



Activity: This activity is done in groups of four.

Step 1: Students get in groups of four, with each student receiving a Fact Sheet about one First Lady. (Each group will have four different fact sheets.)

Step 2: Students share information from the Fact Sheets to complete Life Grid 1, so that each student has four parts of the Life Grid complete.

Step 3: Eight students from the class then fill in the Life Grid on an overhead transparency at the front of the classroom, and all students fill in the information individually. This assures that all students get all the information, even in a limited time.

Step 4: Students discuss the questions for Life Grid 1 as a whole class.

Life Grid 1: First Ladies' Early Lives Questions

1. What is the average age of the women when they began serving as First Lady? Who was the youngest? The oldest? Do you think that age is an important factor in whether a woman is successful as the First Lady?
2. Compare the educational levels obtained by the women. Do you think having a college degree is a necessary qualification for a woman to be a successful First Lady? How has society's expectations of a woman's necessary educational level changed over the past fifty years?
3. Each of the women had children. How do you think being a mother affects their role as First Lady? Could a woman who has never had a child be an effective First Lady?

Step 5: Students identify one First Lady's life story that most closely resembles their own. Then they create a poster that expresses how their own life and that of the First Lady is alike or different.

Step 6: Students display their posters around the room and explain their reasoning to the class.

Modification: The poster can be done individually or as a group the next day if necessary. The visual compare and contrast activity could also be done in an Interactive Notebook instead of a poster.

Student Product: completed Life Grid 1 and poster or interactive notebook entry

Closure: Students write a response in their notebooks to the following question:

Several of these women experienced painful events in their childhoods.
Do you think these experiences affected the way they served as First
Lady? Why or Why not?

Assessment or Evaluation: completed Life Grid 1 and poster or notebook activity

Extension:

1. Students can use Life Grid 2 to do additional analysis about the First Ladies.
2. Students can also explore the following websites to learn more about First Ladies:

All First Ladies

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/>

Jackie Kennedy

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/jbk-biography.html>

Lady Bird Johnson

http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/museum.hom/museum_exhibit_pages/museum_exhibits/first_lady/LadyGate.asp

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/AV.hom/images/ladybird/ladybird-intro.shtm>

Pat Nixon

<http://www.nixonlibrary.org/Nixons/PatNixon.shtml>

Betty Ford

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/grf/bbfbiop.htm>

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/avproj/mrs.htm>

Rosalynn Carter

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/documents/rsc/rscbio_p.phtml

Nancy Reagan

<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/ref/nrbio.htm>

<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/photos/mrs.htm>

Barbara Bush

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/biographies/firstlady/bio.html>

Hillary Clinton

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



<http://clinton.senate.gov/>

Laura Bush

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady/flbio.html>

First Lady Fact Sheets

Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1961-1963

Born: July 28, 1929 in New York

Parents: Mother: Janet Lee; Father: John Vernon Bouvier III. Her parents were divorced when Jacqueline was ten years old; Stepfather: Hugh Auchincloss.

Siblings: Sister – Lee and two step-brothers: Yusha and Tommy, and a step-sister: Nina

Childhood home: Merrywood, estate outside Washington, D.C. and Hammersmith Farm in Newport, Rhode Island

Schooling: *Elementary School:* Miss Chapin’s School in New York

High School: Miss Porter’s School, a boarding school for girls

College: two years at Vassar; a year in Paris as an exchange student; graduated from George Washington University

Career: worked for a Washington newspaper with a byline for column, “Inquiring Camera Girl” -- where she went around Washington asking citizens questions on the issues of the day and then would write about them in her column

Married: John Fitzgerald Kennedy, September 12, 1953

Widowed: Nov. 22, 1963

Children: Caroline (1957), John, Jr (1960), Patrick (1963) -- died when he was 3 days old

Died: May 19, 1994

Life Before the Role of First Lady: Jacqueline Bouvier came from a background of affluence and social privilege. While in college she spent a year in France. After graduating from college she returned to Europe with her sister, Lee. Upon returning to the U.S. she took a job with the Washington Times-Herald. In 1947 she was dubbed, “the Debutante of the Year.”

When Jacqueline married John F. Kennedy, he was a Congressman from Massachusetts. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1952. During his campaigns she helped by answering thousands of

campaign letters, taping television commercials, giving interviews and writing a weekly newspaper column, “Campaign Wife.”

