

Kamala Harris



Who Is Kamala Harris?

Kamala Devi Harris is a politician and an attorney. She might be the vice-president of the United States of America and could make history by being the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian-American person to be the US vice-president.

What Is a Politician?

A politician is a person whose job it is to be involved in governing an area or a country. Kamala is a member of the Democratic Party.

What Is an Attorney?

An attorney is a lawyer. This is someone who works in court to help people who are on trial. Kamala started to work as an attorney in 1990.

What Is a Vice-President?

A vice-president is a person who is second in control after the president. Kamala might be second in control if Joe Biden is elected as president of the USA in January 2021.

What Was Kamala's Childhood Like?

Kamala was born on 20th October 1964 in California, USA. Kamala's mother was called Shyamala. Shyamala had moved to the USA from India so that she could learn more about science. Kamala's father is called Donald. Donald moved to the USA from Jamaica and he is a professor. Shyamala and Donald split up when Kamala was seven years old.

Kamala has a younger sister called Maya. Kamala and Maya did lots of things together when they were young. They sang in a children's choir and they travelled around the world to see their family.

Where Did Kamala Go to School?

Shyamala, Kamala and Maya moved to Canada when Kamala was 12 years old. Kamala and Maya had to speak French when they were at primary school. Then, they went to Westmount High School.

Kamala moved back to the USA after high school and went to Howard University in Washington DC. She learnt a lot about how to run a country. Next, Kamala went to the University of California until 1989. She got a degree that she needed so that she could be a lawyer.

What Jobs Has Kamala Done?

Kamala has done lots of important jobs. One of these jobs was as a member of the US Senate. This means that Kamala tried to make sure that the law was fair for everybody and that all people are treated equally.

Lots of people thought that Kamala was good at her job, including Joe Biden. Joe wants to become the president of the USA and he has chosen Kamala to be his second in command.

Joe Biden is currently the projected winner of the presidential election. The president-elect and vice-president-elect will be sworn into office on 20th January 2021.

Questions

1. In which country might Kamala be vice-president? Tick one.

- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ United States of America
- ☐ India
- ☐ Jamaica

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

- ☐ Kamala became a member of the US Senate.
- ☐ Kamala moved from the USA to Canada.
- ☐ Kamala went to Howard University.
- ☐ Kamala went to the University of California.

3. Who chose Kamala to be their second in command? Tick one.

- ☐ Donald
- ☐ Shyamala
- ☐ Joe
- ☐ Maya

4. What happened to Kamala in 1989? Tick one.

- ☐ She moved to Canada.
- ☐ She could become vice-president of the USA.
- ☐ She left the University of California.
- ☐ She went to Howard University.

5. **...that all people are treated equally.**

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

6. Fill in the missing words.

Kamala Devi Harris is a _____ and an _____.

7. Summarise Kamala's family using 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. In which country might Kamala be vice-president? Tick one.

- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☒ **United States of America**
- ☐ India
- ☐ Jamaica

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- ☒ **She left the University of California.**
- ☐ She went to Howard University.

5. **...that all people are treated equally.**

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

Accept any sensible definition, such as 'the same as each other'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Kamala Devi Harris is a **politician** and an **attorney**.

7. Summarise Kamala's family using 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kamala's mum Shyamala and her dad Donald split up when she was seven years old. Kamala's sister is called Maya.

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Childhood

Kamala was born on 20th October 1964 in Oakland, California. Kamala's mother was called Shyamala and she had moved to the USA from India so that she could continue to study science.

Kamala's father is called Donald. Donald moved to the USA from Jamaica and he is a university professor. Shyamala and Donald split up when Kamala was seven years old. Kamala has a younger sister called Maya.

Education

When Kamala was 12 years old, she moved to Canada with her mother and her sister so that Shyamala could begin working at the Jewish General Hospital. This meant that Kamala and Maya had to attend a French-speaking primary school called Notre-Dame-des-Neiges. After this, they attended Westmount High School.

After graduating from Westmount High School in 1981, Kamala moved back to the USA and she went to Howard University in Washington DC until 1986. Here, she learnt a lot about how to run a country. After that, Kamala returned to California to attend law school at the University of California. In 1989, Kamala was awarded her Juris Doctor. This is a degree that someone needs if they want to practise law.

Career

After graduating with her Juris Doctor, Kamala's first job was as a deputy district attorney. This meant that she was responsible for making sure that the law was applied fairly if someone had committed a crime.

In 2010, Kamala was elected as California's Attorney General. This meant that she was the main person in charge of making sure that the laws of California were upheld. She was the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian-American person to have this job. After this, Kamala became a member of the US Senate.

Becoming Vice-President

In 2020, Joe Biden announced that he had chosen Kamala to be his 'running mate' in his campaign to be the next president of the United States of America. This meant that Kamala would become vice-president if Joe was elected. Joe Biden is currently the projected winner of the presidential election. Any vote count disputes should be resolved by 8th December 2020 and the president-elect and vice-president-elect will be sworn into office on 20th January 2021.

Glossary

attorney:	A lawyer who works in court to help people who are on trial.
politician:	A person whose job it is to be involved in governing an area or a country.
vice-president:	The person who is second in command after the president.

