

Barack 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 and 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**. The family moved there and Obama's sister Maya was born. Obama went to school but his mother wanted him to go back to Honolulu to finish.

When Barack was ten, he went back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents. Barack went to fifth grade at the Punahou Academy in Hawaii where he was one of three black students at the school. He graduated with very good grades. Barack

says that this is the place he first understood what it meant to be born African American. Sometimes his mother got him up at 4:30 in the morning to study and work on homework. She wanted him to do well in school so he could go to a

good college. He played basketball with his friends and with his school team during.

When Obama was in college his father died. Barack had spent only one month with his father during a short visit in Honolulu after his parent's divorce. Obama wanted to know more about his Kenyan father and other family. He visited Kenya to meet them. On this trip he learned more about his father and grandfather. He wrote a book about his trip. The book was "Dreams of My Father".

Obama graduated from college in 1983 and worked for two years. He then moved to Chicago in 1985 and worked to help poor people.

After 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 on giving poor people health care services and tax breaks.

Obama did not agree with President George W. Bush's idea to go to war with **Iraq**. He spoke against this war during a **rally** in Chicago.

At the **Democratic National Convention** he went on TV and gave the **opening** speech for the presidential campaign of John Kerry. People all over the country heard this speech and liked it.

Obama was elected to the **United States Senate** and worked hard for the poor people of the United States. His goals were to help poor people have better health care, help Hurricane Katrina victims, and help people use green energy. He wrote a second book during this time. *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*.

In February 2007, Obama announced his **candidacy** for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination. He fought in a tough battle against **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. He became the nominee on June 3, 2008. On November 4th, 2008, Barack Obama defeated Republican presidential nominee John McCain for the position of U.S. President. He is now the 44th president of the United States and the first African-American to hold this office.

Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2009. He won for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international **diplomacy** and cooperation between peoples.

Suggested Vocabulary and Activities for Barack Obama, US President

Reading level 9.3

Meets Oregon State Standards in Language Arts and Social Studies.

Vocabulary.

Jr.

Sr.

Indonesia

Jakarta

Honors

Commitment

Transferred

Community organizer

Magna Cum Laude

Civil rights

Early childhood education

Keynote

Reconstruction

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. How did working with the poor influence Obama's time in the Illinois Senate?
5. When did Obama speak out against the Iraq war?
6. When did Obama first understand what being an African American meant?

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 George Bush?
4. What State Senate and US Senate programs were influenced by his work as a community organizer?
5. What led him to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Connected Curriculum

1. On a map identify Obama's birthplace, his parent's birthplace, childhood home, and states where he went to school, lived and worked. Make a timeline of events in his life.
2. Read *Dreams of My Father*. 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?

Technology

Play this Peace Doves Game:

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