In 1957, President Kennedy was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Profiles in Courage*. His first child, Caroline was born that same year.

In 1960, Senator Kennedy was elected the 35th president of the United States. At that time, the Kennedy’s had a daughter three years old and an infant son. John Kennedy was the youngest man ever elected to be president.

Accomplishments as First Lady: John and Jacqueline Kennedy brought an air of youthfulness and sophistication into the White House. The America public became fascinated by the new First Lady and her family and wanted to know every detail of her life. Her hair style, clothing, and mannerisms were widely copied. Because of the extraordinary attention, Mrs. Kennedy was the first president’s wife to employ her own press secretary.

Mrs. Kennedy believed that the White House was a national treasure and should be a showplace of American history, culture, and achievement. Mrs. Kennedy helped establish The White House Historical Association to oversee the restoration of the house and to maintain it through future political administrations. To help finance the project, guidebooks explaining the history of the house were written and made available for sale. In 1962, during a one-hour television special, Mrs. Kennedy gave a tour of the refurbished White House. Both the television program and the restoration project were a huge success with the American public.

To bring attention to American artists, writers, scientists, poets, and musicians the Kennedy’s often hosted dinner parties at the White House to honor their accomplishments.

Abroad Mrs. Kennedy was as beloved as she was in the United States. Her interest in other cultures and her ability to speak several foreign languages including French, Spanish, and Italian made her a popular figure as she accompanied her husband to other countries. When she accompanied President Kennedy to France she was greeted in Paris by throngs of people shouting “Vive, Jacqui.”

In August 1963, Mrs. Kennedy gave birth to her third child, Patrick. He died three days later. In November she accompanied her husband on the fateful trip to Dallas where the President was assassinated. As the country recoiled in grief and horror, Jacqueline maintained an outward image of courage and dignity that gained the admiration of many people around the world.

Post White House Accomplishments: Shortly after her husband’s death, Mrs. Kennedy began working on the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum as a memorial to her husband.

After the assassination of her brother-in-law, Robert F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy married the Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis. When he died eight years later, she returned to live full time in New York. There she worked on a variety of projects to save America’s cultural

heritage including a campaign to save and renovate Grand Central Station and Lafayette Square in Washington, D. C.

Later, she accepted a job as an editor at Viking Press in New York City where she enjoyed a successful publishing career until her death on May 19, 1994.

The public fascination with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis continued long after she was no longer the First Lady. Numerous books, articles, and television programs have been written about her life.

For more information about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis please visit the John F. Kennedy Library Website at: <http://www.jfklibrary.org>

Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1963-1969

Born: December 22, 1912. Nickname “Lady Bird” given by a nursemaid who declared that the baby was “pretty as a ladybird.”

Parents: Mother: Minnie Pattillo Taylor, died when LB was 5 years old; Father: Thomas Jefferson Taylor. After her mother’s death, Lady Bird was raised by her Aunt Effie.

Siblings: two older brothers, Tommy and Tony

Childhood home: Karnack, Texas where her father owned a general store

Schooling: *Elementary School:* Harrison County, Texas

High School: graduated in 1928 from Marshall High School

Boarding School: St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Dallas for two years

College: graduated cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin in 1933 with a major in history; another degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin in 1934; also earned a teaching certificate and learned stenographic skills

Career: She aspired to be a journalist but after her marriage became a supportive wife and partner in her husband’s political career

Married: Lyndon Baines Johnson after a two month courtship on November 17, 1934

Widowed: January 22, 1973

Children: Lynda Bird (1944) and Lucy Baines (1947)

Life Before Role as First Lady: Moved to Washington with Lyndon when he was the secretary to Congressman Richard Kleberg. During Lyndon’s first campaign for the position of U.S. Representative from Texas, Lady Bird used \$10,000 of her inheritance to finance his campaign. Her primary role was helpmate, confidante, and partner to Lyndon during his political career.

During World War II, while Lyndon served in the Navy, Lady Bird was in charge of his congressional office. She wrote letters to his constituents and helped organize a petition drive to have her husband re-elected to Congress even though he was serving in the military.

In 1942, Lady Bird used \$10,000 more of her inheritance to buy a radio station in Austin, Texas. This venture developed into the Texas Broadcasting Corporation and made the Johnson's wealthy. Lady Bird kept a close eye on family business while her husband developed his political career. In 1955, when Senator Johnson was stricken with a heart attack, Lady Bird kept his office running smoothly so that he could return to his position of Majority Leader.

