

First Ladies' Firsts



The role of the First Lady has changed over time due to shifting social values as well as the individual personalities of the first ladies. Try to identify the correct first lady in each question based on the following descriptions.

1. What president's wife first spoke on national radio, broke precedent by inviting noticeably pregnant women to stand with her in receiving lines, and spoke five languages, including Mandarin?

- Edith Wilson
- Grace Coolidge
- Lou Hoover
- Eleanor Roosevelt

2. Several First Ladies were widely known as counselors to their husbands, but which one engineered her husband's run for the presidency despite his own reluctance, and was the first one to ride with her husband to the White House after his inauguration?

- Edith Roosevelt
- Helen Taft
- Grace Coolidge
- Eleanor Roosevelt

3. What First Lady was the first (and only) woman to have married a President in a White House ceremony?

- Julia Tyler
- Frances Cleveland
- Edith Roosevelt
- Edith Wilson

4. What president's wife was the first to descend into a mine?

- Julia Grant
- Lucy Hayes
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Rosalynn Carter

5. What president's wife was the first to invite spirit mediums to the White House to conduct séances?

- Mary Lincoln
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Nancy Reagan
- Hillary Clinton

6. Who was the first woman to see her husband being sworn in as President? A famous writer described her as "a fine, portly buxom dame who has a smile and pleasant word for everybody" but her husband as "a withered little applejohn."

- Martha Washington
- Abigail Adams
- Dolley Madison
- Elizabeth Monroe

7. Who was the first woman widowed as First Lady to be present for the inauguration of her husband's successor?

- Mary Lincoln
- Ida McKinley
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Jacqueline Kennedy

Source for most of the information in the questions: Betty Boyd Caroli, *First Ladies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>