

Barack Obama

Barack Hussein Obama is a politician and a lawyer. He was the first Black president of the United States of America.



Childhood

Barack Hussein Obama was born on 4th August 1961 in Hawaii, USA. Barack's father was also called Barack Hussein Obama. He grew up in Kenya and moved to Hawaii in 1960. Barack's mother was called Stanley Ann Dunham and she also moved to Hawaii in 1960.

Barack spent time living in Jakarta, Indonesia, when he was a young child. By the time that he was four years old, Barack could fluently speak both English and Indonesian. When Barack was ten years old, he moved back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents.

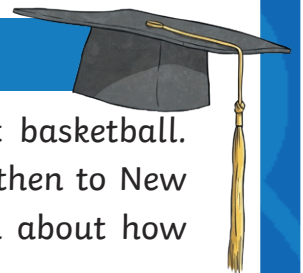
Education

Barack went to an important school and he was very good at basketball. After leaving high school in 1979, he moved to Los Angeles and then to New York City. In both of these cities, he went to university to learn about how governments work.

In 1988, Barack went on to attend Harvard Law School. He was chosen to be the president of the Harvard Law Review. This is a **journal** that is made by students and people can use it for legal research.

While he was attending Harvard Law School, Barack started to work as a trainee at a law firm so that he could gain experience. Michelle LaVaughn Robinson was asked to supervise him. Soon, they became friends and, not long later, they were married on 3rd October 1992.

In 1991, Barack was awarded with his Juris Doctor, which is a professional degree that is needed if someone wants to practise law.



Career

Barack began to work as a community organiser in Chicago. He set up a program which helped people to get the skills that they need in order to do the job that they'd like. He set up a teaching program and he founded an organisation that supported the rights of people living in the area.

After this, Barack began working as a civil rights lawyer and he helped to protect the freedom and equality of his clients. He also taught others about law. It was at this time that Barack first became involved in **politics**.

Political Beginnings

Barack's first role within politics was as part of a project which tried to get all members of the public to register to vote. Barack and his team made sure that 150,000 new people would be able to have their say in the next election.

After this, Barack became a state senator and he worked to create laws which helped children, elderly citizens and families with low incomes.

Becoming President

In 2008, Barack was elected President of the United States and, the following year, he officially started the role. As the 44th President of the United States of America, he became the first Black president in US history.

During his time as president, Barack signed a law which meant that over 20 million people were able to access healthcare that they could not previously afford. He also supported marriage equality and he made huge steps towards tackling climate change.

Barack's presidency ended in 2017 but he continues to work towards supporting these causes. Barack and his wife, Michelle, set up a foundation which believes that ordinary people can change history when they work together.

Glossary

journal:	A newspaper or magazine about one particular subject.
politics:	Activities which relate to the governance of a country or area.

Questions

1. Where was Barack born? Tick one.

- Jakarta
- Hawaii
- New York City
- Chicago

2. In which year was Barack awarded with his Juris Doctor? Tick one.

- 1961
- 1979
- 1988
- 1991

3. Find and copy the **two** languages that Barack could speak when he was four years old.

- _____
- _____

4. What did Barack do while he was attending Harvard Law School?

5. Look at the section called **Education**.

Find and copy one word which means 'someone who is not fully qualified'.

6. Explain how Barack has improved the lives of US citizens.

7. Using information from the text, summarise Barack's childhood in 30 words or fewer.

8. Discuss how Barack continues to improve people's lives today.

Answers

1. Where was Barack born? Tick one.

- Jakarta
- Hawaii**
- New York City
- Chicago

2. In which year was Barack awarded with his Juris Doctor? Tick one.

- 1961
- 1979
- 1988
- 1991**

3. Find and copy the **two** languages that Barack could speak when he was four years old.

- **English**
- **Indonesian**

4. What did Barack do while he was attending Harvard Law School?

While studying at Harvard Law School, Barack was the president of the Harvard Law Review and he worked as a trainee at a law firm.

5. Look at the section called **Education**.

Find and copy one word which means 'someone who is not fully qualified'.

trainee

6. Explain how Barack has improved the lives of US citizens.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack has improved the lives of US citizens by setting up lots of schemes and passing laws to make sure that they have healthcare and equal rights.

7. Using information from the text, summarise Barack's childhood in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack was born in Hawaii and moved to Jakarta before returning back to Hawaii at the age of ten. He went to an important school.

8. Discuss how Barack continues to improve people's lives today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack continues to improve people's lives today through the foundation that he set up with his wife which supports good causes.

Barack Obama

Barack Hussein Obama is a politician and a lawyer who was the first Black president of the United States of America.



Childhood

On 4th August 1961, Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii, USA. His father, also called Barack Hussein Obama, grew up in Kenya and moved to Hawaii in 1960. His mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, moved from Kansas to Hawaii with her parents, also in 1960.

As a young child, Barack lived in Jakarta, Indonesia. By the age of four, Barack could fluently speak both English and Indonesian. At the age of ten, Barack moved back to Honolulu – the capital city of Hawaii – to live with his grandparents.

Education

While living with his grandparents in Hawaii, Barack attended an important school and he excelled in basketball. After graduating from high school in 1979, he moved to Los Angeles and then to New York City where he studied **political science**.

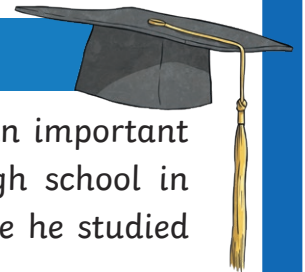
In 1988, Barack went on to attend Harvard Law School. He was appointed as the president of the Harvard Law Review, which is a student-run journal that people can use for legal research. Barack was the first Black person to hold this position.

While attending Harvard Law School, Barack completed a summer **internship** at a law firm. He was supervised by Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, who would later become his wife. In 1991, Barack was awarded with his Juris Doctor – a professional degree that is needed if someone wants to practise law.

Career

Barack began to work as a community organiser in Chicago. As part of this role, he set up a program which helped people to get the skills that they need in order to do the job that they'd like. He set up a **tutoring** program and founded an organisation that supported the rights of people living in the area.

After this, Barack began his career as a civil rights lawyer; he helped to protect the freedom and equality of his clients. He also taught others about law. It was at this time that Barack first became involved in **politics**.



Political Beginnings

Barack's first role within politics was as part of a project which encouraged all members of the public to register to vote. Barack and his team ensured that 150,000 citizens, who were previously unable to vote, would be able to have their say in the upcoming 1992 election.

In 1996, Barack launched his first political campaign: he sought to become a state senator in Illinois. Once elected, he worked to establish laws which helped children, elderly citizens and families with low incomes.

Presidency

In 2007, Barack announced that he intended to run for President of the United States and, the following year, he was elected. As the 44th President of the United States of America, he became the first Black US president since the role was created in 1789.

During his time as president, Barack signed a law which meant that over 20 million citizens were able to access healthcare that they could not previously afford. He also supported the LGBTQ+ community's campaign for marriage equality and he made significant steps towards tackling climate change.

Although Barack's presidency ended in 2017, he continues to work towards supporting these causes. Barack and his wife, Michelle, set up a foundation which believes that ordinary people can change history when they work together.

Glossary

internship:	When a student or trainee works for an organisation so that they can gain experience.
politics:	Activities which relate to the governance of a country or area.
political science:	The study of how governments work.
tutoring:	Teaching a small group of pupils.



Questions

1. Who are Barack's parents? Tick **two**.

- Michelle
- Barack
- Stanley
- Hawaii

2. Draw **four** lines and match each year to the action Barack took in that year.

1979

1988

1996

2007

He started to attend Harvard Law School.

He launched his first political campaign.

He moved away from Hawaii.

He announced that he intended to run for president.

3. Find and copy one word which shows that Barack could speak English and Indonesian with ease.

4. Which significant event in Barack's life happened in 1991?

5. **He was supervised by Michelle LaVaughn Robinson...**

What does the word **supervised** mean in this phrase?

6. Comment on how Barack's life might have changed in 2008.

7. Summarise Barack's impact while he was president in 20 words or fewer.

8. 'Barack cares for other people.'

Explain how the information in the **Career** section of the text proves that this is true.

