



Surprising Presidential Teeth Facts: 4 FOR JULY

By Dr. Cara McCallum

Happy 4th of July! As we celebrate America, you can impress your friends and family with these little-known presidential teeth facts.



The tooth will ultimately prevail

You may already know that George Washington didn't really have wooden dentures. They were actually made from elephant ivory and hippopotamus tusk – thankfully dentistry has come a long way since then. But did you know America's first president performed his own teeth extractions? Ouch. Do not try that at home.



Brush twice a day and remember me

A president will often express their friendship and respect with gifts. Friends of Lyndon B. Johnson are known to have received electric toothbrushes adorned with the Presidential Seal.



Ask not what your teeth can do for you...

You should never use your teeth as tools, but in this case, we think it was for a worthy cause. John F. Kennedy's first mission during WWII did not go well. While on patrol in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean, his boat was destroyed. A crewman was badly injured and unable to swim or even float. With heroic effort, JFK swam for four hours towing the crewman to safety, using only his teeth to pull him.



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It's very convenient to have your dental office near your home or work, but how about near both? In the early 1930s, President Herbert Hoover had a dental office setup in the White House. Located in the subbasement, the very basic office was used for quick and private presidential dental work. The original office was little more than just a dental chair. Today it is as modern as any other dental office.



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