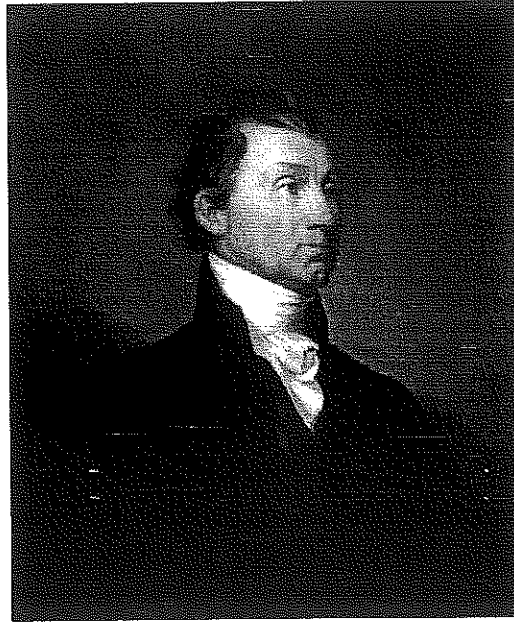


## U.S. Presidents James Monroe



James Monroe was America's fifth President. He is most famous for the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. The **doctrine**<sup>1</sup> warned European countries not to interfere with the United States and other independent nations in the Western Hemisphere. If European countries did interfere, it would be seen as an act of aggression against the United States.

Monroe served his country for nearly 40 years before he became President. He fought in the Revolutionary War. He served on the Congress of Confederation after America won its independence from Britain. He became a U.S. senator and minister to three European nations. He was elected governor of Virginia. Monroe also served under President James Madison as Secretary of State and Secretary of War.

Monroe was born in Virginia in 1758. He was the oldest of five children. At 16, he entered the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Shortly afterward, the Revolutionary War began. Monroe, then 18, immediately entered the war. He served as a lieutenant and was wounded in the Battle of Trenton.

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<sup>1</sup> doctrine – a belief or a teaching about something

As president, Monroe oversaw a great period of American **diplomacy**.<sup>2</sup> His training as a lawyer served him well. His efforts got Great Britain to set a boundary line between the United States and Canada. They got Spain to give up its claim to Oregon in 1819. Monroe was also able to purchase Florida from Spain. These agreements helped America's **frontier**<sup>3</sup> expand quickly west and south.

Monroe served two terms as president, from 1817 until 1825. In 1831, James Monroe died in his daughter's house in New York City.

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<sup>2</sup> **diplomacy** – the managing of relations between nations

<sup>3</sup> **frontier** – a territory that divides two areas, or the district near such a line

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Monroe Doctrine was written to
  - a. keep Monroe in office.
  - b. keep European countries out of the Western Hemisphere and U.S. affairs.
  - c. end the Revolutionary War.
  - d. make Virginia an independent state.
  
2. All of the following have to do with James Monroe except
  - a. the Revolutionary War.
  - b. the British Revolution.
  - c. the Monroe Doctrine.
  - d. the Congress of Confederation.
  
3. Which President was Monroe directly involved with?
  - a. George Washington
  - b. William and Mary
  - c. John Adams
  - d. James Madison
  
4. Which word best describes Monroe's character?
  - a. patriotic
  - b. British
  - c. brutal
  - d. lonely
  
5. Where was Monroe born?
  - a. Massachusetts
  - b. Florida
  - c. Connecticut
  - d. Virginia

6. What can you tell about Monroe's feelings about his country based on the text?

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7. Why was James Monroe able to effectively handle diplomatic issues?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

While President, Monroe purchased Florida from Spain, \_\_\_\_\_ helped expand America's territory.

- a. while
- b. which
- c. because
- d. after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Due to his unflinching public service to his country, Monroe died a poor man at his daughter's house in 1831.

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

(did) What? died a poor man

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** interfere: to cause difficulties in the completion of a process or activity.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_