



CHAPTER 1

Meet Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, known as FDR, was the 32nd president of the United States. He was elected during a very scary time in our nation's history. Many Americans were struggling with poverty and homelessness.

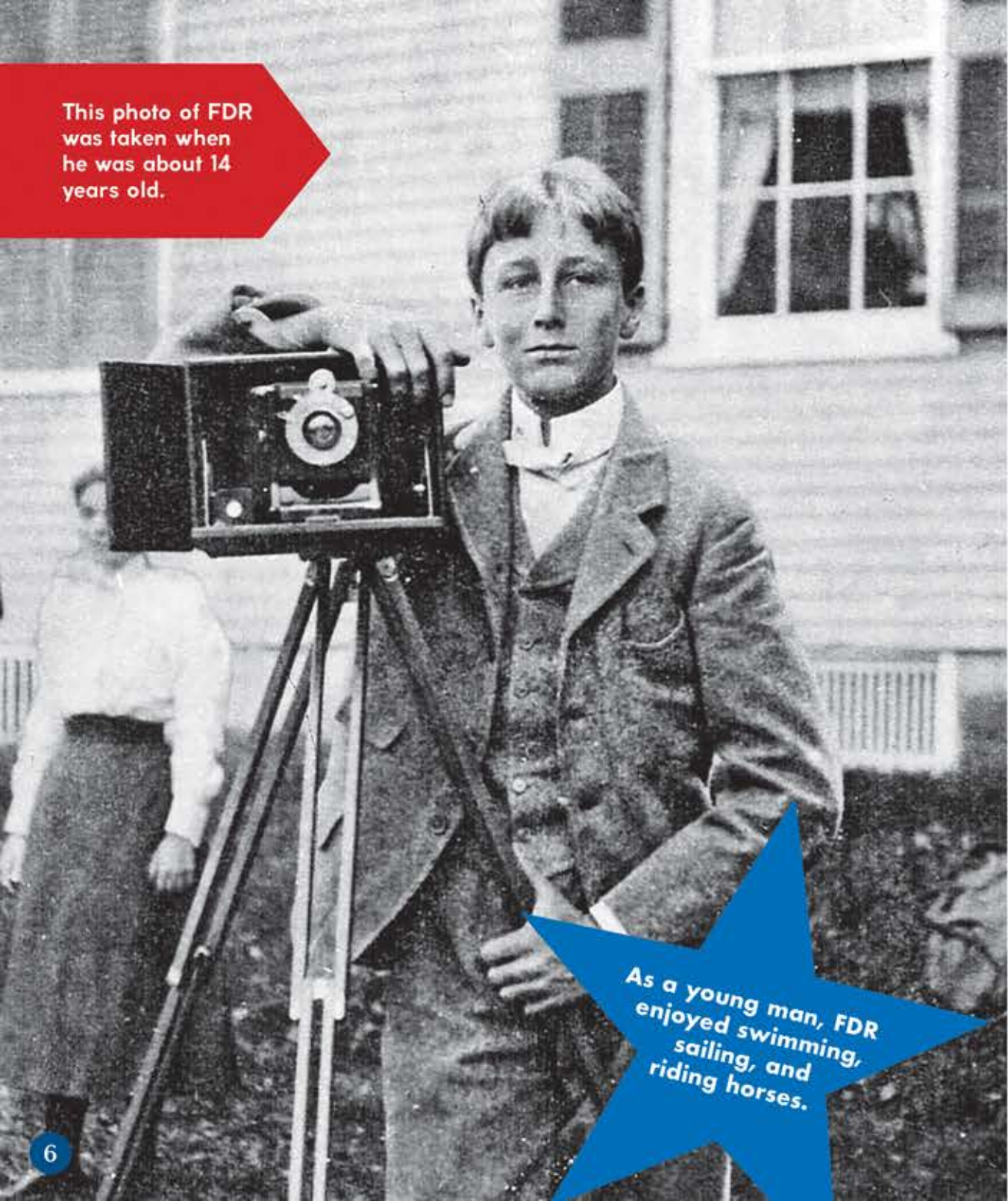
FDR also led the country during World War II. Through those years, Americans relied on his strong, calm guidance. FDR is the only U.S. president to be elected four times. He achieved all that despite having had a disease called polio, which left him with a **disability**. FDR never gave up!



The effects of FDR's polio caused him to often need a wheelchair. Photos of him sitting in it are very rare.

FDR had a black Scottish terrier named Fala. Fala was the president's constant companion, and the most famous of his many dogs.

This photo of FDR was taken when he was about 14 years old.



As a young man, FDR enjoyed swimming, sailing, and riding horses.

A Long Struggle

Franklin was born on January 30, 1882, to a wealthy New York family. He was a distant relative of President Teddy Roosevelt, one of his childhood heroes. When FDR was 23, he married Teddy's niece Eleanor. They had six children. FDR started a promising political career as a New York state senator in 1910. But on August 11, 1921, FDR awoke to find that his legs were weak and hurt a lot. Soon, polio would cause part of his body to become **paralyzed**.

People thought FDR had no future in politics. But he persisted. Leg braces helped him stand. He learned to walk with crutches or canes.

FDR swam whenever he could to improve his strength. ▶



TIMELINE

American History

1883
The Brooklyn Bridge is opened in New York.



1901
On September 14, Theodore Roosevelt takes over as president of the United States after President McKinley is assassinated. Roosevelt is elected on his own in 1904.



1929
The biggest economic downturn in history, known as the Great Depression, begins in October.



1939
World War II begins with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland in September.



1941
After the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor on December 7, the United States enters World War II.

1945
Fighting in Europe ends on May 8. After the U.S. drops two atomic bombs on Japan, the country surrenders. WWII ends completely on September 2.

1882 > 1883 > 1901 > 1905 > 1921 > 1929 > 1930 > 1932 > 1939 > 1941 > 1945

FDR's Life

1882
FDR is born in New York on January 30.



1905
On March 17, FDR marries Eleanor Roosevelt.



1921
In August, FDR becomes disabled after contracting polio.



1930
After serving as governor of New York for two years, FDR is elected to his second two-year term.

1932
On November 8, FDR is elected president of the United States. He is reelected in 1936, 1940, and 1944.



1945
FDR dies at Warm Springs, Georgia, on April 12. Harry S. Truman takes over as president.

