAL TRENDS IN PRESIDENTIAL AGES

EARLY PRESIDENTS (1789–1829)

THE EARLY U.S. PRESIDENTS TENDED TO BE OLDER, OFTEN IN THEIR 50s AND 60s, WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON BEING 57 AT HIS FIRST INAUGURATION. THIS TREND REFLECTED THE SOCIETAL EXPECTATION THAT LEADERS SHOULD HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM. NOTABLY, WASHINGTON WAS 57, AND THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS 57 AS WELL, SIGNALING A PREFERENCE FOR SEASONED STATESMEN.

MID-19TH CENTURY PRESIDENTS (1830–1877)

DURING THIS PERIOD, AGES AT INAUGURATION RANGED FROM THE MID-50s TO EARLY 70s. ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS NOTABLY YOUNG FOR HIS TIME, ASSUMING OFFICE AT 52. LEADERS LIKE ULYSSES S. GRANT AND RUTHERFORD B. HAYES WERE IN THEIR EARLY 50s, WHILE OTHERS, SUCH AS ANDREW JACKSON, WERE IN THEIR 60s, EMPHASIZING A MIX OF YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE.

20TH CENTURY SHIFTS

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY SAW A TREND TOWARD SOMEWHAT YOUNGER PRESIDENTS, WITH THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSUMING OFFICE AT JUST 42 AFTER MCKINLEY'S ASSASSINATION, MAKING HIM THE YOUNGEST PRESIDENT UP TO THAT POINT. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WAS 51 AT HIS FIRST INAUGURATION, ILLUSTRATING A MOVE TOWARD SLIGHTLY YOUNGER LEADERSHIP AS SOCIETAL NORMS SHIFTED.

MODERN ERA (POST-1930s)

IN RECENT DECADES, PRESIDENTS HAVE OFTEN BEEN IN THEIR 50s OR EARLY 60s. JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS 43, MAKING HIM THE YOUNGEST ELECTED PRESIDENT, WHILE RONALD REAGAN WAS 69 AT HIS SECOND INAUGURATION, THE OLDEST AT THAT TIME. THE TREND INDICATES A BALANCE BETWEEN YOUTHFUL VIGOR AND SEASONED EXPERIENCE.

NOTABLE AGES OF THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS

HERE, WE EXAMINE SPECIFIC PRESIDENTS' AGES AT INAUGURATION, HIGHLIGHTING NOTABLE EXTREMES AND WHAT THEY SIGNIFY.

YOUNGEST PRESIDENTS

- JOHN F. KENNEDY (1961): 43 YEARS OLD
- THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1901): 42 YEARS OLD (ASSUMED OFFICE AFTER MCKINLEY'S ASSASSINATION)

KENNEDY'S AGE MARKED A NEW BENCHMARK FOR YOUTHFUL LEADERSHIP, EMBODYING A DESIRE FOR FRESH PERSPECTIVES DURING THE COLD WAR ERA. ROOSEVELT'S ASCENSION SHOWCASED THE ABILITY OF YOUNGER LEADERS TO ASSUME THE HIGHEST OFFICE UNEXPECTEDLY.

OLDEST PRESIDENTS

- JOE BIDEN (2021): 78 YEARS OLD (AT HIS INAUGURATION)
- RONALD REAGAN (1981): 69 YEARS OLD

WHILE BIDEN'S AGE IS THE HIGHEST AMONG THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS, REAGAN'S AGE AT HIS SECOND INAUGURATION WAS NOTABLE FOR SHOWING THAT AGE CAN EQUATE TO VIGOR AND EXPERIENCE.

INFLUENCE OF AGE ON LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

AGE CAN INFLUENCE A PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP STYLE, POLICY PRIORITIES, AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION. YOUNGER PRESIDENTS OFTEN BRING ENERGY AND A DESIRE FOR CHANGE, WHEREAS OLDER PRESIDENTS MIGHT EMPHASIZE STABILITY AND EXPERIENCE.

- **YOUNGER PRESIDENTS:** TEND TO CHAMPION PROGRESSIVE POLICIES, REFORMS, AND FRESH IDEAS.
- **OLDER PRESIDENTS:** USUALLY FOCUS ON CONTINUITY, EXPERIENCE, AND DIPLOMATIC STABILITY.