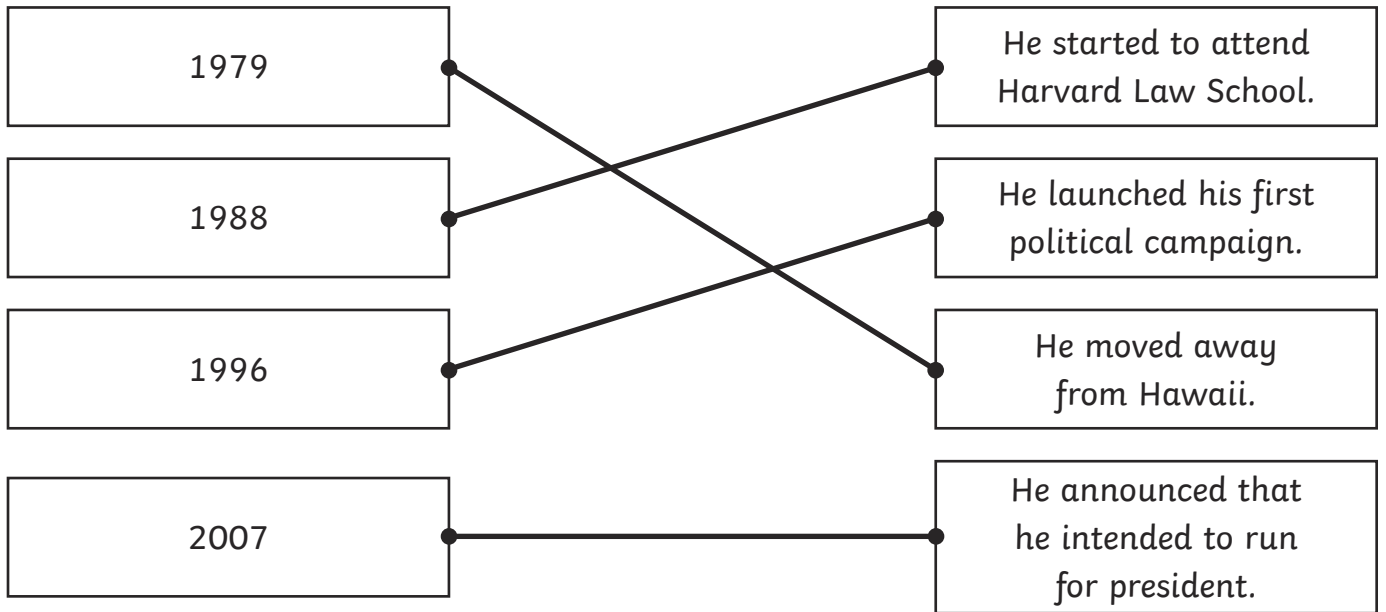
9. How does Barack continue to make a difference now that his term as president has finished?

Answers

1. Who are Barack's parents? Tick **two**.

- Michelle
- Barack**
- Stanley**
- Hawaii

2. Draw **four** lines and match each year to the action Barack took in that year.



3. Find and copy one word which shows that Barack could speak English and Indonesian with ease.

fluently

4. Which significant event in Barack's life happened in 1991?

In 1991, Barack was awarded with his Juris Doctor.

5. **He was supervised by Michelle LaVaughn Robinson...**

What does the word **supervised** mean in this phrase?

Accept any of the following answers: looked after; observed; directed; kept watch over; checked on; helped.

6. Comment on how Barack's life might have changed in 2008.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack's life might have changed in 2008 because he was elected as the first Black president of the USA. This will have made Barack more famous than he had been previously so he would have had more media attention.

7. Summarise Barack's impact while he was president in 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: While he was president, Barack established schemes and laws to better the lives of citizens and to promote equality.

8. 'Barack cares for other people.'

Explain how the information in the **Career** section of the text proves that this is true.

Pupils' own responses, such as: In the Career section of the text, it says that Barack set up programs and founded groups to help other people. He also worked to protect the freedom and equality of his clients. This shows that he cares for other people.

9. How does Barack continue to make a difference now that his term as president has finished?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack continues to make a difference to others now that he is no longer president because he still supports good causes through the foundation that he set up with his wife.

Barack Obama

Barack Hussein Obama is a politician and a lawyer who was the first Black president of the United States of America. He is an advocate for affordable healthcare and global education.



Childhood

On 4th August 1961, Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii, USA. His father, also called Barack Hussein Obama, grew up in Kenya and moved to Hawaii in 1960. His mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, moved from Kansas to Hawaii with her parents, also in 1960.