Accomplishments as First Lady: During her time in the White House, Lady Bird made "beautification" of America her project. She focused attention on the environment. She traveled thousands of miles around the country to bring attention to environmental concerns. She helped pass the Highway Beautification Act in October 1965, which eliminated most billboards along highways. In 1966, she received the George Foster Peabody Award for the television program, "A visit to Washington with Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson on Behalf of a More Beautiful America."

In her role as First Lady, Mrs. Johnson made more than 700 public appearances and gave over 150 speeches.

Post White House Accomplishments: In 1982 Mrs. Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the preservation and re-establishment of native plants in natural and planned landscapes. The center in Austin, Texas, is open to the public.

Her numerous awards include the Medal of Freedom, highest civilian award, presented by G. Ford in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal from President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

She was appointed to The University of Texas Board of Regents in 1971.

For more information about Lady Bird Johnson go to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library website at: <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>

Thelma Catherine “Pat” Ryan Nixon Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1969-1974

Born: March 16, 1912 in Eli, Nevada

Parents: Mother: Kate Ryan, a German immigrant; Father: William Ryan, miner and later a farmer. Pat Nixon was an orphan by the time she was 18 years old. Her mother died when Pat was 13 years old, her father died five years later.

Siblings: Two older half brothers, and two brothers

Childhood home: Los Angeles, California

Schooling: *High School:* In spite of the death of her mother, Pat excelled in school and was involved in many extracurricular activities. She was vice-president of her high school class and secretary of the entire student body.

College: graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California in 1937 with a merchandising degree, a teaching certificate, and secretarial skills

Career: After her parents’ deaths, Pat supported herself by sweeping floors and working as a bank teller. In 1932 she was hired to drive an elderly couple from California to New York serving as their driver, nurse, and car mechanic. She stayed in New York for two years working as an x-ray technician. When she had saved enough money, she returned to California to attend the University of Southern California. Her first job out of college was as a teacher of business skills at Whittier High School. Her students found her lively, enthusiastic, and likeable. She was sponsor of the PEP Club.

Married: Richard M. Nixon, June 21, 1940

Children: Julie and Tricia

Died: June 22, 1993

Life Before Role as First Lady: After her marriage, Mrs. Nixon worked in a San Francisco bank while her husband served in the Navy during World War II. After his return from the war, Pat’s primary work was supporting her husband’s political career.

She contributed her savings to finance Richard Nixon's first campaign for Congress. Later, Mrs. Nixon used her considerable skills to run Nixon's congressional office.

Accomplishments as First Lady: Pat Nixon continued the restoration efforts on the White House begun by Mrs. Kennedy. Through Mrs. Nixon's efforts the White House became more accessible to people with disabilities, extra exterior lighting was added to make the White House more visible at night, and booklets were created to explain the White House gardens to tourists. In addition, many of the reproductions of antique furniture in the White House were replaced with the historic originals because of Mrs. Nixon's efforts.

One of Mrs. Nixon's priorities was to see that an individual response was provided for each of the letters sent to her at the White House. Often she or a member of her staff referred a letter's author on to the appropriate governmental agency to resolve the problems that were included in the communication.

During her time as First Lady, Pat Nixon visited 83 nations including accompanying her husband on his historic trips to China and the Soviet Union.

While in war-torn Vietnam, Mrs. Nixon insisted on being taken to the battlefield so that she could visit wounded soldiers. Upon returning to the White House, she wrote individual letters to the wives and mothers of the men she had visited.

Post-White House Accomplishments: After her husband's resignation from the Presidency, Mrs. Nixon lived quietly devoting her time to her children and her grandchildren.

For more on Pat Nixon see: <http://www.nixonlibrary.org/Nixons/PatNixon.shtml>

Elizabeth Bloomer “Betty” Ford Fact Sheet

Years in White House: August 1974 – January 1977

Born: Chicago, April 8, 1918

Parents: Mother: Hortense Neahr; Father: William Stephenson Bloomer

Siblings: two older brothers

Childhood home: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Schooling: *High School:* graduated in 1936 from Central High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan

College: rejected college to move to New York and dance in the Martha Graham Dance Company

Career: Danced in Martha Graham Dance Company; Modeled for the John Powers Agency; was a fashion coordinator for a Grand Rapids department store; formed her own dance group; worked with handicapped children teaching them rhythm and movement

Married: First marriage to William Warren lasted five years. Married Gerald Ford, October 15, 1948. The wedding ceremony was held two weeks before Mr. Ford was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Michigan. He was late to the wedding because he had been at a campaign appearance earlier in the day.

