

J. F. KENNEDY

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on the 29th of May, 1917, into a family that was very much involved in politics. Although the Kennedys were an important Catholic family, John did not attend a Catholic school but a non-religious private one and graduated from Harvard University in 1940.

Soon afterwards he joined the navy - just two months before the United States entered the Second World War. Kennedy became commander of a patrol boat and gained the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroism. A Japanese destroyer cut his ship in two, leaving him in the water for 15 hours. During the time he did all that he could to save fellow crew members'.

In 1960, Kennedy ran for the presidential elections and on the 20th of January, 1961, became the youngest Catholic President of the United States of America (he was just 43 years old).

In his Inaugural Address to the Nation he spoke of the need for all Americans to be active citizens pronouncing the famous sentence: 'My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country'. Just after being elected the 35th President of the United States he began to apply his program which he called the politics of the 'New Frontier'. This contained an aid¹ packet for depressed areas, ideas for resolving relevant social matters such as poverty, unemployment and the Afro-American question with the civil rights campaign. He also promised the American people that before the end of



notes

- 1. patrol boat: pattrollaburto
- 2. destroyer: kannasturuprimiera
- 3. crew members: ekipazija
- 4. aid: pomoć
- 5. relevant: relevantne ili scorne
- 6. Negro: negro



the decade an American would land on the moon. This goal was finally realized in 1969, six years after his death.

He also founded the Peace Corps, an organization of volunteers that still exists today. The aim of the Corps is to promote world peace and friendship and to help underdeveloped nations in areas such as education and health care. Kennedy also offered cautious support to the Civil Rights Movement.

He was defined as the first 'television President' as he used this medium to capture the hearts and minds of Americans with his youth and personal elegance.

Unfortunately his presidential career came to a sudden and tragic end on the 22nd of November, 1963, when he was shot and killed while riding in a motorcade³ through Dallas, Texas.

Kennedy's death shocked the nation and is still enveloped in mystery. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is now buried⁴ in Arlington National Cemetery.

Daily Mirror

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Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.
1. When and where was J.F.K. born?
2. Why was he awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?
3. When was he elected President? How old was he at the time?
4. What was the name of his political party? What were the goals of the 'New Frontier'?



Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.
 1. When and where was J.F. Kennedy born?
 2. Why was he awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal?
 3. When was he elected President of the U.S.A?
How old was he at the time?
 4. What was the name of his political plan?
 5. What were the goals of the "New Frontier"?
 6. Why was he defined the first 'television President'?
 7. What significant changes took place during the Kennedy years?
 8. When and where was he killed?
 9. What was the nation's reaction to his death?

2. Write a short comment on the following sentence taken from President Kennedy's Inaugural Address to the Nation.
"My fellow citizens: the world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and to abolish all forms of human life. The belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the State, but from the hand of God".

3. What do you think about Kennedy's statement:
"those who make peaceful revolution impossible,
make violent revolution inevitable".

