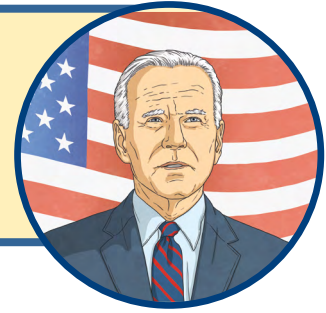


# Joe Biden

Joe Biden is a politician and president-elect of the United States. He is due to be **inaugurated** as the 46<sup>th</sup> president on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. He served as the 47<sup>th</sup> vice-president to Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017.



## Early Life

He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1942 in Pennsylvania but moved to Delaware when he was still young. His parents were very hard-working and taught him to be tough and to persevere in life.

As a child, Joe Biden had a stammer and was sometimes teased. To manage his stammer, he learnt poetry and recited it in front of the mirror.

After attending school, he earned a place at the prestigious Archmere Academy. To help pay for his tuition, Joe Biden cleaned the windows and weeded the gardens.

He went on to the University of Delaware. After his graduation in 1965, Joe Biden studied law at Syracuse University Law School.

## Career

In 1971, Joe Biden started his own law firm. He became interested in politics and joined the Democratic Party.

In 1972, he ran for the United States Senate and became the fifth-youngest US **senator** in the nation's history. He went on to serve in the Senate until 2009.



## Family Life

Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy in his life. In 1972, his wife and young daughter were killed in a car crash. His two sons were badly injured. Joe Biden felt like giving up but found the courage to overcome this **adversity**.

He married again in 1977 and had another daughter.

Unfortunately, there was more sadness to come, when in 2015, Joe Biden's eldest son died. Once again, despite his grief and sadness, he continued to think of the people he served.



# Joe Biden



## Becoming President

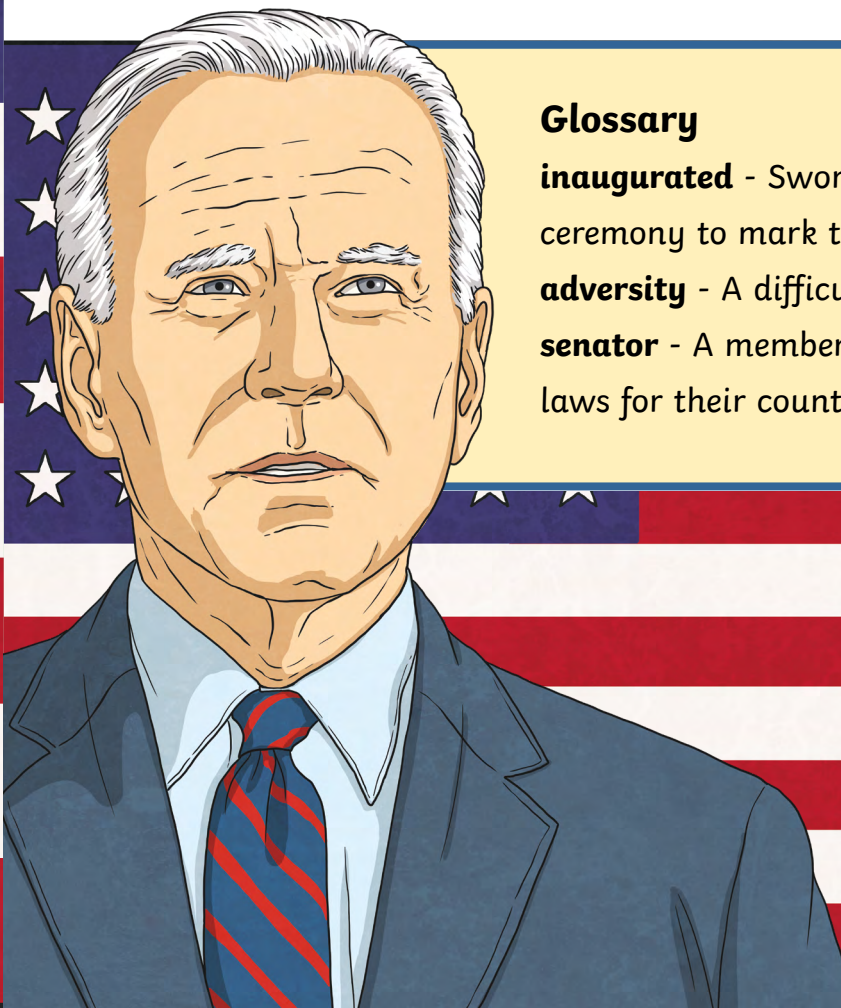
Joe Biden first decided to run for the US presidency in the 1988 election but later dropped out of the election.

In 2008, Joe Biden made his second bid to become president. He was unsuccessful but was chosen as the 47<sup>th</sup> vice-president when Barack Obama became president of the US in 2009.

In 2020, Joe Biden stood as the Democratic candidate against Donald Trump and received a record number of votes. At 78, he will be the oldest president to be sworn into office.

## Did You Know...?

In America, there are two main political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans.



## Glossary

**inaugurated** - Sworn into office at a special ceremony to mark the start of a new president.

**adversity** - A difficult or unpleasant situation.

**senator** - A member of the US Senate who passes laws for their country.

# Questions

1. In what year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- 2020
- 1942
- 1971
- 2008

2. What did Joe Biden work as before he became a senator? Tick one.

- a firefighter
- a doctor
- a lawyer
- a vice-president

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- |  |                                                          |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------|
|  | He became the 47 <sup>th</sup> vice-president.           |
|  | Joe Biden's eldest son died.                             |
|  | Joe Biden graduated from Delaware University.            |
|  | Joe Biden studied law at Syracuse University Law School. |

4. To what political party does Joe Biden belong? Tick one.

- the Conservatives
- the Democrats
- The Senate
- The Republicans

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Joe Biden has had to deal with tragedy...**  
Find and copy one word that means the same as **bravery**.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who was president when Joe Biden was vice-president?

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7. Think of a word that you think best describes Joe Biden. Explain why you have chosen that word.

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8. Do you think that Joe Biden is a hard-worker? Find two pieces of evidence in the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

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**courage**

6. Who was president when Joe Biden was vice-president?

**Barack Obama**

7. Think of a word that you think best describes Joe Biden. Explain why you have chosen that word.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would describe Joe Biden as courageous because he kept on going even when things were difficult for him. I would describe Joe Biden as determined because he kept trying until he achieved his goal.**

8. Do you think that Joe Biden is a hard-worker? Find two pieces of evidence in the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes. Evidence could include: He washed windows and weeded the gardens to help pay his tuition. He went to school and university and law school. He worked hard to manage his stammer. His mother and father taught him to be hard-working.**