

JAMES MONROE



BIOGRAPHY

JAMES MONROE

James Monroe (April 28, 1758 – July 4, 1831) was of mixed Scottish and French descent. He was the last president who was a Founding Father of the United States.

Monroe was a plantation owner from Virginia. In the Revolutionary War, Monroe was badly wounded in the arm as he tried to disarm enemy guns. But he recovered and went on to train as a lawyer and serve as a delegate for Virginia in the Continental Congress.

He was against the idea of a federal United States, and thought the idea gave too much power to the central government. Nevertheless, he continued to play an important part in the government and in 1790 he was elected to the Senate of the first United States Congress. He was a supporter of the ideas of Jefferson.

He was also involved in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. As president, he bought Florida from Spain. He was involved in the Treaty of 1818 between Britain and the United States, which fixed the U.S./Canada boundary along the 49th parallel, except for 'Oregon Country', which they jointly occupied.

This also meant that it was agreed that the United States then extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Treaty of 1819 gave the border of the United States along the 42nd Parallel to the Pacific Ocean. Monroe supported the founding of colonies in Africa for free African Americans. The capital of the modern nation of Liberia, Monrovia, is named in his honor.

In 1830, Monroe moved to New York City to live with his daughter, where he died of tuberculosis a year later.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'jointly'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'jointly' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'jointly'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'jointly'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'jointly' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: boundary	border

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Monroe was involved in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

In 1790, Monroe was elected to the Senate of the United States Congress.

Monroe died in New York City in 1830.

James Monroe was born in Virginia.

He became president, and bought Florida from Spain.

In 1818, he was involved in a treaty between Britain and the United States.

He trained as a lawyer and served as a delegate for Virginia in the Continental Congress.

Get to the facts

- 1 When was Monroe elected to the Senate?
- 2 What was Monroe involved in during 1803?
- 3 Which country did Monroe buy Florida from?
- 4 Which nation's capital is named in Monroe's honor?
- 5 Where did Monroe die?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Wounded in battle

We were trying to take the enemy by surprise, but they saw us before we reached them. They opened fire, and I knew I had to stop them. I got closer to the enemy, trying to reach for their guns, but then I felt great pain in my left arm... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'jointly'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'jointly' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'jointly'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'jointly'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'jointly' means.

Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – boundary Synonym – border

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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