Questions

1. Why do you think that Kamala had to learn a new language quickly when she was 12 years old? Tick one.

- ☐ because her mum wanted to teach her
- ☐ because Maya already knew one
- ☐ because she moved to a French-speaking school
- ☐ because she has always wanted to speak Spanish

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

- ☐ 1964
- ☐ 1981
- ☐ 1986
- ☐ 1989

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

- ☐ Kamala could become the first female vice-president of the USA.
- ☐ Kamala moved to Canada.
- ☐ Kamala became a deputy district attorney.
- ☐ Kamala was awarded with her Juris Doctor.

4. **...making sure that the laws of California were upheld.**

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

- ☐ forgotten
- ☐ maintained
- ☐ rewritten
- ☐ punished

5. Find and copy what a Juris Doctor is.

6. Find and copy **two** jobs that Kamala has already had.

- _____
- _____

7. Summarise Kamala's education in 20 words or fewer.

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

Answers

1. Why do you think that Kamala had to learn a new language quickly when she was 12 years old? Tick one.

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

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- ☒ **maintained**
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- ☐ punished

5. Find and copy what a Juris Doctor is.

A Juris Doctor is a degree that someone needs if they want to practise law.

6. Find and copy **two** jobs that Kamala has already had.

Accept any two of the following answers: deputy district attorney; California's Attorney General; a member of the US Senate.

7. Summarise Kamala's education in 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kamala learnt about how to run a country before attending law school to get her Juris Doctor.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Kamala will continue to fight for people's rights and she will help to improve people's lives.

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Childhood

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Education

When Kamala was 12 years old, she moved to Canada with her mother and her sister so that Shyamala could begin working at the Jewish General Hospital. This meant that Kamala and Maya had to attend a French-speaking primary school called Notre-Dame-des-Neiges. After this, they attended Westmount High School, where they spoke English.

After graduating from Westmount High School in 1981, Kamala moved back to the USA and she went to Howard University in Washington DC until 1986. Here, she studied political science and economics, which meant that she learnt a lot about how to run a country. After that, Kamala returned to California to attend law school at the University of California. In 1989, Kamala was awarded her **Juris Doctor**.

After graduating with her Juris Doctor, Kamala's first job was as a deputy district attorney. This meant that she was responsible for making sure that the law was applied fairly if someone had committed a crime. Kamala was passionate about making sure that young people who were accused of crimes were treated fairly.

In 2010, Kamala was elected as California's Attorney General. This meant that she was the main person in charge of making sure that the laws of California were upheld. She was the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian-American person to have this job. After this, Kamala became a member of the US Senate. In this role, Kamala worked hard to promote equality for all people.

Becoming Vice-President

In 2019, Kamala decided that she would like to become the president of the United States of America but she did not have enough money to see the campaign through to the end. Instead, Kamala supported Joe Biden in his campaign.

In 2020, Joe Biden announced that he had chosen Kamala to be his 'running mate'. This meant that Kamala would become vice-president if Joe was elected as president. Joe Biden is currently the projected winner of the presidential election. Any vote count disputes should be resolved by 8th December 2020. The US Congress will count the electoral votes on 6th January 2021 and the president-elect and vice-president-elect will be sworn into office on 20th January 2021.

Glossary

attorney:	A lawyer who works in court to help people who are on trial.
Juris Doctor:	A degree that someone needs if they want to practise law.
politician:	A person whose job it is to be involved in governing an area or a country.
vice-president:	The person who is second in command after the president.

Questions

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

- ☐ She is a politician.
- ☐ She is the eldest of two children.
- ☐ She was once a deputy state attorney.
- ☐ She was born in California.

2. What was the name of Kamala's mother? Tick one.

- ☐ Devi
- ☐ Shyamala
- ☐ Maya
- ☐ Kamala

3. Which relative of Kamala had lived in Jamaica?

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

5. **This meant that Kamala and Maya had to attend a French-speaking primary school...**

What does the word **French-speaking** tell you in this sentence?

6. Explain how Kamala could make history twice.

7. Summarise why Joe Biden might have chosen Kamala as his 'running mate'.

8. Use **two** words to describe Kamala and explain why you have chosen them.

Answers

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

- ☐ She is a politician.
- ☐ She is the eldest of two children.
- ☒ **She was once a deputy state attorney.**
- ☐ She was born in California.

2. What was the name of Kamala's mother? Tick one.

- ☐ Devi
- ☒ **Shyamala**
- ☐ Maya
- ☐ Kamala

3. Which relative of Kamala had lived in Jamaica?

Kamala's father had lived in Jamaica.

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

1981

5. **This meant that Kamala and Maya had to attend a French-speaking primary school...**

What does the word **French-speaking** tell you in this sentence?

Accept any sensible explanation, such as: that no one at the school spoke English; that everyone at the school spoke French; that the language used at the school was French.

6. Explain how Kamala could make history twice.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Once was when she became the first woman, Black person and South Asian-American person who be California's Attorney General and another could be if she becomes the first woman, Black person and South Asian-American person to be vice-president of the USA.

7. Summarise why Joe Biden might have chosen Kamala as his 'running mate'.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Joe Biden might have chosen Kamala as his running mate because she supported his campaign, which must mean that she believes in the same things that he does. That would be a good person to partner with.

8. Use **two** words to describe Kamala and explain why you have chosen them.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I choose the word 'clever' because Kamala has been to a lot of universities and I choose the word 'passionate' because the text says that she was passionate about making sure that people were treated fairly.