Children: Michael Gerald (1950); John Gardner, (1952); Steven Meigs (1956); Susan Elizabeth (1957)

Life Before Role as First Lady: After her marriage, Mrs. Ford was a Congressional wife for 25 years. She helped with her husband’s campaigns, took care of their children and did volunteer activities with Cub Scouts, Brownies, baseball, football, and the Episcopal Church.

Gerald Ford had promised his wife that at the end of his term in 1976, he would retire from the House of Representatives and they would have more time together. However, Congressman Ford assumed the Vice Presidency of the United States in 1973 when Spiro Agnew, vice president under Richard Nixon resigned. Vice President Gerald Ford became the U.S. President in 1974 when Richard Nixon resigned.

Accomplishments as First Lady: The Watergate scandal and the resignation of Richard Nixon caused a large segment the American public to distrust many in the U.S. government. Because of this, Mrs. Ford was committed to being as honest as possible when dealing with the public.

This decision led her to talk frankly about her diagnosis of breast cancer and her radical mastectomy. Her actions made mastectomy a household word. Doctor's briefings were released at press conferences, treatment options were presented, and the necessity of follow-up drug and radiation treatment was discussed. Physicians reported a tenfold increase in requests for breast examinations from their patients. Many of these exams led to an earlier detection of breast cancer and potentially saved the women's lives. Mrs. Ford said this overwhelming response to her situation made it clear that the First Ladies had clout with the American public.

Mrs. Ford's candor on a number of taboo subjects such as premarital sex and drug use made the First Family seem more human and less like "the super family." Betty Ford broke an unspoken White House tradition when she went against her husband's stand on abortion, and admitted to being tempted to vote a split ticket.

In spite of public opinion being against her, Mrs. Ford worked actively for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

While in the White House, Mrs. Ford was an advocate for the arts, especially dance. She was the first president's wife to be named a Fellow of the National Academy of Design.

Post White House Accomplishments: In 1978 her autobiography, *The Times of My Life*, chronicling her White House years was published.

In 1982 she served as co-chairman on the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research and education. Also in 1982, Mrs. Ford and Leonard Firestone served as co-chairmen and founders of the Betty Ford Center, a drug rehabilitation program to assist women, men and their families in drug rehabilitation.

In 1987, Mrs. Ford's second book, *Betty: A Glad Awakening* was published. This book tells of her own recovery from chemical dependency. In October 1999, President and Mrs. Ford were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for "dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions."

Mrs. Ford continues to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Betty Ford Center as well as being involved in the issues of handicapped children, the arts, the importance of early breast cancer detection, and other women's issues.

For more information about Betty Ford go to the Gerald Ford Presidential Library website at: <http://www.ford.utexas.edu>

Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1977- 1981

Born: August 18, 1927

Parents: Mother: Allie Murray Smith; Father, Edgar Smith. Rosalynn's father died when she was 14 year old. She said this event brought the end of her childhood because as the oldest of the four children it was her responsibility to help her mother take care of the family.

Siblings: three siblings

Childhood home: Plains, Georgia

Schooling: *Elementary, Middle, and High School:* Plains, Georgia

High School: valedictorian of senior class of eleven students

College: Two years at Georgia Southwestern College at Americus, Georgia

Career: Mrs. Carter did not work outside the home before her marriage.

Married: James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, July 7, 1946

Children: Three sons: John William (Jack) 1947; James Earl III (Chip) 1950; Donnel Jeffrey, 1952 and one daughter, Amy Lynn, 1967

Life Before Role as First Lady: After her marriage to Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn became a Navy officer's wife traveling the world to follow her husband's postings. In 1953, Jimmy's father died and the Carters returned to Plains, Georgia to run the family business. Rosalynn worked full time managing the accounts of the peanut, fertilizer, and seed company. Upon returning to Plains, the Carters became involved in several social justice issues including the desegregation of Georgia schools.