FOR EXAMPLE, KENNEDY'S YOUTHFUL ENERGY INSPIRED INITIATIVES LIKE THE APOLLO SPACE PROGRAM, WHILE EISENHOWER'S OLDER AGE PROJECTED CALMNESS DURING THE COLD WAR TENSIONS.

IMPACTS OF AGE ON ELECTION OUTCOMES

THE AGE OF A CANDIDATE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE ELECTORAL SUCCESS. VOTERS MAY FAVOR YOUTHFUL VIGOR OR SEASONED EXPERIENCE DEPENDING ON THE ERA'S CHALLENGES.

1. **APPEALING TO YOUTH:** KENNEDY'S YOUTHFUL IMAGE HELPED GALVANIZE YOUNGER VOTERS.
2. **APPEALING TO STABILITY:** OLDER CANDIDATES LIKE REAGAN ATTRACTED VOTERS SEEKING EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP.

POLLS AND CAMPAIGNS OFTEN EMPHASIZE AGE-RELATED QUALITIES TO APPEAL TO ELECTORATE CONCERNS ABOUT CHANGE VERSUS STABILITY.

COMPARISON WITH CONTEMPORARY LEADERS

THE TREND OF PRESIDENTIAL AGES AT INAUGURATION CAN BE CONTRASTED WITH LEADERS WORLDWIDE. MANY COUNTRIES SEE SIMILAR PATTERNS WHERE YOUTHFUL LEADERS ARE SEEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE, WHILE OLDER LEADERS ARE VIEWED AS STABILIZERS.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- LEADERS LIKE EMMANUEL MACRON (FRANCE) ASSUMED OFFICE IN THEIR 40S.
- QUEEN ELIZABETH II ASCENDED TO THE THRONE AT 25, SYMBOLIZING A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADERSHIP AGE.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE TREND TOWARD OLDER PRESIDENTS IN RECENT DECADES REFLECTS A SOCIETAL PREFERENCE FOR EXPERIENCE DURING TIMES OF COMPLEX GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

CONCLUSION

THE AGES AT WHICH THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSUMED OFFICE REVEAL MUCH ABOUT THE NATION'S EVOLVING LEADERSHIP IDEALS. FROM THE SEASONED STATESMEN OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES TO THE YOUTHFUL ICONS OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES, AGE HAS PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN SHAPING PRESIDENTIAL NARRATIVES. WHILE YOUNGER PRESIDENTS TEND TO SYMBOLIZE CHANGE AND HOPE, OLDER PRESIDENTS OFTEN EMBODY STABILITY AND WISDOM. AS POLITICAL DYNAMICS CONTINUE TO SHIFT, THE AGE OF PRESIDENTS WILL REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP HISTORY, PROVIDING INSIGHT INTO SOCIETAL VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS. WHETHER YOUNG OR OLD, EACH PRESIDENT'S AGE AT INAUGURATION REFLECTS THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR ERA, SHAPING THE COURSE OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

NOTE: THE SPECIFIC AGES OF ALL 44 PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM HISTORICAL RECORDS, EMPHASIZING THE DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES OVER MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO WAS THE YOUNGEST U.S. PRESIDENT AT THE TIME OF INAUGURATION AMONG THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS?

THE YOUNGEST U.S. PRESIDENT AT INAUGURATION WAS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, WHO WAS 42 YEARS OLD WHEN HE ASSUMED OFFICE AFTER WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S ASSASSINATION.

WHICH PRESIDENT WAS THE OLDEST AT THE TIME OF THEIR INAUGURATION AMONG THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS?

JOE BIDEN WAS THE OLDEST PRESIDENT INAUGURATED, AT AGE 78.

WHAT WAS THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE FIRST 44 U.S. PRESIDENTS AT THEIR INAUGURATION?

THE AVERAGE AGE AT INAUGURATION FOR THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS WAS APPROXIMATELY 55 YEARS OLD.

HOW HAS THE AGE OF PRESIDENTS AT INAUGURATION CHANGED OVER TIME?

OVER TIME, PRESIDENTS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN OLDER AT INAUGURATION, WITH RECENT PRESIDENTS TYPICALLY IN THEIR LATE 50S OR EARLY 60S, REFLECTING INCREASED EXPERIENCE AND LONGEVITY.

ARE THERE ANY PATTERNS OR TRENDS RELATED TO THE AGES OF PRESIDENTS AND THEIR POLITICAL PARTIES?

YES, SOME TRENDS SHOW THAT DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS TEND TO BE OLDER AT INAUGURATION COMPARED TO REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTS, THOUGH THERE ARE NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGES 57 AND 61 MENTIONED IN THE DATA?

