

Name: _____ Hr: _____

Financial Perks of Being President

Directions: While reading, make marginal annotations that reflect your questions, thoughts, and reactions. Complete the 3-2-1 assignment after completing the reading.

Presidents get a lot of perks for having the most prestigious title in the US: living in the White House, 24/7 house staff, and a pretty sizable salary. Yet one perk they don't enjoy? Vacation days. "Presidents don't get vacations — they just get a change of scenery," Nancy Reagan once said. While presidents can take trips to the golf course or summer homes, they are accompanied by aides, advisors, and heavy security, and [work still happens outside the White House](#).

Aside from having to work on the beach, presidents have several perks that lift a financial burden off their shoulders. Currently, a president earns a \$400,000 salary and is still on government payroll after leaving office. The president is also granted a \$50,000 annual expense account, \$100,000 nontaxable travel account, and \$19,000 for entertainment

Aside from a prestigious title, global recognition, and the aforementioned financial perks, take a look at additional financial perks that come with being the most powerful person in the US.

- a.) **Presidents get to live in the luxurious White House** with six floors, 132 rooms, a bowling alley, chocolate store, and a fully equipped fitness center with a tennis court and swimming pool.
- b.) **Presidents get \$100,000 to redecorate the White House** upon becoming president.
- c.) **On-hand cooks and housekeepers help out around the house.** The White House is also home to nearly 100 permanent residents including maids, cooks, a plumber, a florist, and a head housekeeper. The upkeep alone costs \$4 million annually.
- d.) **The president has access to a country home in Maryland** and when a president wants a break from one fancy address, he can go to another. **Camp David** is located in the Catoctin Mountain Park in Frederick County, Maryland. The home is fully equipped with a gym, swimming pool, and aircraft hangar. It has been the presidential retreat since the 1930s.
- e.) **The president has full access to Air Force One**, a Boeing 747-200B plane that has 4,000 square feet of space, a medical operating room, private quarters for the president, and the capacity to feed 100 people at a time.
- f.) **The president also has access to the smaller helicopter, Marine One**, which can travel at 150 mph and is armed with anti-missile systems and ballistic armor.

g.) **The president is fully protected at all times, even into retirement.** Secret service is always near the current president and retired presidents receive the perk for life. Their children are protected until the age of 16.

h.) **The president rides around in a fleet of armored cars, called “The Beasts”,** which are bullet and bomb-proof.

i.) **Presidents have excellent health insurance.** While serving a term, a White House doctor is always on call and medical staff accompany the president at all times. The White House has its own clinic with exam rooms, medical equipment, and military doctors on staff. If a president serves five or more years of federal service, they receive priority health benefits and use of veterans hospitals. If eligible and interested in partaking, 75% of presidential health care is covered by taxpayers and purchased through the Washington, DC, Obamacare exchange

j.) **Presidents get pretty hefty pensions.** The Former President Act determines how much compensation a president will receive after leaving the White House. In 2016, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton received annual pensions of \$205,700. In 2017, Obama received \$207,800

Directions for 3-2-1 Activity: Complete the following after reading about the financial perks of being president.

3 Things I Learned:

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2 Things I Found Most Interesting:

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1 Question I Still Have:

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