In 1962, Jimmy Carter was elected to the Georgia Senate. In 1966, when Jimmy campaigned for Governor of Georgia, Rosalynn stayed in the background because she was afraid to make public speeches. When he lost that election, she decided to conquer her fear of public speaking and found that she was very good at making presentations. Jimmy Carter won the 1970 election for Governor.

As First Lady of Georgia, Mrs. Carter learned about the problems in the mental health system, education, and in caring for the elderly. She also gained social and administrative skills that prepared her for the role of First Lady of the United States. While her husband served as

governor, Mrs. Carter was appointed to the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped. She also volunteered at the Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta and served as the honorary chairperson for the Georgia Special Olympics for Retarded Children.

When Jimmy Carter decided to run for the presidency in 1976, Rosalynn was an accomplished and skillful campaigner. She traveled across the United States explaining to people why her husband should be the resident of the United States. Jimmy Carter was elected to be the 39th U.S. president.

Accomplishments as First Lady: Once in the White House, Rosalynn Carter continued to work to increase federal spending for mental health programs. She testified before a Congressional committee in support of the Mental Health Systems Act which was later passed into law.

Early in her husband's presidency, Mrs. Carter received a lot of public criticism because she attended Cabinet meetings and major briefings. When she traveled to seven Central and South American countries to discuss policy and trade issues with the countries' leaders, many people objected on the grounds that a president's wife is neither elected nor appointed and should not be involved in such high level negotiations.

In 1977, Mrs. Carter attended the International Woman's Year meeting where she spoke about the need for equal pay for equal work. She also lobbied for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Her 1979 trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos to inspect refugee camps led to the creation of the National Cambodian Crisis Committee and Cambodian Crisis center to raise funds and distribute relief.

In 1979, President Carter invited representatives from Israel and Egypt to come to Camp David and work out a peace treaty between the two countries. During the 13 days of difficult negotiations, Mrs. Carter attended White House functions as her husband's representative. She met with the leaders of the Italian and Hispanic communities and hosted a concert for a world-famous cellist.

Post-White House Accomplishments: After leaving the White House, President and Mrs. Carter, in conjunction with Emory University, established the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia in 1982. The center is guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering; it seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.

Rosalynn Carter has authored four books: *First Lady From Plains*; *Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life* (a book about life after the White House co-authored with Jimmy Carter); *Helping Yourself Help Others: A Book for Caregivers* (co-authored with Susan Golant); and *Helping Someone with Mental Illness: A Compassionate Guide for Family, Friends and Caregivers* (with Susan K. Golant).

Mrs. Carter serves as President of the board of directors for the Rosalynn Carter Institute of Georgia Southwestern State University (RCI). The mission of the organization is to help family and professional caregivers.

In 1996 she served as the honorary chair of call to action campaign, Last Acts: Care and Caring at the End of Life, a national coalition of individuals and organizations advocating more compassionate care for those who are dying.

Both she and President Carter are actively involved in Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds affordable housing.

Mrs. Carter is the recipient of numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

For an update on Rosalynn Carter's activities and accomplishments visit the Carter Center website at: <http://www.cartercenter.org>

Nancy Davis Reagan
Birth name: Anne Frances Robbins
Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1981 - 1989

Born: July 6, 1921 in New York City

Parents: Mother: Edith Davis, an actress who left Anne Frances Robbins (Nancy's birth name) with an aunt in Baltimore to pursue her career. Father: an auto salesman who abandoned the family: Stepfather: Dr. Loyal Davis, a successful neurosurgeon who adopted Nancy.

Siblings: one stepbrother

Childhood home: moved to Chicago when mother remarried

Schooling: *High School:* graduated from Girls' Latin School

College: graduated in 1943 from Smith College where she majored in drama

Career: Nancy Davis worked as an actress in stage, film, and television productions. She signed a seven-year contract with MGM from 1949 - 1956 and made eleven films. She played opposite Ronald Reagan in the last one "Hellcats of the Navy."

Married: Ronald Reagan – March 4, 1952. Mrs. Reagan has often said her life began when she married her husband.

Children: daughter: Patricia Ann; son, Ronald Prescott

Life Before Role as First Lady: For the first part of the Reagan marriage, Ronald was a film and television star in Hollywood. He also served as president of the Screen Actors Guild. When he ran for governor of California in 1967, neither he nor Mrs. Reagan had much experience in politics.