THE AGES 57 AND 61 LIKELY REPRESENT SPECIFIC AGES OF RECENT PRESIDENTS AT THEIR INAUGURATION, HIGHLIGHTING THE TREND OF PRESIDENTS BEING IN THEIR LATE 50S OR EARLY 60S WHEN ENTERING OFFICE.

WHO WAS THE FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT TO BE INAUGURATED IN THEIR 60S?

RONALD REAGAN WAS THE FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT TO BE INAUGURATED IN HIS 60S, AT AGE 69.

HOW DOES THE AGE AT INAUGURATION CORRELATE WITH A PRESIDENT'S TIME IN OFFICE?

OLDER PRESIDENTS AT INAUGURATION OFTEN SERVE SHORTER TERMS DUE TO AGE-RELATED FACTORS, WHEREAS YOUNGER PRESIDENTS MAY SERVE LONGER TERMS OR HAVE MORE STAMINA FOR EXTENDED SERVICE.

HAS ANY PRESIDENT BEEN INAUGURATED AT THE EXACT AGES OF 57 OR 61?

YES, SEVERAL PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN INAUGURATED AT AGES CLOSE TO 57 OR 61, WHICH ARE COMMON AGE RANGES AMONG RECENT PRESIDENTS, REFLECTING A TREND OF SEASONED POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AT ENTERING OFFICE.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE AGES (IN YEARS) AT INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST 44 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS ARE GIVEN BELOW. 57, 61,

THE AGE AT WHICH A PRESIDENT TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE IS OFTEN A REFLECTION OF THEIR EXPERIENCE, MATURITY, AND READINESS TO LEAD A NATION. THE AGES OF U.S. PRESIDENTS AT THEIR INAUGURATION HAVE VARIED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE CENTURIES, OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS, AND THE EVOLVING PROFILE OF LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA. UNDERSTANDING THESE AGES HELPS US APPRECIATE THE DIVERSITY OF LEADERSHIP STYLES AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS FROM THE COUNTRY'S FOUNDING THROUGH THE MODERN ERA. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE DELVE INTO THE AGES OF THE FIRST 44 U.S. PRESIDENTS AT THEIR INAUGURATIONS, EXAMINING WHAT THESE AGES REVEAL ABOUT THEIR ERAS, THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR LIFE STAGES, AND HOW AGE HAS HISTORICALLY INFLUENCED PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL AGE AT INAUGURATION

THE AGE OF A PRESIDENT AT THEIR INAUGURATION IS MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER; IT OFTEN CORRELATES WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE, WORLDVIEW, AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE. YOUNGER PRESIDENTS MAY BRING FRESH IDEAS AND A SENSE OF DYNAMISM, WHILE OLDER PRESIDENTS TEND TO EMBODY EXPERIENCE AND STABILITY. HISTORICALLY, THE AGE AT INAUGURATION CAN ALSO REFLECT SOCIETAL NORMS ABOUT LEADERSHIP, MATURITY, AND THE EXPECTATIONS PLACED UPON NATIONAL FIGURES DURING DIFFERENT PERIODS.

KEY REASONS WHY AGE MATTERS INCLUDE:

- EXPERIENCE LEVEL: OLDER PRESIDENTS OFTEN HAVE MORE EXTENSIVE POLITICAL CAREERS, MILITARY SERVICE, OR PUBLIC SERVICE BACKGROUNDS.
- PERCEPTION OF VITALITY: YOUNGER PRESIDENTS MAY BE PERCEIVED AS MORE ENERGETIC, POTENTIALLY APPEALING TO A CHANGING ELECTORATE.
- HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE AGE AT INAUGURATION CAN REFLECT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE—WHETHER A NATION SEEKS

EXPERIENCED STABILITY OR FRESH LEADERSHIP.

EARLY PRESIDENTS AND THEIR INAUGURATION AGES

GEORGE WASHINGTON (1789 & 1792): THE VETERAN LEADER

- AGE AT FIRST INAUGURATION: 57 YEARS OLD
- AGE AT SECOND INAUGURATION: 65 YEARS OLD

GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS A SEASONED MILITARY LEADER AND STATESMAN BY THE TIME HE BECAME THE NATION'S FIRST PRESIDENT. HIS AGE AT 57 WAS RELATIVELY MATURE COMPARED TO SOME OF HIS SUCCESSORS, REFLECTING THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENCE AND GRAVITAS IN ESTABLISHING THE NEW REPUBLIC. WASHINGTON'S AGE AT SECOND INAUGURATION UNDERScoreD HIS ENDURING LEADERSHIP, AS HE WAS SEEN AS A STABILIZING FIGURE DURING A TURBULENT TIME.

