

Michelle Obama

Who Is Michelle Obama?

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is a lawyer and an author. She was the first Black First Lady of the United States of America.



What Is a First Lady?

'First Lady' is a name given to the wife of a president or a head of state. Michelle was a First Lady because her husband was the 44th president of the USA.

What Was Michelle's Childhood Like?



Michelle was born on 17th January 1964 in Illinois, USA. Michelle's father was called Fraser. He worked for the Chicago Water Department. Her mother is called Marian. She worked as a secretary before staying at home to look after Michelle and her older brother, Craig.

The family lived in a small house on the South Side of Chicago. Michelle says that they loved to play games and read together when she was a child.

Did You Know...?

Michelle and Craig knew how to read by the time that they were four years old.

Did You Know...?

Michelle's great-aunt, Robbie, taught her how to play the piano.

What Was Michelle like at School?

Michelle and her brother did well at school. They were allowed to move up a class because they were so far ahead.

Michelle went to Princeton University after high school. When she was there, she set up an after-school reading program to help local children to become better readers.



Then, Michelle went to Harvard Law School. She earned a degree that she needed in order to practise law. While studying, Michelle gave her up her free time to help people who could not afford legal advice.

Where Did Michelle Work?

Michelle moved back to Chicago when she left Harvard Law School. She took a job at a law firm but then she realised that she wanted to work more closely with the community instead. She led a group that helps young people to learn the skills that they will need for getting a job in the future.

What Did Michelle Do When She Was First Lady?

Michelle became the first Black First Lady in US history in 2009.

As part of this role, Michelle did lots of things to improve the lives of young people across the world. She made food in schools healthier, supported families and made it possible for young people around the world to go to school.

Michelle's role as First Lady ended in 2017 but she continues to work towards supporting these causes.



Questions

1. In which country was Michelle the First Lady? Tick one.

- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Harvard
- Princeton

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Michelle became First Lady.
- Michelle and her brother did well at school.
- Michelle went to Harvard Law School.
- Michelle went to Princeton University.

3. When did Michelle's role as First Lady end? Tick one.

- 1964
- 2007
- 2009
- 2017

4. Who taught Michelle to play the piano? Tick one.

- Fraser
- Marian
- Craig
- Robbie

5. **...she realised that she wanted to work more closely with the community instead.**

What do you think the word **community** means in this sentence?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Michelle became the _____ Black First Lady in US history in _____.

7. Fully explain how Michelle has helped other people.

Answers

1. In which country was Michelle the First Lady? Tick one.

- United Kingdom
- United States of America**
- Harvard
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2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Michelle became First Lady.
- 1** Michelle and her brother did well at school.
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- 2** Michelle went to Princeton University.

3. When did Michelle's role as First Lady end? Tick one.

- 1964
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- 2009
- 2017**

4. Who taught Michelle to play the piano? Tick one.

- Fraser
- Marian
- Craig
- Robbie**

5. ...she realised that she wanted to work more closely with the community instead.

What do you think the word **community** means in this sentence?

Accept any sensible definition, such as: a group of people she lives near; people in her neighbourhood; people in her town.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Michelle became the **first** Black First Lady in US history in **2009**.

7. Fully explain how Michelle has helped other people.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Michelle has helped other people because she has given up her time to set up a reading program, make food in schools healthier, support families and help children around the world to go to school.

Michelle Obama

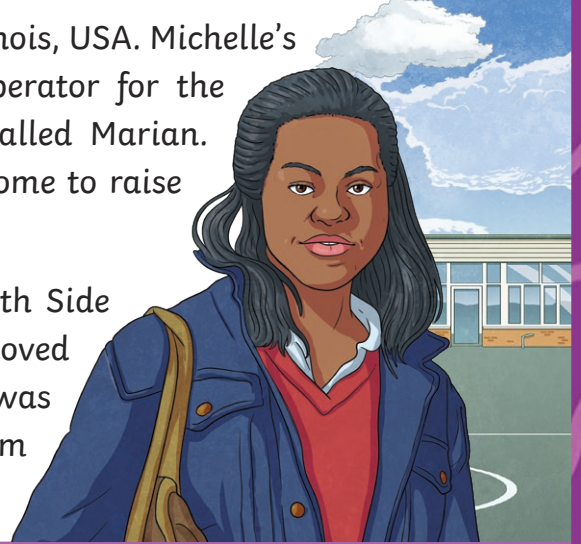


Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is a lawyer and an author. She was the first Black **First Lady** of the United States of America.

Childhood

Michelle was born on 17th January 1964 in Illinois, USA. Michelle's father was called Fraser. He was a pump operator for the Chicago Water Department. Her mother is called Marian. She worked as a secretary before staying at home to raise Michelle and her older brother, Craig.

The family lived in a small house on the South Side of Chicago. Michelle reveals that the family loved to play games and read together when she was a child. They also learnt to play the piano from their great-aunt, Robbie.



Did You Know...?

When Michelle and Craig were young, many people thought that they were twins because they were so similar in age.

Education

Michelle and her brother did well at school. They were allowed to skip a year of schooling because they were so far ahead.

Michelle left high school in 1981 and started to attend Princeton University. She set up an after-school reading program to help local children to become better readers.

Michelle went on to attend Harvard Law School. She was awarded with her Juris Doctor in 1988. This is a degree someone needs if they want to practise law. While studying, Michelle gave her up her free time to help people who could not afford legal advice.



Career

Michelle moved back to Chicago after attending Harvard Law School. She took a job at a law firm but then she realised that she wanted to work more closely with members of the public in the community instead.

Michelle spent two years as an assistant to the mayor of Chicago before starting a group that helps young people to develop the skills that they will need for getting a job in the future.

Becoming First Lady

Michelle became the first Black First Lady in US history when her husband was **elected** as the 44th president of the United States in 2009.

As part of this role, Michelle did many things to improve the lives of young people across the world. She made food in schools healthier, she supported **military** veterans and she made it possible for young people around the world to get an education.

Michelle's role as First Lady ended in 2017 but she continues to work towards supporting these causes.



Glossary

- elected:** To have been chosen for a role because people have voted for you.
- First Lady:** The wife of a president or head of state.
- military:** Relating to the army, navy and air force.

Questions

1. Why did many people think that Michelle and Craig were twins? Tick one.

- because they looked alike
- because they were similar in age
- because they lived together
- because they both did well at school

2. In which year was Michelle born? Tick one.

- 1964
- 1981
- 1988
- 2009

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Michelle became the first Black First Lady.
- Michelle set up an after-school reading program.
- Michelle was an assistant to the mayor of Chicago.
- Michelle helped people who could not afford legal advice.

4. ... **a group that helps young people to develop the skills that they will need...**

Which of these is closest in meaning to the word **develop**? Tick one.

- to dissolve
- to get better
- to forget
- to buy

5. Find and copy the meaning of the word 'elected'.

6. Find and copy one word which describes Michelle's childhood home.

7. Summarise Michelle's education in 30 words or fewer.

8. Predict what Michelle might do over the next ten years.

Answers

1. Why did many people think that Michelle and Craig were twins? Tick one.
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4. ... **a group that helps young people to develop the skills that they will need...**
Which of these is closest in meaning to the word **develop**? Tick one.
 - to dissolve
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5. Find and copy the meaning of the word 'elected'.
To have been chosen for a role because people have voted for you.
6. Find and copy one word which describes Michelle's childhood home.
small

7. Summarise Michelle's education in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Michelle did well at school and skipped a year. She went to Princeton University in 1981 and then Harvard Law School, which she left in 1988.

8. Predict what Michelle might do over the next ten years.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Michelle will set up her own charity that raises money for girls to go to school around the world. I think this because it is a cause that she is already working towards.

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Early Life



Michelle LaVaughn Robinson was born on 17th January 1964 in Illinois, USA. Michelle's father was called Fraser and he was a pump operator for the Chicago Water Department. Her mother is called Marian and she worked as a secretary before staying at home to raise Michelle and her older brother, Craig.

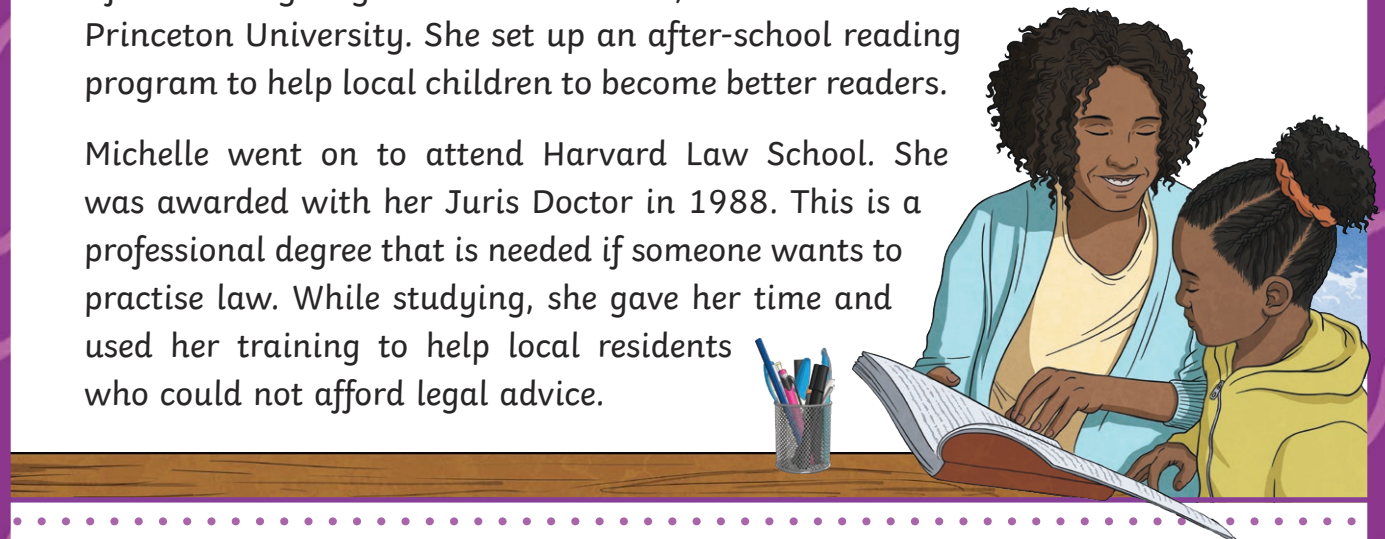
The family lived in a small house on the South Side of Chicago. Michelle recalls that the family loved to play games and read together when she was a child. They also learnt to play the piano from their great-aunt, Robbie.

Education

Michelle and her brother did well at school. They were allowed to skip a year of schooling because they were ahead and they began taking advanced classes in French and biology.

After leaving high school in 1981, Michelle attended Princeton University. She set up an after-school reading program to help local children to become better readers.

Michelle went on to attend Harvard Law School. She was awarded with her Juris Doctor in 1988. This is a professional degree that is needed if someone wants to practise law. While studying, she gave her time and used her training to help local residents who could not afford legal advice.



Career

Michelle moved back to Chicago after attending Harvard Law School. She took a job at a law firm and advised clients on how to stop other people from copying their ideas and inventions. However, Michelle realised that she wanted to work more closely with members of the public in the community instead.

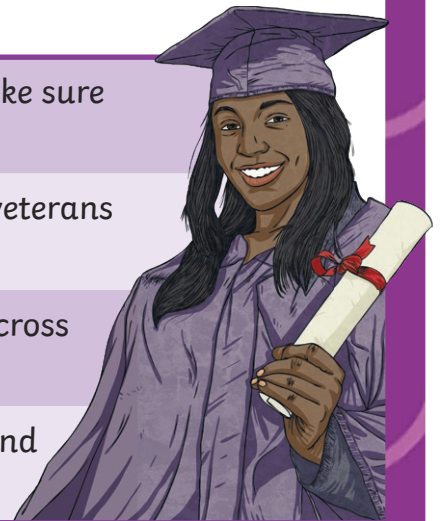
Michelle spent two years as an assistant to the mayor of Chicago before beginning to lead an organisation that helps young people to develop the skills that they will need for their future careers.

Becoming First Lady

Michelle became the first Black First Lady in US history when her husband was **elected** as the 44th president of the United States in 2009.

As part of this role, Michelle did many things to improve the lives of young people across the world.

- In 2010, she brought together community leaders to make sure that food in schools became healthier.
- In 2011, she started a scheme which supports military veterans and their families.
- In 2014, she began a program to inspire young people across the USA to complete their education.
- In 2015, she launched a program which helps girls around the world to attend and stay in school.



Michelle's role as First Lady ended in 2017 but she continues to work towards supporting these causes. Michelle and her husband Barack set up a foundation which believes that ordinary people can change history when they work together.

Glossary

- elected:** To have been chosen for a role because people have voted for you.
- First Lady:** The wife of a president or head of state.
- military:** Relating to the army, navy and air force.

Questions

1. Which of these is **not** true about Michelle? Tick one.

- She is an author.
- She is a secretary.
- She is a lawyer.
- She was a First Lady.

2. What is the name of Michelle's brother? Tick one.

- LaVaughn
- Craig
- Fraser
- Barack

3. Who taught Michelle how to play the piano?

4. Find and copy the year that Michelle left high school.

5. ... **he was a pump operator for the Chicago Water Department.**

What do you think a pump operator does?

6. Summarise what Michelle did during her time as First Lady in 20 words or fewer.

7. Compare Michelle's work now to her work when she was First Lady.

8. Explain how Michelle helped others while she was studying.

Answers

1. Which of these is **not** true about Michelle? Tick one.

- She is an author.
- She is a secretary.**
- She is a lawyer.
- She was a First Lady.

2. What is the name of Michelle's brother? Tick one.

- LaVaughn
- Craig**
- Fraser
- Barack

3. Who taught Michelle how to play the piano?

Michelle's great-aunt, Robbie, taught her how to play the piano.

4. Find and copy the year that Michelle left high school.

1981

5. ... **he was a pump operator for the Chicago Water Department.**

What do you think a pump operator does?

Accept any reasonable inference, such as: I think that a pump operator turns the water on and off at the source.

6. Summarise what Michelle did during her time as First Lady in 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: During her time as First Lady, Michelle set up schemes and programs to help people around the world.

7. Compare Michelle's work now to her work when she was First Lady.

Pupils' own responses, such as: When Michelle was First Lady, she worked towards lots of good causes. Now, she continues to work towards supporting these causes alongside her husband.

8. Explain how Michelle helped others while she was studying.

Pupils' own responses, such as: When she was studying, Michelle gave up her time to help people in the community and to teach children how to read.