As a young child, Barack lived in Jakarta, Indonesia, with his mother, his stepfather, Lolo, and his half-sister, Maya. By the age of four, Barack could fluently speak both English and Indonesian. At the age of ten, Barack moved back to Honolulu – the capital city of Hawaii – to live with his grandparents, Stanley and Madelyn Dunham.

Education

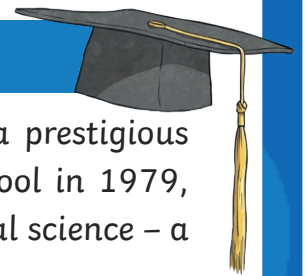
While living with his grandparents in Hawaii, Barack attended a prestigious school and excelled in basketball. After graduating from high school in 1979, he moved to Los Angeles and then to New York City to study political science – a subject which focuses on how governments operate.

In 1988, Barack went on to attend Harvard Law School. After winning an election, he was appointed as the president of the Harvard Law Review – a student-run journal of articles which people can use for legal research. Barack was the first Black person to hold this position.

While attending Harvard Law School, Barack completed a summer internship at a law firm. Here, he was supervised by Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, who would later become his wife. In 1991, Barack was awarded with his Juris Doctor – a professional degree that is required if someone is to practise law.

Career

Barack began to work as a community organiser in Chicago. As part of this role, he set up a program which helped people to develop the skills that they needed for their future careers. He established a tutoring program and founded an organisation that supported the rights of people living in the area.



After this, he utilised his Juris Doctor to begin his career as a civil rights lawyer, helping to protect the freedom and equality of his clients. He also taught others about law part-time at the University of Chicago Law School. It was at this time that Barack first became involved in politics.

Political Beginnings

Barack's first role within politics was as the director of a project which encouraged all members of the public to register to vote. After working tirelessly between April and October 1992, Barack and his team ensured that 150,000 citizens, who were previously unable to vote, would be able to have their say in the upcoming election.

In 1996, Barack launched his first political campaign: he sought to become a state senator in Illinois. Once elected, he immediately set to work helping to establish laws to help children, elderly citizens and low-income families.

Presidency

In 2007, Barack announced that he intended to run for President of the United States and his campaign slogans focused on the themes of hope and change. The following year, after receiving 365 votes (compared to the 173 votes received by his opposition), Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States of America – the first Black US president since the role was established in 1789. He officially began the role on 20th January 2009.

Four years later, in the election in which a new president could have been chosen, Barack again received the majority of votes – 332 compared to his opponent's 206.

Among many notable achievements during his term of office, Barack signed a law which provided healthcare to over 20 million citizens who previously could not afford to receive it. He also supported the LGBTQ+ community's campaign for marriage equality and he made significant steps towards tackling climate change.

On 9th October 2009, Barack was awarded with a Nobel Peace Prize for his work in uniting people around the world. Although Barack's presidency ended in 2017, he continues to work towards supporting good causes through a foundation that he created alongside his wife. Their mission is to inspire people to take action, to empower them to change their world for the better and to connect them so that they can achieve more together than they can alone.

Questions

1. What did Barack study while in New York? Tick one.

- global education
- political science
- a professional degree in law
- civil rights law

2. Draw **four** lines and match each year to the event which happened in it.

1991

1992

2007

2009

He received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Barack and his team ensured that 150,000 more people could vote.

He was awarded with his Juris Doctor.

He announced his intention to run for presidency.

3. What is Honolulu?

4. **He is an advocate for affordable healthcare and global education.**

How else could the author have written this sentence?

5. Find and copy the meaning of the phrase **political science**.

6. Discuss Barack Obama's impact on US citizens based on information from the text.

7. Summarise the beliefs of Barack and Michelle's foundation in 20 words or fewer.

8. Compare **two** elections that Barack won and explain why they are similar.

9. 'Barack promotes equality.'
Give **two** ways that text supports this statement.