JOHN ADAMS (1797): THE ELDER STATESMAN

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 61 YEARS OLD

JOHN ADAMS, THE SECOND PRESIDENT, WAS ALREADY A PROMINENT POLITICAL FIGURE WITH A SIGNIFICANT CAREER IN DIPLOMACY AND LAW. AT 61, ADAMS EXEMPLIFIED THE TREND OF EXPERIENCED LEADERS STEPPING INTO THE EXECUTIVE ROLE, EMPHASIZING KNOWLEDGE AND STATESMANSHIP.

THE 19TH CENTURY: INCREASING YOUTH AND MATURITY

THOMAS JEFFERSON (1801): A YOUNG INNOVATOR

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 57 YEARS OLD

JEFFERSON'S AGE AT INAUGURATION WAS SIMILAR TO WASHINGTON'S, BUT HE REPRESENTED A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP ALIGNED WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS. HIS AGE SIGNALLED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO THE EMERGING ROLE OF MORE YOUTHFUL LEADERSHIP IN SHAPING THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1861): MID-50S AND THE CIVIL WAR

- AGE AT FIRST INAUGURATION: 52 YEARS OLD

LINCOLN'S AGE AT 52 POSITIONED HIM AS A LEADER WITH ENOUGH EXPERIENCE TO NAVIGATE A DIVIDED NATION BUT STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG IN POLITICAL TERMS. HIS YOUTHFULNESS COMPARED TO LATER PRESIDENTS WAS OFTEN LINKED TO HIS ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

ULYSSES S. GRANT (1869): VETERAN COMMANDER

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 46 YEARS OLD

GRANT WAS NOTABLY YOUNGER THAN MANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS, REFLECTING A SHIFT TOWARD LEADERS WITH MILITARY BACKGROUNDS AND LESS TRADITIONAL POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. HIS AGE AT 46 MADE HIM ONE OF THE YOUNGEST PRESIDENTS UP TO THAT POINT, EMPHASIZING A NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP.

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY: MATURITY AND EXPERIENCE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1901): THE YOUNGEST PRESIDENT (AT THE TIME)

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 42 YEARS OLD

ROOSEVELT’S AGE AT 42 MADE HIM THE YOUNGEST PRESIDENT IN U.S. HISTORY UNTIL JOHN F. KENNEDY. HIS ENERGETIC STYLE AND PROGRESSIVE POLICIES MARKED A DEPARTURE FROM OLDER LEADERSHIP NORMS, SIGNALING A MORE VIGOROUS APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1909): THE ELDER STATESMAN

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 51 YEARS OLD

TAFT’S AGE DEMONSTRATED A MOVE TOWARD EXPERIENCED, TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP, WITH A BACKGROUND IN LAW AND JUDICIARY.

THE MID-20TH CENTURY: THE RISE OF THE MIDDLE-AGED PRESIDENTS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (1933): THE EMERGENCE OF A LONG-TERM LEADER

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 51 YEARS OLD

ROOSEVELT’S AGE AT INAUGURATION WAS TYPICAL FOR HIS ERA, COMBINING EXPERIENCE WITH THE VIGOR TO LEAD THROUGH THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II.

JOHN F. KENNEDY (1961): THE YOUNGEST ELECTED PRESIDENT

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 43 YEARS OLD

KENNEDY’S YOUTH AND CHARISMA MADE HIM A SYMBOL OF A NEW, YOUTHFUL AMERICA. HIS AGE AT 43 SET A RECORD FOR THE YOUNGEST ELECTED PRESIDENT, REFLECTING SOCIETAL SHIFTS TOWARD VALUING VITALITY AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES.

LATE 20TH AND EARLY 21ST CENTURY: AGE AS A REFLECTION OF EXPERIENCE AND MATURITY

RONALD REAGAN (1981): THE OLDEST NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 69 YEARS OLD

REAGAN’S AGE AT 69 EXEMPLIFIED A TREND WHERE SEASONED POLITICIANS WITH EXTENSIVE CAREERS ENTERED THE PRESIDENCY LATER IN LIFE, BRINGING MATURITY AND EXPERIENCE TO THE ROLE.

BILL CLINTON (1993): THE YOUNGER PRESIDENT OF THE MODERN ERA

- AGE AT INAUGURATION: 46 YEARS OLD

CLINTON’S RELATIVELY YOUTHFUL AGE SIGNALLED A SHIFT TOWARD LEADERSHIP THAT COMBINED EXPERIENCE WITH ENERGETIC APPEAL, ALIGNING WITH A DESIRE FOR CHANGE AND RENEWAL.

THE AGE SPECTRUM OF THE FIRST 44 PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENT	AGE AT INAUGURATION	NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS
GEORGE WASHINGTON	57	VETERAN, FOUNDING FATHER
JOHN ADAMS	61	EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT AND STATESMAN
THOMAS JEFFERSON	57	REVOLUTIONARY LEADER, INTELLECTUAL
JAMES MADISON	57	POLITICAL THINKER, CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECT
JAMES MONROE	58	EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT, MILITARY LEADER
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS	57	DIPLOMAT, CONGRESSMAN

ANDREW JACKSON	61	WAR HERO, POPULIST LEADER
MARTIN VAN BUREN	54	EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON	68	MILITARY HERO, OLDER AGE AT FIRST TERM
JOHN TYLER	51	EXPERIENCED LEGISLATOR
JAMES K. POLK	49	YOUNG, ENERGETIC LEADER
ZACHARY TAYLOR	64	MILITARY GENERAL, OLDER AGE AT FIRST INAUGURATION
MILLARD FILLMORE	50	POLITICIAN, VICE PRESIDENT
FRANKLIN PIERCE	48	EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN
JAMES BUCHANAN	65	DIPLOMAT, SEASONED STATESMAN
ABRAHAM LINCOLN	52	RELATIVELY YOUNG, TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP
ANDREW JOHNSON	56	MILITARY BACKGROUND, MID-50S AT INAUGURATION
ULYSSES S. GRANT	46	YOUNGEST PRESIDENT UP TO THAT POINT, MILITARY HERO
RUTHERFORD B. HAYES	54	CIVIL WAR VETERAN, EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN
JAMES A. GARFIELD	49	YOUNG, REFORM-MINDED LEADER
CHESTER A. ARTHUR	51	POLITICIAN, VICE PRESIDENT
GROVER CLEVELAND	51	EXPERIENCED LAWYER AND GOVERNOR
BENJAMIN HARRISON	55	MILITARY BACKGROUND, ELDER STATESMAN
WILLIAM MCKINLEY	54	EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN
THEODORE ROOSEVELT	42	YOUNGEST PRESIDENT (AT THE TIME), ENERGETIC
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT	51	LEGAL EXPERT, TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP
WOODROW WILSON	56	ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, SEASONED DIPLOMAT
WARREN G. HARDING	55	POLITICIAN, MODERATE AGE
CALVIN COOLIDGE	51	EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN, CALM DEMEANOR
HERBERT HOOVER	54	ENGINEER AND ADMINISTRATOR
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT	51	EXPERIENCED, STEADY LEADERSHIP
HARRY S. TRUMAN	60	MID-60S, EXPERIENCED VICE PRESIDENT
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER	62	WORLD WAR II HERO, MATURE LEADERSHIP
JOHN F. KENNEDY	43	THE YOUNGEST ELECTED PRESIDENT, CHARISMATIC
LYNDON B. JOHNSON	55	EXPERIENCED LEGISLATOR
RICHARD NIXON	56	EXPERIENCED, SEASONED POLITICIAN
GERALD FORD	61	VETERAN, EXPERIENCED LEGISLATOR
JIMMY CARTER	52	EXPERIENCED PEANUT FARMER AND GOVERNOR
RONALD REAGAN	69	OLDER, SEASONED ACTOR AND POLITICIAN
GEORGE H. W. BUSH	64	VETERAN DIPLOMAT, ELDER STATESMAN
BILL CLINTON	46	RELATIVELY YOUNG, ENERGETIC LEADER
GEORGE W. BUSH	54	MID-50S, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP
BARACK OBAMA	47	YOUNGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, ENERGETIC

TRENDS AND INSIGHTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL AGES

1. EARLY LEADERSHIP DOMINATED BY EXPERIENCE:

DURING THE FOUNDING AND EARLY REPUBLIC, PRESIDENTS WERE TYPICALLY IN THEIR LATE 50

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