

Lindenwald Distance Learning Activity Program

“Sorry Mister President, No Tigers Allowed In the White House”



When America was young, a **diplomat** held an enormous responsibility. Diplomats then, like now, travelled to distant lands creating friendships, calming anger and/or making deals with nations, sometimes risking their health and lives to complete the task.

Friendship with countries in different parts of the world after the **War for Independence** was terribly important. It meant the U.S. Navy could travel oceans safely and return with items Americans were unable to buy at home; this is **trade**.

America’s seventh president, Andrew Jackson, was interested in creating a friendship with a country called Oman. At the time, Oman ruled a country called Zanzibar and used it to control **trade** around East Africa.

A diplomat from America successfully created a friendship with Oman and struck a deal to **trade** material, rice and sugar from the United States for spices and ivory from East Africa.

To show his country’s friendship, the **Sultan (ruler)** of Oman shipped several gifts to the President of the United States. The gifts arrived during Martin Van Buren’s term as the eighth **President of the United States**.

The ship carried many beautiful presents; a bag of pearls, two stallion horses, a gold sword, and expensive spices, but the gift remembered 180 years later was two tiger cubs!

Imagine two tigers in the White House! He wanted to keep them, but even the President of the United States has rules he must obey.

Congress informed President Van Buren that an **Article** in the **United States Constitution** on gifts to the President prevented him from keeping the tiger cubs.

President Van Buren was a lawyer before he entered politics and argued with Congress to keep them, but an Article in U.S. Constitution must be respected.

In the end, the President lost his argument with Congress and gave the tiger cubs to a zoo. If he were allowed to keep the tigers, they might have lived at Lindenwald too!

Open the Door to Knowledge, Follow the 'Key'



Diplomat:

A person sent by their country to create a friendship, solve a problem or do business in another country is called a **diplomat**.

Congress:

Americans choose (by voting) people to make decisions for us, our state and our country-together, this team of people is called **Congress**.

The War for Independence, or the American Revolution:

The war that ended English rule over the colonies in America, creating The United States of America.

The United States Constitution:

After the War for Independence, America was in a disorganised mess. Every state had its own rules, money and trade.

Imagine visiting thirteen different states and needing thirteen different kinds of money, and having to learn the laws of thirteen different states to avoid trouble – crazy!

America's leaders gathered in Philadelphia to create a document that would work for all states and make America one strong, organised nation.

This document is called **The United States Constitution**.

It protects the rights of all American citizens and is the guide all in Congress must follow.

Articles:

Sections in the U.S. Constitution on how the American government is supposed to run the country that must be followed - including the President of the United States.

Government Match

Match the picture with the word from the key or story.

Draw a line from the picture to the correct word.



United States Constitution



Oman



**President of the United States,
Martin Van Buren**



Tell or draw your story here:

Have you ever traded something of yours for something a friend had?

- What was it?
- What happened after the trade?
- Did you wish you kept your item, or were you happy with the trade?