

A PICTURE BOOK OF DOLLEY AND JAMES MADISON

DAVID A. ADLER AND MICHAEL S. ADLER
ILLUSTRATED BY RONALD HIMLER

GRADES
K-3

About the Book

Young readers will be fascinated by this engaging biography of an intriguing first couple.

Known as the Father of the Constitution, James Madison served two terms as the fourth president, from 1809 until 1817. Determined that all Americans be treated fairly, he devised our three branches of government and drafted the Bill of Rights.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Literature

Biographies—David A. Adler has written more than thirty biographies for young people about other notable men and women. Students can find most of these in their school and public libraries in the 92 or 921 sections. He has also written about his own life on his website (see Online Resources below).

Autobiography vs. Biography—Students should learn the difference between these two terms; that a **biography** is written about someone other than the author and an **autobiography** is written by a person about his or her own life.

Research

Many important symbols and concepts from U.S. history are mentioned in the book. Students may do further research on these using encyclopedias, other books, or online resources. They may also consult a world almanac to find a list of the wives of other U.S. presidents and find out more information about them. Some suggested topics for research are: U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, War of 1812, the three branches of government, the White House fire.

Language Arts/Art

Vocabulary—Some students may be unfamiliar with some of the terms used in the book. They can use dictionaries to locate definitions for: administration, justice of the peace, militia, paternal, politics, Quaker, ratify, representation, revolution.

Life Events—After reading or hearing the story, students can make a sequential list of the major events in James or Dolley Madison's life. They can then make a list of the major events in their own life and write a short autobiography. They can also illustrate important scenes in their autobiographies.

Geography

Dolley and James Madison lived in or near various places from their births to their deaths. Students can use a U.S. map or a large atlas to locate these places: Washington, DC; Princeton, NJ, Montpelier, VA; Philadelphia, PA; New Garden, NC; Buffalo, NY; Detroit, MI; and Lake Ontario.

Online Resources

These sources are in addition to the excellent sources that are listed at the end of the book.

David A. Adler Official Website
www.davidaadler.com/bio.htm

Presents the biography of the author accompanied by many family photographs, including when he was a little boy.

The Constitution for Kids
www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html

Presents information about the U.S. Constitution for students in grades K–3 as well as pictures of the document.

Kidipede/The Bill of Rights
www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/billofrights.htm
Presents the Bill of Rights in kid-friendly language.

Bonus Educator's Guide

An Educator's Guide to The David A. Adler Picture Book Biographies

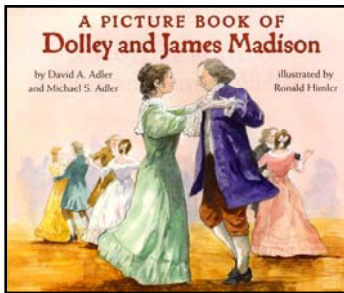
In the space of a single bookshelf, educators can bring an entire American history curriculum into the classroom with David A. Adler's Picture Book Biographies. For an extensive educator's guide, visit the Holiday House website at www.holidayhouse.com/docs/Adler%20Web-An%20Educator's%20Guide.pdf.

About the Authors and Illustrator

David A. Adler has written more than a hundred books for children. *A Picture Book of Dolley and James Madison* is the thirty-fifth book in his well-known Picture Book Biography series. A former teacher, he lives with his family in New York State. Visit David online at **www.davidaadler.com**

Miachel S. Adler is fascinated by early American history. *A Picture Book of Samuel Adams*, which he co-authored with his father, was named a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year. He lives with his wife in the Bronx, New York.

Ronald Himler has illustrated more than a hundred books for children, including several books in the Picture Book Biography series. He lives in Arizona. Visit him online at **www.ronhimler.com**.



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Classroom Activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant.