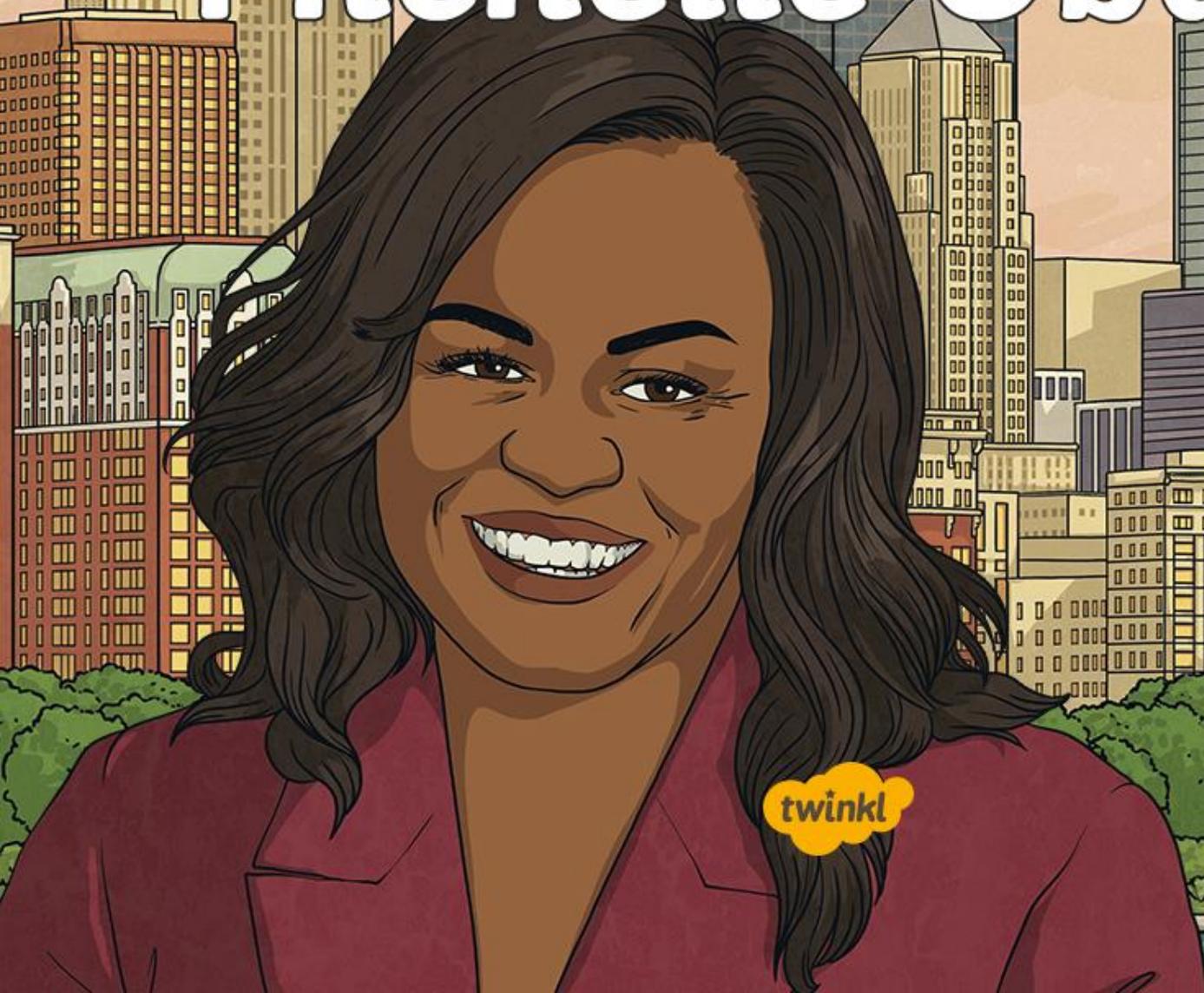
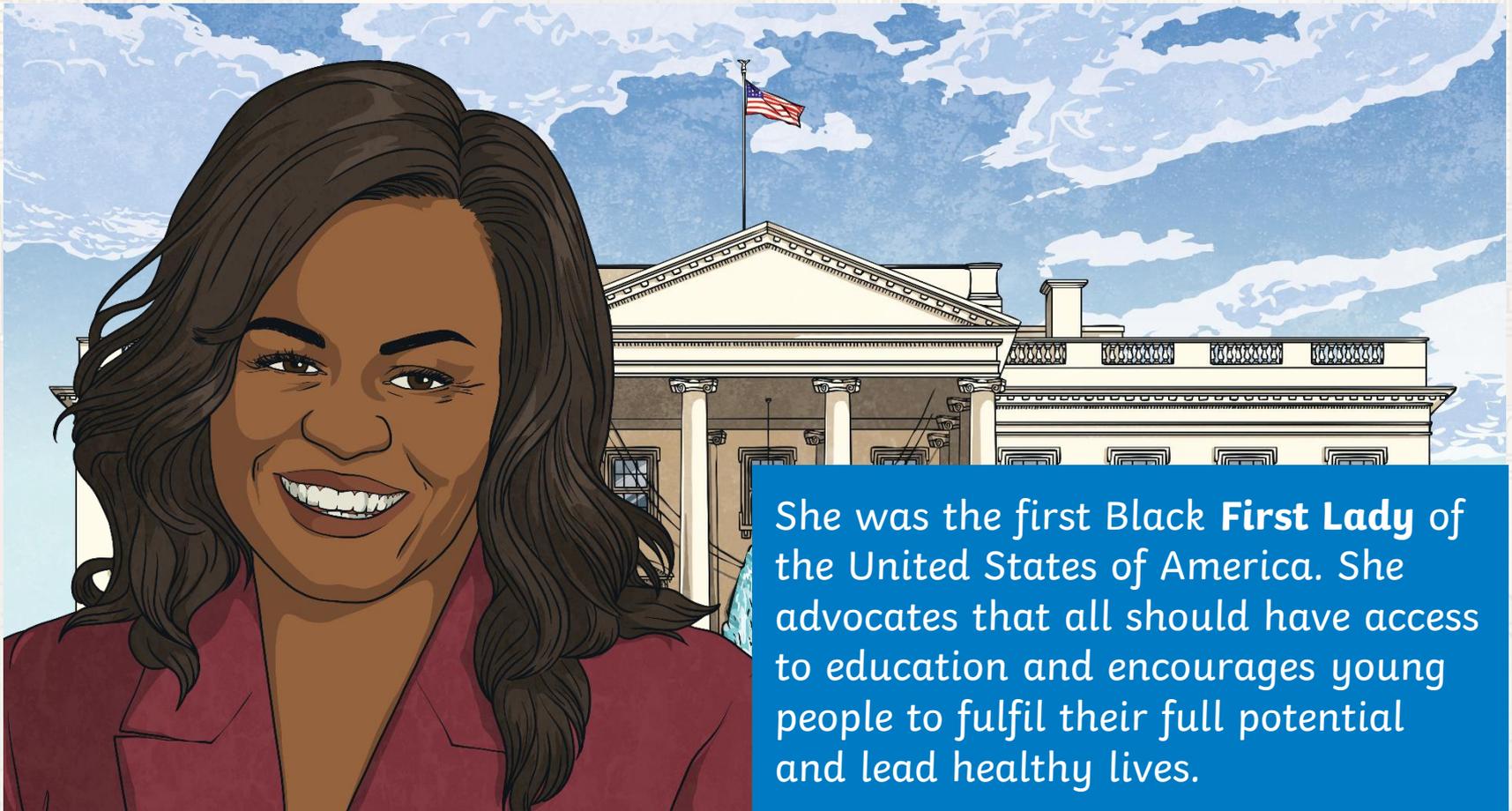


Michelle Obama



Who Is Michelle Obama?

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is a lawyer and author.



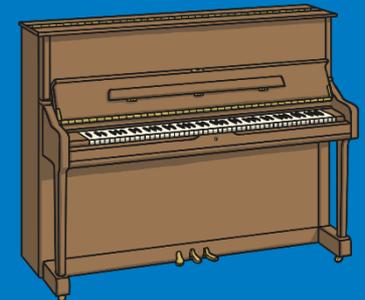
She was the first Black **First Lady** of the United States of America. She advocates that all should have access to education and encourages young people to fulfil their full potential and lead healthy lives.

Childhood

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson was born on 17th January 1964 to Fraser and Marian Robinson. Michelle's father worked for the Chicago Water Department and her mother worked as a secretary. After having her children, Marian stayed at home to raise Michelle and her older brother, Craig.



Michelle spent her childhood living in a small house, close to her school, in the South Side neighbourhood of Chicago. Growing up, Michelle loved to read and play games with her family. Michelle and her brother also learnt how to play the piano thanks to their great-aunt Robbie.



Education

Michelle and Craig both started school at the age of 4, already able to read. They excelled at school and were moved up a year.

Michelle went on to Whitney M. Young Magnet High School. Although the journey to and from school took three hours, it had courses and activities for gifted students.

Michelle graduated from high school in 1981 as **class salutatorian**. After high school, she went to Princeton University, studying sociology and African-American studies. During her time at university, Michelle set up an after-school reading programme to help local children improve their reading.

After university, Michelle joined Harvard Law School. In 1988, Michelle was awarded a degree to practise law (called a **Juris Doctor**). When she was studying, Michelle helped local residents who needed legal advice and couldn't afford it.



Career

Michelle moved back home to Chicago to practise law.

She took a job as a **junior associate** at a law firm where she specialised in marketing and intellectual property. Her job was to advise clients on how to stop others from copying their ideas and inventions.



It was during this time that Michelle decided she wanted to work with people in the community.

Michelle then worked as an assistant to the mayor of Chicago. After two years, she became the executive director of a **non-profit organisation** helping young people develop skills needed for their future careers.

Marriage

While working as a **junior associate**, Michelle met Barack Obama – a new trainee that she had been asked to supervise during his summer **internship**.

Soon, they became friends and fell in love. They were married on 3rd October 1992.

Michelle and Barack have two children: Malia, who was born in 1998 and Natasha (known as Sasha), who was born in 2001.



Becoming First Lady

In 2009, Michelle's husband was elected as the 44th president of the United States. This meant that Michelle became the first Black **First Lady** in US history.

As part of this role, Michelle tried to better the lives of young people across the world:



- In 2010, Michelle brought together parents and community leaders to encourage people to foster healthier eating habits.
- In 2011, she began an initiative to support the wellness, education and employment opportunities of military veterans and their families.
- In 2014, Michelle began a programme to inspire young people across the US to complete their education and, in 2015, she expanded this by launching a programme encouraging girls around the world to stay in school.

Continuing to Inspire

Michelle's role as **First Lady** ended in 2017 but she continues to work towards supporting good causes through a **foundation** – called The Obama Foundation – she created alongside her husband.

The **foundation's** core belief is clear: that history can be changed by ordinary people working together.

The mission of The Obama Foundation is to inspire people to take action, to empower themselves to change their world for the better and to connect them so that they can achieve more together than they can alone.

