WHERE ARE WE DRAGONFLY?

WE'RE IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA SCORPY. WE ARE GOING TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FOURTH PRESIDENT, JAMES MADISON.

JAMES MADISON WAS BORN IN 1751 AND WAS RAISED ON HIS FAMILY'S FARM. HE ENJOYED BEING OUTSIDE WITH ALL THE ANIMALS. GROWING UP ON A FARM CAN BE LOTS OF FUN!

YOUNG JAMES WAS TAUGHT HOW TO READ BY HIS MOTHER JUST LIKE THE OTHER PRESIDENTS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT. HE WAS A GOOD WRITER AND LOVED TO READ.

YOU MEAN HE WAS FROM VIRGINIA, TOO!

BEING A GOOD WRITER WILL COME IN HANDY LATER!
When James was old enough to attend college, he left his home in Virginia so that he could complete his education.

Where did he go?

He attended Princeton University, but at that time it was called the College of New Jersey.

He went to college a long way from home!

James loved learning about history, government, and law. He worked very hard to complete his studies.

I bet his hard work will pay off in the future!

James Madison graduated at the top of his class from Princeton in 1771.

Now that's what I call making the grade!
In the years after college, James Madison proved to be a wise leader. In 1787, at the age of 36, he became the youngest delegate elected to the constitutional convention!

James Madison helped write the Bill of Rights—the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. They include, among others, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. Madison played an important role in documenting these freedoms.

And just think he did all of this before he was elected President!

James was an emotional speaker and often took part in the heated debates that frequently occurred during these meetings. It's inspiring when someone believes in what they are saying!

All of his hard work earned James Madison the title, "Father of the Constitution." He did not like this, claiming it took many hands and heads to complete this document. Nonetheless, he is credited with writing the major parts of it!

Talk about giving extra credit!
THOMAS JEFFERSON AND JAMES MADISON became good friends. Knowing he was a skilled debater and writer, Jefferson appointed Madison Secretary of State when he was elected President in 1801.

WHAT A GOOD TEAM THEY MUST HAVE MADE!

WHEN THOMAS JEFFERSON RETIRED IN 1809, JAMES MADISON WAS ELECTED THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING OUR COUNTRY PASSED FROM ONE VIRGINIAN TO ANOTHER!

PRESIDENT MADISON AND HIS WIFE, DOLLEY, LOVED TO ENTERTAIN GUESTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE. DOLLEY BECAME VERY WELL KNOWN FOR HER GRAND PARTIES.

PARTY ON!!

IT WASN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES WHEN JAMES MADISON WAS PRESIDENT. IN 1812, THE BRITISH BEGAN TO SEIZE AMERICAN SHIPS. THIS CAUSED PRESIDENT MADISON TO DECLARE WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE WAR OF 1812.

I WOULD RATHER DECLARE A PARTY THAN A WAR!
During the War of 1812, the British burned much of Washington, D.C., including the White House! Dolley fled the White House just before the British troops. She was able to save many valuables, including the portrait of George Washington and the Declaration of Independence!

That was just in the nick of time!

At least they agreed on one thing... the war should be over!

President Madison retired to Montpelier, his home in Virginia. Although he had retired from serving as president, he continued to work in the Virginia Constitutional Convention. He helped his good friend Thomas Jefferson plan and establish the University of Virginia. He also worked to abolish slavery. Madison died in 1836 at his home.

He certainly accomplished a lot in his lifetime!

Next week we will finish exploring our early presidents. We will visit with our fifth president, James Monroe!