Background

- graduated from Yale in 1878
- assistant prosecuting attorney for Hamilton County
- 1887 filled vacancy in Ohio superior court
- 1892 appointed to US Circuit Court
- 1904 headed war department
- Republican nominee in 1908
- The only president to serve in all
Chief Legislator - B-

- postal savings system
- Interstate Commerce Commission set
- enforced anti-trust legislation on railroad rates
- Payne-Aldrich Act (high tariffs)
- 16th Amendment
Commander-in-Chief - B

- Had difficulties in Nicaragua
- US supported conservative party in the country
- invaded Nicaragua and stayed until 1925
Chief Executive - D

- not much got done in Congress
- Inherited Roosevelt’s policies, but failed to gain the same support
- Appointed 6 new justices, including the Chief Justice
Head of State- D-

• Taft was seen as an incredibly clumsy and headstrong

• Became highly distrusted over the course of his presidency

• Won only 8 electoral votes in 1912 re-election

• worst defeat for any incumbent president in history
Chief of Party - D+

- Stuck with his party platforms throughout presidency
- lost most of the support for them
- alienated both parties with his policies
- pursued lowering the tariff and caused tensions in the GOP
Guardian of the Economy

- C

- Filed 90 anti-trust suits for minor offenses

- his reckless actions lost him trust of many supporters

  - anti-trust reformers

  - big business

  - Roosevelt
Chief Diplomat - B

- Believed arbitration was the key to world peace (having a third party serve as a judge of a situation)
- set up arbitration treaty with Britain and France
- failed to establish a free-trade treaty with Canada
- “Dollar Diplomacy”
Overall grade - C

• Taft deserves a C for his determination to stick to his platform. He took initiative, but failed in being successful in many of his policies. He became unpopular as his term went on, and he caused a split in the Republican party, leading to the election of Woodrow Wilson.
Besides....

If he can’t even fit in a tub

Mount Rushmore would really be crowded.


