

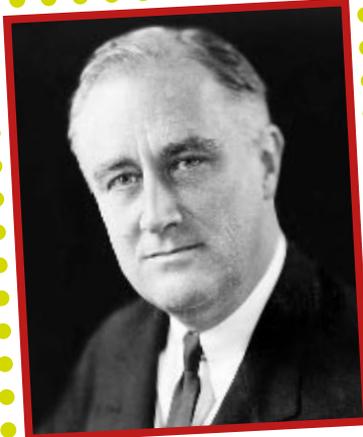
Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States and the only one to be elected to four terms of office, serving from 1933 to 1945. He was a central figure of the 20th century, during a worldwide economic crisis which culminated in World War II.

The Great Depression and the New Deal

On October 24th 1929 the crash of the US stock market (the **Wall Street Crash**) started a worldwide crisis in every part of the globe.

As a result, when FDR was elected all Americans were demanding immediate action. Roosevelt responded with his 'first 100 days' of office, when he met Congress for 100 days. The **New Deal** was a set of programmes implemented by the US Government between 1933 and 1938 to help unemployed people, reform society, and fix the economic and banking system of the United States, which had been badly hit by the Great Depression. In those 100 days of law making, Congress granted almost all Roosevelt's requests.



Involvement in WWII

Franklin Delano Roosevelt also led the USA into **World War II** when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour on December 7th, 1941. When the Allies won World War II, Roosevelt played a critical role in shaping the post-war world. Taking a seat at the **Yalta Conference** alongside other world leaders, he played an active part in the creation of the United Nations.

Roosevelt's death was met with shock around the world: he had been President for more than 12 years, and had led the country through some of its greatest crises.

The Yalta Conference: Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin



Speaking about people:

"Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds."

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 How many Presidents did the USA have before Franklin Delano Roosevelt?
- 2 What was unique about the election of Roosevelt?
- 3 What was the 'New Deal' and why is it always associated with FDR?
- 4 What were 'the first 100 days'?
- 5 What happened on October 24th, 1929?
- 6 What did Americans demand soon after Roosevelt's election?
- 7 What happened at Pearl Harbour and what was Roosevelt's reaction?
- 8 Why was the Yalta Conference so important in world history?