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## Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born in 1882 at Hyde Park, New York. He attended Harvard University and Columbia Law School and became a lawyer. When he entered politics he was a member of the Democratic Party. In 1910, he was elected to the Senate and the President, Woodrow Wilson, appointed him Assistant Secretary of the navy. He was the Democrat's nominee for vice-president in 1920.

In 1921, at the age of 39, he came down with a disease called polio and was unable to walk. Roosevelt was determined to be able to use his legs again and he used swimming as a way to help him use his legs again. He was so determined to walk, but he also remained interested in politics. In 1928, he was elected the governor of New York.

In 1932, he was elected President of the United States during the Great Depression. Thousands of people were out of work and the banks were closed. In his first one hundred days in office he brought in laws to try to help people recover from the stock market crash of 1929, bring relief to those people who had no jobs and to try to help people that were in danger of losing their homes and farms. He called it the New Deal.

By 1935, there were some signs that the country was starting to recover, but a lot of business people were against Roosevelt's policies. They were afraid of what he was trying to do and were angry that he had allowed the country to fall into debt. They also disliked the things he did to help people in the labor industry. Roosevelt then came up with a new plan – Social Security. He placed more taxes on the rich people, placed new controls on banks and came up with a work relief plan for the people who had no jobs.

When he was re-elected in 1936, he started to make the Supreme Court larger. Even though this didn't happen, measures were brought in that allowed the government to regulate the economy of the country. He pledged that the United States would be a good neighbor and changed the Monroe Doctrine, the law of another president, so that the United States could go to war if the country was attacked. He

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kept the country neutral during the early part of the Second World War by sending supplies to Britain and France, but no troops. That all changed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Roosevelt declared war on Japan.

Roosevelt was the president of the United States all through the Second World War and met several times with Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain. Roosevelt played a very important part in the development of the United Nations. He hoped that this organization would be the way any future problems between countries would be settled rather than through wars.

Roosevelt spent much of his life in a wheelchair due to the polio. He became very ill as the war was almost over and died on April 12, 1945.

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Circle the correct answer:

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt helped form the
  - a. United States
  - b. The United Nations
  - c. The League of Nations
  - d. The Southern States
  
2. In 1941, Roosevelt declared war on
  - a. England
  - b. France
  - c. Canada
  - d. Japan
  
3. When he was 39, Roosevelt became ill with
  - a. polio
  - b. cancer
  - c. measles
  - d. chicken pox
  
4. Before he entered politics he was a
  - a. teacher
  - b. doctor
  - c. lawyer
  - d. minister
  
5. He was president during which two great events in history?
  - a. The Spanish American War and the Second World War
  - b. The Great Depression and the Korean War
  - c. The Second World War and the Korean War
  - d. The Great Depression and the Second World War
  
6. Roosevelt was responsible for bringing in
  - a. Social Security
  - b. Income tax
  - c. Medicare
  - d. Health Insurance

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### Franklin Delano Roosevelt (continued)

7. The plan to help people who had no jobs was called
  - a. Job Reform
  - b. The New Deal
  - c. Social Security
  - d. Income tax
  
8. Business people didn't like Roosevelt's plan because
  - a. he wanted to take all their money
  - b. he put taxes on the poor people
  - c. he was more helpful to people in labor
  - d. he opened up all the banks
  
9. The plan he had that failed was
  - a. to make everyone go to work
  - b. to make the Supreme Court larger
  - c. to make people move from their farms
  - d. to make cities larger
  
10. When the Second World War started, Roosevelt
  - a. sent troops to help England
  - b. refused to send any help
  - c. sent supplies to England and France
  - d. pretended there was no war

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Answers:

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c
5. d
6. a
7. b
8. c
9. b
10. c