

Fenimore Art Museum

The Presidency as Pictured by Pete Souza

ANSWER KEY

Who is the President? The President of the United States is the person in charge of our country. It is like your teacher being in charge of your classroom and the Principal being in charge of your school.

What is an official presidential photographer? An official photographer is a person who follows the President everywhere and takes pictures of the President. The pictures are taken to be a record of the President while in office, showing what the President does every day.

What is the Constitution? The United States Constitution is the written set of rules that explain how our government works. It describes the parts of government and tells what powers they have and how they work. It also lists the rights of the citizens (people who live in the country).

What are the Constitutional duties of the President? The President is the head of the Executive Branch of the Federal government. This is the branch that enforces laws made by Congress. The Constitution gives the President many very specific duties which are listed under five major powers. Here are five of their jobs:

1. Chief of State – the ceremonial head of the United States. The President represents and speaks for the country. The President greets guests at the White House and visits people throughout the United States.
2. Chief Legislator – approves laws proposed by Congress.
3. Chief Executive – enforces laws at the Federal level
4. Chief Diplomat – makes foreign policy and meets with leaders of other countries
5. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces – leader of the military, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and other forces.

Who is Pete Souza?

Pete Souza was the Official Photographer for both President Reagan and President Obama. His job was to take pictures of the Presidents while they were in office. Here is a photograph of Pete Souza.



Washington Examiner

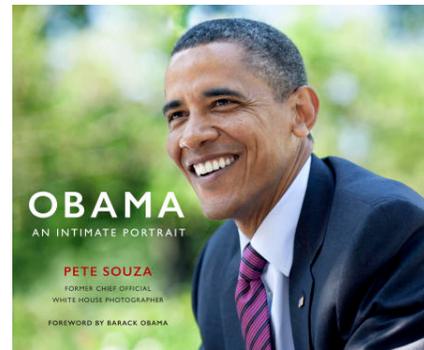
Two Presidents of the United States: Pete Souza was the Official Photographer for two Presidents. They were Ronald Wilson Reagan and Barack Hussein Obama. Here are their pictures:

President Ronald Reagan



40th President of the United States
1981-1989, a Republican

President Barack Obama



44th President of the United States
2009-20017, a Democrat

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Activity Sheets

Name _____

Date _____

Using Photographs to Show the Roles of the President

Photographs of President Reagan and President Obama taken by Pete Souza show them carrying out their official duties as President. Look at the pictures below. Which President is in the photo? What role, or job, is the President doing in the picture? Describe what you see in each picture.



President **Ronald Reagan**

Role/Job **Chief Legislator**

What do you see in the picture?

President Reagan sitting at his desk with papers in his hands



President **Ronald Reagan**

Role/Job **Chief of State**

What do you see in the picture?

President Reagan talking to his wife with Michael Jackson, a famous singer.



President **Barack Obama**
Role/Job **Chief of State**
What do you see in the picture?
President Obama visiting people with flags and a truck and homes



President **Barack Obama**
Role/Job **Chief of State**
What do you see in the picture?
A boy touching President Obama's hair



President **Barack Obama**
Role/Job **Commander in Chief**
What do you see in the picture?
President Obama, people in military uniforms, people looking worried



President **Ronald Reagan**
Role/Job **Chief Diplomat**
What do you see in the picture?
President Reagan walking with the leader of Russia



President **Ronald Reagan**
Role/Job **Commander in Chief**
What do you see in the picture?
President Reagan, soldiers, a casket



President **Barack Obama**
Role/Job **Chief Diplomat**
What do you see in the picture?
President Obama talking to the leader of Russia (Putin)



President **Ronald Reagan**
Role/Job **Chief Legislator**
What do you see in the picture?
President Reagan signing a law, men with suits clapping behind him



President **Barack Obama**
Role/Job **Chief Diplomat**
What do you see in the picture?
President Obama shaking hands and laughing with leaders of foreign countries

Assessment:

What did you learn about what a President is and what a President does?

- Draw a picture or describe a photograph you would like to take of the next President of the United States that shows him carrying out one of his official duties.
- In your picture or description, be sure to include specific detail of what the role the President is, and how he is doing it.
- Your drawing or written description is to be completed on this paper.

Individual pictures will vary, but should demonstrate a clear understanding of one specific role or duty of the President of the United States.