Meet President Obama

by Erin Horner
Answer the following questions BEFORE you read this book. It is okay if you do not know as much as you thought. Do the best you can!

1. Who is Barack Obama? What do you know about him?

2. Do you think the President of the United States has to live in America for his entire life? Why or why not?

3. What do you think Barack Obama did before he was the president? Explain your answer.

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States. He is also the first African American president. Let's learn more about him.

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii. His mom, Ann, was from Kansas. His dad, Barack, was from Kenya. Kenya is a country in Africa.
Barack and his dad had the same name. This was really confusing when he was little. No one knew if they were talking about Barack the son or Barack the dad. To make things easier, Barack's parents started calling him Barry.

Barry's parents divorced when he was young. Later his mom married a man from Indonesia. Soon his family moved there. Barry had many neat pets when he lived in Indonesia. He had baby crocodiles, chickens, and ducks. He even had a pet monkey!
After a while, Barry moved back to Hawaii. His grandparents lived there. They helped to rear him. Barry called his grandpa "Gramps." He called his grandma "Toot."

Barry was a good student. He worked hard to do his best in school. When he was young, Barry wanted to be an architect. Barry also liked to play basketball. He loved to shoot hoops.

When he was older, Barry began to study his African roots. He wanted to learn more about his culture. He learned a lot about his father's family. He wanted to honor them. Barry decided that he wanted people to start calling him Barack again.
After high school, Barack went to college. Once he graduated from college he moved to Chicago and worked at a law office. Later he went to law school. When he finished law school he moved back to Chicago. He helped a lot of people while he lived there. He met some special people too. One lady was named Michelle. She was really special! In 1992 she became his wife.

After working in Chicago and teaching at a law school, Barack decided that he wanted to do more to help people. He decided to become a politician. In 1996 he was elected to the Illinois Senate. Then in 2004 he became a U.S. senator.
Many people noticed Mr. Obama. They thought that he was a great leader. They also thought that he'd make a great president. In 2007, Mr. Obama decided to run for president. It was a tough race, but he was up to the challenge.

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama won the election. It was an historic day! Many people had dreamed of the day when an African American man would be president. Finally, that dream had come true.

The president has a lot to do. He has to make big decisions. He also has to meet with other leaders from around the world.
In his free time, President Obama still likes to play basketball. He plays as often as he can. He also likes to spend time with his two daughters and cook chili.

Draw a picture of something that the president likes to do in his free time.

A lot has changed since Barack Obama was a little boy living in Hawaii. The young man who once dreamed of being an architect has seen an even greater dream come to life. As one of our presidents, he has helped to make our nation great.
Answer the following questions AFTER you have completed this book.

1. List three facts you learned about Barack Obama.
   1. ____________________________
   2. ____________________________
   3. ____________________________

2. If you had lived in Indonesia like President Obama, what kind of pets would you have wanted?
   - snake
   - crocodile
   - monkey
   - chicken
   - duck
   - elephant
   - deer
   - wild pig
   - komodo dragon
   Other: ______________

3. Rank the following events from Barack Obama's life in the order in which they happened.
   ____ moved to Indonesia
   ____ changed his name back to Barack
   ____ married Michelle
   ____ had pet crocodiles
   ____ became the 44th president

4. I think that best thing about being the president would be ____________________________
   ____________________________
   because ____________________________
   ____________________________

5. Do you think that a woman should be president? Why or why not? Give specific reasons as to why you think that a woman should or should not be elected to do this important job.
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
6. Write a brief news article about President Obama's life. Include facts that will help your readers get to know America's 44th leader.