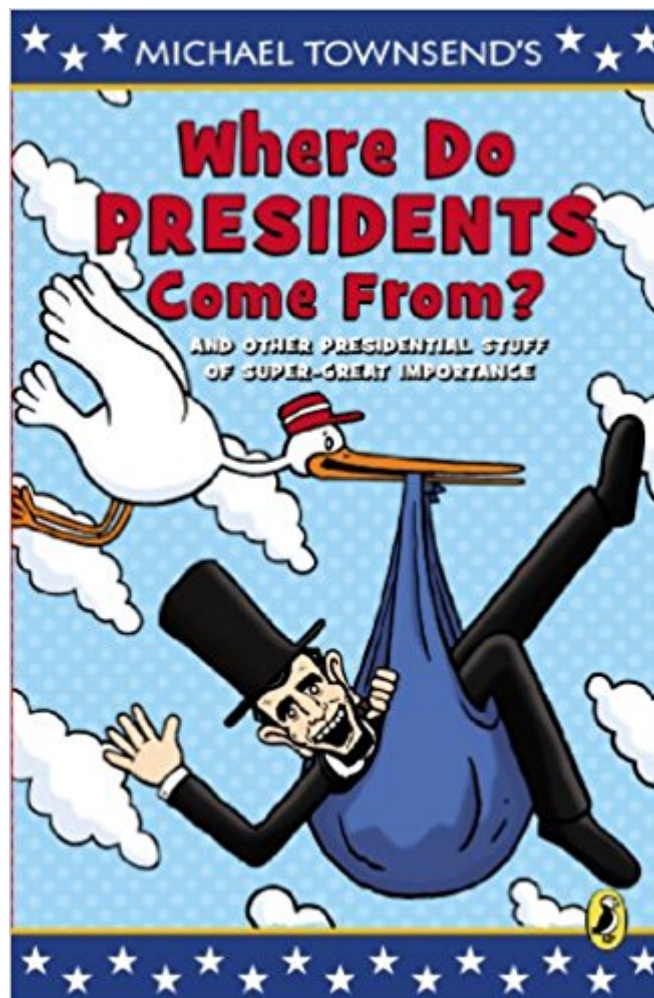




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Where Do Presidents Come From?: And Other Presidential Stuff Of Super Great Importance



Synopsis

United States history comes alive in this— A laugh-out-loud nonfiction graphic novel all about the presidents! Michael Townsend presents his comic book guide to everything you ever wanted to know (and maybe a few things you didn't!) about the President of the United States. It's full of insanely weird facts about our leaders (Did you know that President Coolidge had a pet pygmy hippo named Billy?), as well as the history and powers of the presidency, day-to-day life, and pros and cons of the job. Even the most mundane of facts become hilarious in this brilliantly cheeky guide to our nation's MVP.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4-9-From the author of the popular *Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder* (Dial, 2010) comes another educational book in graphic-novel format. Covering political history from the mid-1700s to the present day, this brightly colored volume uses humor and fast-paced panels to teach readers about how the office of the presidency was formed. At the start of the book, there is some (slightly superfluous) "pre-content content" designed to hook youngsters and prepare them for what they are about to learn. Topics include "How Does a President Get Elected?," "What Do Presidents Actually Do?," and "Why Is the White House So Awesome?" Fun, cartoon illustrations work with the text to

provide clarity and additional information, and frequent text boxes highlight important facts. There is no index, making the book less a research tool than a pleasure read, but it is so chock-full of interesting tidbits and anecdotes that kids will no doubt find it useful to supplement their American history studies. An engaging and informative addition to most collections.-Rita Meade, Brooklyn Public Library, NY

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Starred Review Townsend's last effort, *Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders* (2010), with its authentic depictions of mythic themes and lessons buried beneath the cartoonist's zany shenanigans, was a fine indicator of the direction he was heading. This volume, however, is a quantum leap forward in balancing solid, comprehensive facts on a large scale with consistent hilarity. It's hard enough to cover the American presidency from its origins in the Revolutionary War to the structure of our government, through presidential responsibilities, and into the story of the White House itself but to pack in amusing historical anecdotes that invite young readers to branch out in their reading, and to populate it with humorous bunnies, annoyed robots, and recurring gags that maintain their amusement without becoming tedious, is a unique achievement. The data, supported with a bibliography of sources, is the most thorough treatment of this subject available in this format, and the loopy caricatures and cartoonishly feverish depictions of places and events don't undermine the information, but miraculously serve to keep interest percolating through some high-density pages that touch on everything from George Washington's teeth to crucial constitutional amendments to presidential assassinations. An absolute necessity for school libraries. Grades 3-6. --Jesse Karp

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I teach Civics to middle school students...and this book just captured their attention (and mine!), particularly those with learning disabilities. They loved the pictures and crazy little jokes. I projected it on the board using the overhead and read selections out loud to them. They read all the speech bubbles using their best accents. We had a great time. I'd love to own a classroom set someday.

My 7-year old devoured this book and learned a lot of fun facts about presidents in a comical way. The author's *Mythology* book is great too.

My son first brought this book home from his elementary school library, and he enjoyed it. I picked up, and found it fun and didn't want to put it down. A great way to learn the basics about US government, but other books would be necessary to go in more depth. Fun illustrations and humor hiding what might be dry content otherwise. A little sugar makes the medicine go down...

Really very good book for my 5 yrs old kid

We already have his book about Greek Myths and just love it. It's gone through 2 kids already. Just started this one, but I hope it gives him a little more interest in American history because it's so silly!

We bought this book by Michael Townsend for our two grandsons, ages 8 and 11, another copy for their cousins ages 11 & 13 and a friend also bought a copy for herself (over 60 yrs) as a fun way to learn about the presidents. To quote my 11 yr. old grandson, "It is a great book as it tells you about presidential history in a fun way". He didn't feel like it was being drilled into him and he learned and retained what he learned. He said some of the things about the presidents were so funny that he couldn't stop laughing. Of course the illustrations were wonderful. We'd all recommend this book to anyone especially children from 8 yrs. old on in elementary school. What a great way to learn history. Edythe & Samuel N. North Wales, PA

I rated this product a 5 because it does a good job of explaining some of the presidential details in a manner that youth can relate to. It's a good summary lesson to get kids interested. It's also a little silly (in a good way). My daughter has brought up several of the book's points during this election season.

My daughter is a gifted 7 year old and I grabbed this book from our library and brought it home. She does enjoy history, biographies and comics so I thought this book looked like something she would enjoy. She couldn't put it down and kept wanting to read me all the parts she thought were funny out loud. She enjoyed the part about the Boston Tea party and has read it multiple times. I enjoyed the parts on how the Government works and is divided and how they explained the electoral college. The humor in this book reminds me a bit of the corny humor on cartoon network shows, not things that say an adult would consider funny, just cheezy, but plays into that age level humor that kids 8-12 really enjoy. My daughter several times outloud while reading it in the first hour stated, "This is a really great book!" She was in love from the first page. The book explains our countries history,

the split from GB, all the way to how and why we have a president, covers the rules about who can be elected, and even goes into a few details about foreign policy. Yet pops in random nonsense just to make sure you are paying attention. Many of the jokes were a play on the government vocabulary words that actually help the kids remember them better by putting a humorous connection to the word. I was impressed by how much Government History and Government process he was able to explain on a level they can understand, yet giving them a good concrete idea of how things actually work and why. I wish I had this book when I took Government and History in highschool, it may have helped me remember a few things, and how things connected a bit easier.

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