

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore is a national monument located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Carved into the side of the large mountain are the faces of four men who were United States presidents. These men were chosen because all four played important roles in American history. The four faces carved onto Mount Rushmore are those of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Each face carved into the mountain is about 60 feet tall.

George Washington was chosen for this monument because of his role in the Revolutionary War and his fight for American independence. He was the first United States president and is often called the father of our country. Thomas Jefferson was picked because he believed that people should be allowed to govern themselves, which is the basis for democracy. Abraham Lincoln was added because he believed that all people are equal, and he helped end slavery in the United States. Theodore Roosevelt was chosen because he was such an influential president and world leader.

The man who carved Mount Rushmore was named Gutzon Borglum, and he worked on the monument until his death in 1941. After Gutzon Borglum died, his son Lincoln Borglum worked on the mountain until there was no money left to continue. Fourteen years were spent creating the faces on Mount Rushmore. Dynamite was used to blast the tough granite rock off the mountain to make a smooth surface for the faces. George Washington was carved first, and his face began as an egg-shaped piece of granite. Thomas Jefferson was added to the right of George Washington, but his face cracked and had to be blasted off the mountain. Jefferson was then re-carved to the left of George Washington. Lincoln and then Roosevelt were added to the mountain. Snow and a dearth of money slowed down the work, and all work on the monument ended when there was no money left to continue.

1.) Why did it take many years to finish Mount Rushmore?

- A. There were many arguments about which faces to carve into the mountain.
- B. The Civil War began and the workers had to go fight the war.
- C. The snow and money problems slowed progress on the monument.
- D. Gutzon Borglum moved back to Belgium to retire.

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2.) What does the word dearth mean as used in the text?

- A. Too much of something.
- B. Change.
- C. Shortage of something.
- D. The wrong kind.

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