

Barrack Hussein Obama, Jr 2009

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.



Barack Hussein Obama **Jr.** was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father, Barack Obama, **Sr.**, was born in Kenya, Africa. Obama's mother, Ann, grew up in Wichita, Kansas. Her family moved to Hawaii after World War II.

Ann met Barack Obama Sr. at the University of Hawaii. They married and Barack Obama Jr. was born in 1961.

When he was two, Obama's father and mother divorced. His father left Hawaii. His father went back to live in Kenya.

- **Born in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia**
- **Attended Harvard Law School**
- **Worked with the poor in Chicago**
- **Was the 3rd African American US Senator**
- **First African American United States President**

His mother married a man from **Indonesia**. Then Obama's sister, Maya, was born. He was sent back to Hawaii for better schooling. Barack went to fifth grade at the Punahou Academy. He was one of three black students at the school. He graduated with very good grades. Sometimes his mother got him up at 4:30 in the morning to study. She wanted him to get into a good college. He played basketball after school with his friends.

When Barack was in college, his father died. He had only had one visit with his

father. He decided to go to Kenya where his father came from. He met many people from his father's family. He wrote a book about his trip. The book was "Dreams of My Father".

Obama graduated from college in 1983. He got a job helping poor people in Chicago. He learned many things about what people need.

Then he went to law school. Obama returned to Chicago to work as a **civil rights** lawyer. He volunteered to help Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. Obama met his wife Michelle in 1988. They were married on October 3, 1992. They have two daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Obama was elected to the **Illinois State Senate**. He worked hard to improve the lives of poor people.

Obama did not like the war in Iraq. He gave speeches and people listened.

Obama was elected to the **United States Senate**. He had many goals to help Americans. He wrote a second book during this time called Audacity of Hope. People began to pay attention to him.

In February 2007, Obama announced that he was going to run for president. He fought in a tough battle against **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. He is now the 44th president of the United States. He is also the first African-American to hold this office.

Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2009. He won for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy. He was chosen for his ability to help nations co-operate.

Suggested Vocabulary and Activities for Barack Obama, US President

Reading level 5.0

Meets Oregon State Standards in Language Arts and Social Studies.

Vocabulary

Jr.

Sr.

Indonesia

Senate

Civil rights

Diplomacy

Comprehension Questions

1. What cultures contributed to Barack Obama's family?
2. How did Obama's mother encourage his education?
3. Why did Obama wonder about his father's life?
4. Identify one of Obama's strengths.
5. Why did Obama win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Discuss and Infer

1. What influences in his childhood influenced Obama the most?
2. Did Obama understand his father's life?
3. Why did Obama disagree with the Iraq war?
4. What makes Barack Obama so famous?
5. What led him to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Connected Curriculum

1. Make a timeline of the events in Obama's life.
2. Read "Dreams of My Father" out loud. How did his father's absence influence Obama's life?

3. What countries has Obama visited since he was President? Did this influence his winning the Peace Prize?
4. Start a newspaper bulletin board with stories about Obama-have children bring in articles to share.

Technology

Play this Peace Doves Game:

http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/peace/nuclear_weapons/index.html