From 1967 until 1975, Mrs. Reagan was the First Lady of California. During that time she worked with a variety of charitable causes including the Foster Grandparent Program.

Accomplishments as First Lady: Coming from the lavish lifestyle of the Hollywood set in California, Mrs. Reagan experienced some serious problems with her public image during her first years in the White House. She received a great deal of negative press when she found that the \$50,000 allotted to the new First Family for refurbishing the White House was not enough. Mrs. Reagan got private donors to give the \$900,000 she needed for the restorations. This action caused further controversy because the donors were given tax deductions and gained political influence with her husband's administration.

Mrs. Reagan decided to make prevention of drug abuse her “cause” while the Reagans was in the White House. In April 1985, she invited the wives of other countries’ leaders to meet with her in Washington at the First Ladies Conference to discuss drug problems. Later, Mrs. Reagan visited the Vatican to discuss drug abuse with Pope John Paul II. Her popularity with the American public improved with these events.

During the eight years that Ronald Reagan was president, Mrs. Reagan played an important role in her husband’s decision making. Donald Regan, the president’s chief of staff, said that Mrs. Reagan was actively involved in scheduling press conferences and other public appearances for the President. When President Reagan had cancer surgery in July 1985, Mrs. Reagan received foreign dignitaries at White House in her husband’s place. The New York Times, July 13, 1986 said Nancy Reagan had “expanded the role of the First Lady to sort of Associate Presidency.”

PostWhite House accomplishments: After retiring from politics, the Reagans moved to California where Mrs. Reagan continued her work to prevent drug abuse by establishing the Nancy Reagan Foundation.

In 1989 Mrs. Reagan wrote, *My Turn*, her memoirs about her life in the White House.

In addition to caring for her husband who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease, Mrs. Reagan is involved in several projects related to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. She also contributes time to the national Alzheimer’s Association and its affiliate, the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

For more information on Nancy Reagan, go to:

<http://www.firstladies.org/Bibliography/NancyReagan/FLMain.htm>

Barbara Pierce Bush Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1989-1993

Born: June 8, 1925, New York

Parents: Mother: Pauline Robinson Pierce, homemaker; Father: Marvin Pierce, president of McCall Corporation (publishing) in Manhattan, New York

Siblings: three siblings

Childhood home: Rye, NY, affluent New York suburb

Schooling: *Elementary school:* six years in public school

Middle school: Rye Country Day School, private

High School: graduated in 1943 from Ashley Hall, a private boarding school in Charleston, South Carolina

College: one year at Smith College

Career: She worked for a short while at the college cooperative while George was in college. She quit when their first child was born.

Married: George Herbert Walker Bush, Jan 6, 1945. They met when Barbara was 16 years old. She says she married the only man she ever kissed.

Children: two daughters – Robin who died in 1953, and Dorothy; four sons: George W., Jeb, Marvin, and Neil

Life Before Role as First Lady: After her marriage, Barbara was a supportive wife and helpmate as her husband built his business and political career. After building a successful career in the oil industry, George was elected to Congress in 1966. He also served as Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations in New York, Chairman of the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C., and U.S. Liaison to China in Beijing, China. and director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was elected U.S. Vice President in 1980 and served in that position for eight years.

In 44 years of marriage, Mrs. Bush managed 29 moves of the family. When her children were grown, Mrs. Bush became active in volunteer work that promoted family literacy. In 1980, she wrote a book about her dog, C. Fred and contributed the proceeds from the sale of the book to literacy groups.

Barbara Bush served eight years as the Vice President's wife. During that time she built a reputation as a likeable, down-to earth person that the American public responded to with warmth and affection.

Accomplishments as First Lady: Mrs. Bush's popularity was a feature in her husband's campaign for re-election in 1992. She often had a higher approval level than her husband and was *Good Housekeeping* magazine's "Most Admired Woman" for four years in a row. People felt comfortable and comforted by her white hair, her warm, relaxed manner, and her keen wit.

In 1989 the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy was created to support the development of family literacy programs, break the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy, and establish literacy as a value for every American family.

She published *Millie's Book*, the autobiography of the White House dog and donated proceeds of book to the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

A widely circulated photo of Mrs. Bush holding a baby born with AIDS helped to reduce the public's fears about the transmission of the disease.

