

BIG NEWS



TRUMP OUT, BIDEN IN

AMERICANS have voted for Joe Biden to be their president for the next four years.

A record number of people voted in the election – at least 140 million – with the Republican Party's Donald Trump, the current president, and the Democrat Party's challenger Joe Biden polling the two highest vote counts in US election history.

It was also a much closer contest than many people thought it would be, with only a few thousand votes in a handful of key states separating the candidates in the end. Joe Biden was declared the winner on Saturday after he won in the state of Pennsylvania. That result took him over the magic 270 electoral college votes he needed to become the next President of the United States. Now his plan is to unite the country and tackle COVID-19.

Donald Trump was playing golf as Biden's victory was announced. Normally the loser accepts

the result and congratulates the winner but Donald Trump is not known for always behaving normally. Instead, he declared himself the winner, saying many of the votes made by post were illegal. He had tried to get counting stopped in places where Biden was catching him. As First News went to press, he was still planning to challenge the result in court.



WOW!

Joe Biden's vice president will be Kamala Harris (left) – the first female and the first black vice president of America.



Joe Biden – the president-elect of the USA

WHAT THEY SAID

KAMALA HARRIS

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last. Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."

JOE BIDEN

"The people of this nation have spoken. For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand your disappointment tonight. I have lost a couple of times myself! But now, let's give each other a chance... it's time to see each other again, listen to each other again. And, to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies."



INTRODUCING... PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN

Joe Biden has spent a lifetime in politics, including eight years as vice president alongside President Barack Obama. But what else is there to know?

- He had a stutter as a child, and was bullied for it at school.
- At 78 years old, Joe Biden will be the oldest president to take office when he is inaugurated in January. He is known as the president-elect until then.
- It's third time lucky. Mr Biden tried to become president twice before, in 1987 and 2008.
- Mr Biden has suffered tragedy. He lost his first wife Neilia and baby daughter Naomi in a car accident in 1972. His two sons Beau and Hunter survived the crash, but his oldest son Beau died of brain cancer in 2015.
- The new president-elect loves ice cream. In 2016 he said: "My name is Joe Biden and I love ice cream. I don't drink. I don't smoke. But I eat a lot of ice cream."
- Joe Biden has two German Shepherd dogs, Major and Champ.
- He is mad about cars.



FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

"We're fortunate that Joe's got what it takes to be president and already carries himself that way. Because when he walks into the White House in January, he'll face a series of extraordinary challenges no incoming president ever has: a raging pandemic, an unequal economy and justice system, a democracy at risk and a climate in peril."

UK PRIME MINISTER, BORIS JOHNSON

"The US is our important ally and I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security."

BIG NEWS



GLOSSARY

party – ‘Political party’: an organisation of people who share the same views on how a country should be governed. The two main parties in the US are the Republicans and the Democrats

COVID-19 – The scientific name for the coronavirus

democracy – A system where the people of a country choose their leaders by voting; they elect people to take decisions – or rule – on their behalf

ally – A country (or person) that helps and supports another

politics – The business of governing a country

Barack Obama – The US president before Donald Trump

Electoral College votes – An American president is actually chosen by who wins most Electoral College votes. There are 538 in total. Here’s how it works. Each state has a certain number of these votes, based roughly on its size. The state gives it votes to one of the candidates, based on how the people in the state have voted. For example, most people in Pennsylvania voted for Biden, so Biden won all 20 of Pennsylvania’s Electoral College votes.

1. This long report has been broken into **three sections**. Explain what they are.

Section 1:	
Section 2:	
Section 3:	

2. Quick quiz:

The US election was on Tuesday (3 November). When was the winner declared?	
How many people voted in total?	
Which state ‘clinched the deal’ for Joe Biden and won him the presidency?	

3. Find and copy the words or sentences that tell you this was a very close race.

4. Kamala Harris will become Joe Biden’s vice president. Find **two reasons** why this is a historic achievement.

5. You will need to hunt down these answers and puzzle it out!

5a. Roughly how long will it be, in months, until Joe Biden actually becomes the president?

5b. What is a person called who has been chosen to become the president, but hasn’t yet started the job?

6. How did Donald Trump react to losing the election?

■ Look at the section with quotes

7. Who said this?

<i>“I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities.”</i>	
<i>“To make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies.”</i>	
<i>“When he walks into the White House in January, he’ll face a series of extraordinary challenges.”</i>	
<i>“Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.”</i>	

■ Look at the section about Joe Biden

8. What might you find Joe Biden doing in his spare time?

9. Why does Mr Biden know a lot about **overcoming challenges** in life?

10. Think about Joe Biden’s words: **“We have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies.”**

Why is this such an important message after an election, when people often argue fiercely?

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10. Think about Joe Biden's words: **"We have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies"**

Why is this such an important message after an election, when people often argue fiercely?

TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

1. This long report has been broken into three sections. Explain what they are.

READING SKILL – Summarise information from more than one paragraph (NC 2e)

Expected response

- Section 1: A news report (that summarises the results of the US election)
- Section 2: Quotes (from the elected leaders and other important people)
- Section 3: Fact file on Joe Biden

2. Quick quiz

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

The US election was on Tuesday (3 November). When was the winner declared?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday after the election (7 November)
How many people voted in total?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 140 million
Which state 'clinched the deal' for Joe Biden and won him the presidency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pennsylvania

3. Find and copy the words or sentences that tell you this was a very close race.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- It was also a much closer contest than many people thought it would be, with only a few thousand votes in a handful of key states separating the candidates in the end.

4. Kamala Harris will become Joe Biden's vice president. Find two reasons why this is a historic achievement.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- 1. She will be the first female vice president.
- 2. She will be the first black vice president.

5. You will need to hunt down these answers and puzzle it out!**5a. Roughly how long will it be, in months, until Joe Biden actually becomes the president?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- Two months.

5b. What is a person called who has been chosen to become the president, but hasn't yet started the job?

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context (NC 2a)

Expected response

- President-elect.

6. How did Donald Trump react to losing the election?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Badly: he has refused to accept he has lost. He says he is the winner and has claimed that some votes are illegal.

■ Look at the section with quotes**7. Who said this?**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

<i>"I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities."</i>	• Boris Johnson
<i>"To make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies."</i>	• Joe Biden
<i>"When he walks into the White House in January, he'll face a series of extraordinary challenges."</i>	• Barack Obama
<i>"Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."</i>	• Kamala Harris

■ Look at the section about Joe Biden**8. What might you find Joe Biden doing in his spare time?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- Eating ice cream, driving cars

Development

- He might be out walking his dogs or he might be going for a drive, as he loves cars. When he comes home, he'll probably have some ice cream!

9. Why does Mr Biden know a lot about overcoming challenges in life?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- His wife and daughter died in a car crash.
- His son died, too.

Development

- Joe Biden has had to overcome a lot of challenges in his life – some minor, some immense – and yet he has still managed to become the president of the United States:
- He had a stutter at school and was bullied.
- He has tried to become president twice before and failed.
- His wife and baby daughter died in a car crash.
- His son also died quite recently of cancer.

10. Think about Joe Biden's words: "We have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies."**Why is this such an important message after an election, when people often argue fiercely?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- He doesn't want to be enemies with Trump.
- Enemies are people you hate and that is wrong.
- The fighting has to stop after an election

Development

- There is a big difference between an opponent and an enemy. Someone you play sport against is an opponent. After the game or contest is over, you're still friends. In an election people fight hard to try to win. There are lots of arguments. But Joe Biden is asking people to put their disagreements aside now the election is over.