

William Jefferson Clinton

42nd President, 1993-

Vice President: Albert Gore, Jr.

Born: August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas

Party: Democrat

Parents: William Jefferson Blythe III, Virginia Cassidy (stepfather Roger Clinton)

First Lady: Hillary Rodham

Children: Chelsea

Education: Yale Law School

Nickname: Bill; Bubba

Famous Firsts:

- Clinton was the first president to have been a Rhodes scholar, studying at Oxford University in England for two years.
- He was the first president from the Baby Boom generation.
- He was the first to name a woman to the position of U.S. attorney general.



Achievements:

- When he was elected governor of Arkansas at age thirty-two, Clinton was the youngest governor in the nation. He served as Arkansas governor from 1979–1980 and again from 1983–1992.
- He worked as a Red Cross volunteer during the riots in Washington, D.C., following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- In 1976 he was elected attorney general for Arkansas.
- As president, Clinton appointed more women and minorities to his cabinet than had any previous president.
- During his presidency, the unemployment rate and the national deficit both declined. These were major issues in the eighties and nineties.
- He succeeded in raising the legal minimum wage, altering welfare laws, and passing an anticrime law that included the restriction of certain assault weapons.
- Under his leadership, former President Jimmy Carter succeeded in returning power to Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from military rule.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was approved in late 1993. NAFTA is meant to diminish trade barriers among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Interesting Facts:

- Clinton's biological father died in a car accident three months before Clinton was born. Clinton took his stepfather's last name when he was fifteen.
- He decided to make a career of politics after meeting President John F. Kennedy. Clinton was seventeen at the time.
- He is an accomplished tenor saxophone player.
- On at least one occasion, Clinton stood up to his alcoholic stepfather to protect his mother from abuse.
- He worked through his troubles with his stepfather before the elder man's death in 1967.
- Throughout college, Clinton took jobs in politics to help pay for his education.