

Obama's Life—On a Map

A map of the world tells the story of our new President's life.

There are many ways to organize a biography. You might start with a list of important dates, people, or events.

To tell you about Barack Obama's life, we've started with a map of some important places.

After graduating from college in New York, Obama worked for a group that helped people in poor neighborhoods in Chicago. Later, he worked as a civil rights lawyer and taught constitutional law at a university in Chicago. In 1996, he was elected as an Illinois State Senator. In 2004, he became a member of the United States Senate. In 2008, Obama married Michelle Robinson. They now have two daughters, Malia, 16, and Sasha, 9.



Obama received his BA in Law from the University of Chicago in 1991. He graduated in 1995.



Did you know that President Obama was at your sorry Doctor level school with his daughter Malia?

When Obama was 2, his parents divorced. In 1987, his mother married a man from Indonesia. The family moved to Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. Obama lived there until he was 10.



Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1961. He lived in Hawaii until he was 10. Obama moved back to Hawaii. He lived there with his grandparents in high school. Obama started playing basketball—a hobby he still loves today.



Obama's mother grew up in Kansas. She went to college at the University of Hawaii. Later, she became an attorney. Obama's mother always encouraged him to work hard and to be a leader. Obama's father, Barack Obama Sr., moved to Hawaii from Kenya. He was a civil rights activist and the president of the local civil rights movement.



On January 20, 2009, Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States of America and the first African American U.S. President. The White House is now his home, but his new job is certainly to have him to many places of each the year.



Obama studied political science at Columbia University in New York City. He graduated in 1993.

Nyang'oma Kogelo, Kenya



Barack Obama's father was born in a small village in the East African country of Kenya. He grew up farming sugarcane. When he was 21, Obama's father left Kenya to study economics at the University of Hawaii.

Jakarta, Indonesia

word wiser

inauguration the ceremony that begins the term of a new president or other government official

word wiser

divorce to end a marriage; the legal act of ending a marriage

your turn

Use the map to fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

- In what Ocean is Hawaii located?
 - A Indian
 - B Pacific
 - C Atlantic
- On what continent was Obama's father born?
 - A Africa
 - B South America
 - C Europe
- When the Obamas moved from Chicago to Washington, D.C., they traveled _____.
 - A southeast
 - B southwest
 - C northeast
- Massachusetts is in the _____ part of the United States.
 - A southeast
 - B northeast
 - C southwest

more to explore

Draw a map of your life. Label places that are important to you and for each, explain why. The map can be of your neighborhood, your state, the U.S., or the world. For example, a map of your neighborhood might show your house, your school, your best friend's house, and so on. A map of the world might show places you've lived, places your relatives live, and places you've gone on vacation.