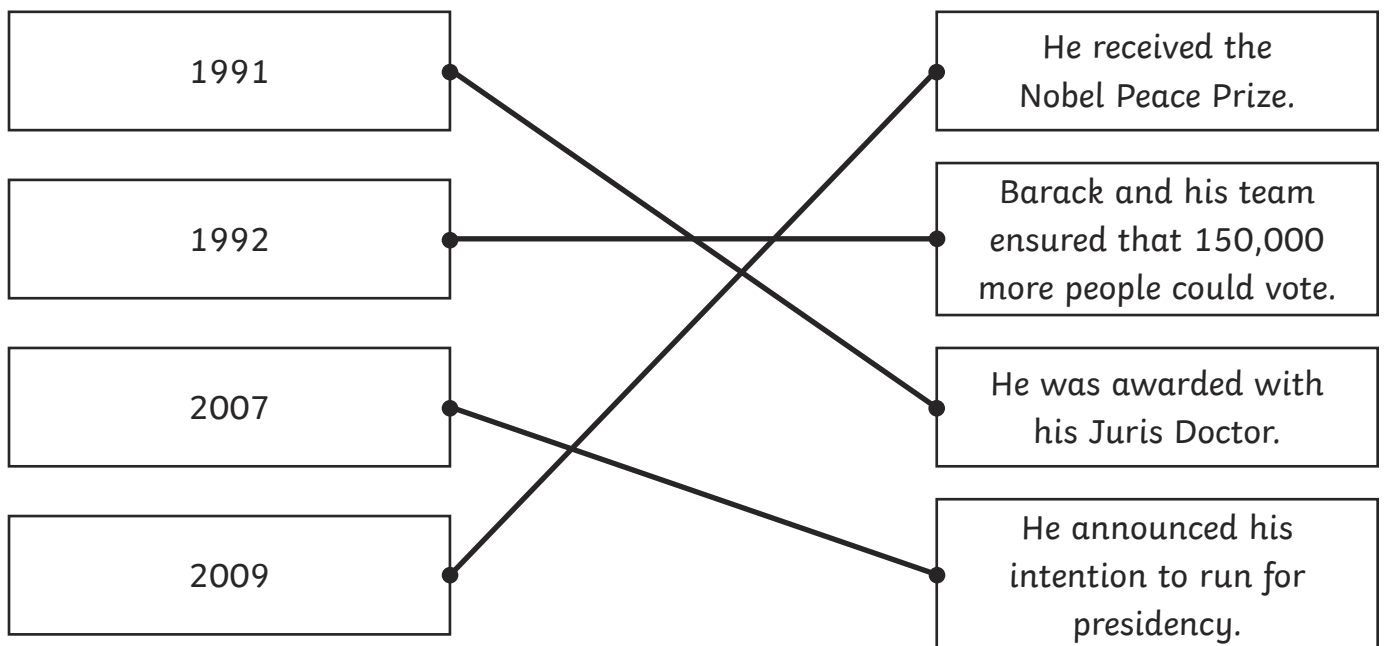
10. Compare how Barack's job as President of the United States of America was similar to another job that he had.

Answers

1. What did Barack study while in New York? Tick one.

- global education
- political science**
- a professional degree in law
- civil rights law

2. Draw **four** lines and match each year to the event which happened in it.



3. What is Honolulu?

Honolulu is the capital city of Hawaii.

4. **He is an advocate for affordable healthcare and global education.**

How else could the author have written this sentence?

Accept any suitable rewording which retains the meaning of the original sentence, such as: He thinks that people should have affordable healthcare and that people around the world should have access to education.

5. Find and copy the meaning of the phrase **political science**.

a subject which focuses on how governments operate

6. Discuss Barack Obama's impact on US citizens based on information from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack Obama has had a positive impact on US citizens due to the many laws he has passed and schemes he has established to ensure equality. Examples of these are when he helped people as a community organiser, when he established laws as a state senator and when he signed laws as a president.

7. Summarise the beliefs of Barack and Michelle's foundation in 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Their foundation believes that ordinary people can connect, take action, change the world for the better and change history.

8. Compare **two** elections that Barack won and explain why they are similar.

Pupils' own responses, such as: When Barack was appointed president of the Harvard Law Review, he was the first Black person to hold the position. When he became President of the United States of America, he was also the first Black person to hold the position.

9. 'Barack promotes equality.'

Give **two** ways that text supports this statement.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The text shows that Barack promotes equality because he worked as a civil rights lawyer who protected his clients' equality and he also supported the LGBTQ+ community's campaign for marriage equality while he was president.

10. Compare how Barack's job as President of the United States of America was similar to another job that he had.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Barack's job as President of the United States of America was similar to his job as a state senator because, in both roles, he established laws to help the citizens of the USA.