

A New Kind of Leader

Week 27 • Monday • Leading a Brand-New Country

Reading Time

After winning independence, America had a big question: who should lead the new country? Americans did not want another king. Kings rule forever and pass the crown to their children.

Instead, America chose to have a **president** — a leader picked by the people through **voting**, who serves for four years at a time. If the people are unhappy, they can choose someone new!

This was a brand-new idea in the world. Many countries had kings and queens, but America would be led by presidents chosen by its citizens. This week you will meet the first presidents and learn how they shaped our country.

Reading Questions

1. Why didn't Americans want another king?

2. How is a president chosen?

3. How long does a president serve at a time?

4. What can people do if they are unhappy with the president?

This Week's Goals

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

1. Explain how a president is different from a king.
2. Tell about George Washington, the first president.
3. Tell about Thomas Jefferson, the third president.
4. Explain why voting matters in your community.

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

president

vote

citizen

elect

serve

capital

King or President?

Write K if it describes a king, or P if it describes a president.

Description	K or P?
Rules for his whole life	
Chosen by the people's votes	
Passes the crown to his children	
Serves four years at a time	
Can be replaced if people are unhappy	
Nobody gets to pick him	

Fill in the Blanks

king

president

voting

four

people

new

1. Americans did not want another _____.
2. They chose a _____ instead.
3. The president is picked by _____.
4. A president serves _____ years at a time.
5. The _____ choose their leader.
6. This was a brand-_____ idea in the world.

Think About It

1. Why is it good that people can choose a new leader?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
Why America chose presidents, not kings	YES / NOT YET
How presidents are chosen	YES / NOT YET
How long a president serves	YES / NOT YET