Post White House Accomplishments: After losing the election in 1992, George and Barbara Bush moved to Houston, Texas. Since leaving the White House, Mrs. Bush has continued to be involved in a variety of volunteer activities including serving as the ambassador-at-large for Americares, as a board member of Mayo Clinic Foundation, and as honorary chairperson of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Her book, *Barbara Bush: A Memoir* was published in 1994.

For more information on Barbara Bush go to the George H. Bush Presidential Library website at: <http://www.bushlibrary.tamu.edu>

Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton Fact Sheet

Years in White House: 1993 - 2000

Born: October 26, 1947

Parents: Mother: Dorothy, a full time homemaker; Father: Hugh Rodham, owned a small fabric store

Siblings: two younger brothers, Hugh, Jr. and Tony

Childhood home: Park Ridge, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago

Schooling: *Elementary school:* Eugene Field School, Park Ridge, IL

Middle School: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Park Ridge, IL

High School: graduated in 1965 from Maine Township High Schools East and South, Park Ridge, IL, National Honor Society member

College: She graduated in 1969 from Wellesley College in Massachusetts where she was selected as the first student ever to speak at graduation. She was also president of the senior class.

Law School: graduated with honors from Yale Law School in 1973
Board of Editors of *The Yale Review of Law and Social Action*

Career: Mrs. Clinton's law career has included serving as staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund in 1973; working for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate scandal in 1974; and teaching law the University of Arkansas. She joined the Rose Law Firm in 1976 in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the board of the Legal Services Corporation in 1978. The following year she became a full partner at the Rose Law Firm. She was twice named to the list of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." In 2000, she was elected Senator from the state of New York.

Married: William Jefferson Clinton, 1975

Children: daughter, Chelsea born in 1980

Life Before Role as First Lady: As a child growing up in the Methodist Church, Hillary took seriously the teaching that God's love is expressed in good works. Through the Methodist Youth Group she was exposed to the greater world of social justice. On one field trip with the group she went to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak.

As a member of the college graduating class in 1969, Hillary was part of a vanguard of women who had more opportunities than any generation of women. When she entered Yale Law School she was one of 27 women out of a class of 235. At Yale she concentrated on how the law affects children. This experience led to her life long advocacy for women and children.

Against the advice of friends and family, Hillary moved to Arkansas to continue her relationship with Bill Clinton. They were married in 1975. In 1976, when Bill was elected Attorney General of Arkansas, the couple moved to Little Rock where Hillary became a member of the Rose Law Firm.

From 1978 - 1990, Bill Clinton served as governor of Arkansas. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work for the Rose Law Firm and serve as Chairperson of the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee. She introduced Arkansas' Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth. She co-founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and served on the boards of the Arkansas Children's Hospital, Legal Services, and the Children's Defense Fund. In 1984 she was named Arkansas' Woman of the Year.

Accomplishments as First Lady: From the beginning of the Clinton presidency, Hillary Rodham Clinton received great admiration as well as great criticism. She was the first First Lady to move her office from the East Wing of the White House to the West Wing where the President's office and staff are located.

Shortly after taking office, President Clinton appointed Hillary Clinton as Chairperson of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. This move sparked tremendous outrage from the conservative political forces across the nation. Health care reform was derailed by the political outcry that focused largely on criticism of Mrs. Clinton. During the eight years of the Clinton presidency, Mrs. Clinton continued to be an advocate for expanding health care insurance coverage, ensuring that children are properly immunized, and raising public awareness of health issues.

She wrote a weekly newspaper column entitled "Talking It Over," which focused on her experiences as First Lady and her observations of children, women, and families she met around the world. In 1996 Ms. Clinton's book, *It Takes a Village*, was published. It was a best seller and she won a Grammy for her recording.

Ms. Clinton chaired the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care. Both of these conferences played an important role in the President's policy initiative on childcare. Throughout the eight years, Ms. Clinton traveled extensively to Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America to advocate for human rights, health care, and economic empowerment for women.

Post White House Accomplishments: She was elected to the U.S. Senate in New York on November 7, 2000. She is also the first woman elected statewide in New York. There continues

to be much talk about a possible run for the U.S. presidency in 2004 or 2008. She is the first former First Lady to hold an elected office.

In 2003, Ms. Clinton's second book, *Living History* was published.

For more information about Hillary Rodham Clinton visit her website at <http://www.clinton.senate.gov>