

2009-2010
WHRO Classroom Preview

Series Title: 20th Century Presidents

Curriculum Area: Social Studies

Grades: 5-11

of Programs/Length: 17/12-22 minute programs

This series features the 20th century presidents. Each show is narrated by a student.

- 1.) **Theodore Roosevelt** - With the assassination of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, 42, at the time became the youngest president in American history.
- 2.) **William Taft** - Distinguished jurist, effective administrator, but poor politician, William Howard Taft spent four uncomfortable years in the White House.
- 3.) **Woodrow Wilson** - Like Roosevelt before him, Wilson regarded himself a personal representative of the people, who proclaimed America's entrance into World War I a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy."
- 4.) **Warren G. Harding** - Warren Harding declared, "America's present need is not heroics, but healing..." His detractors called Harding's speeches "an army of pompous phrases moving across the landscape in search of an idea."
- 5.) **Calvin Coolidge** - At 2:30 a.m. August 3, 1923, while visiting in Vermont, Coolidge received word that he was president. By light of a kerosene lamp, his father administered the oath of office.
- 6.) **Herbert Hoover** - Son of a blacksmith, Hoover brought to the presidency an unparalleled reputation for public service as an engineer, administrator, and humanitarian.
- 7.) **Franklin D. Roosevelt** - Assuming the presidency at the depth of the Great Depression, FDR helped the American people regain faith in themselves and brought hope to them when he asserted, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
- 8.) **Harry Truman** - During his few weeks as Vice President, Harry S. Truman scarcely saw President Roosevelt, but suddenly he was faced with a host of wartime problems when, on April 12, 1945, he became President. He told reporters, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."
- 9.) **Dwight D. Eisenhower** - Bringing to the presidency his prestige as commanding general of the victorious forces in Europe during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower obtained the truce in Korea and worked incessantly during his two terms to ease the tensions of the Cold War.
- 10.) **John F. Kennedy** - On November 22, 1963 - when he was hardly past his first 1,000 days in office - JFK was killed by an assassin as his motorcade wound through Dallas, Texas. JFK was the youngest man elected to the presidency.
- 11.) **Lyndon B. Johnson** - Lyndon B. Johnson 1963 - 1969 36th President "A Great Society" for the American people was Lyndon B. Johnson's vision. In his first years in office he obtained passage of one of the most extensive legislative programs in the nation's history - and carried on the rapidly growing struggle to restrain Communist encroachment in Vietnam.
- 12.) **Richard M. Nixon** - Reconciliation was the first goal set by Nixon. He succeeded in ending American fighting in Vietnam and improving relations with the U.S.S.R. and China. But the Watergate scandal ultimately led to his resignation.
- 13.) **Gerald Ford** - When Ford took the oath of office, he declared, "I assume the presidency under extraordinary circumstances..." He had been the vice president chosen under the terms of 25th Amendment and was succeeding the first president ever to resign.
- 14.) **Jimmy Carter** - Jimmy Carter Our 39th President 1977-1981 Jimmy Carter aspired to make government "competent and compassionate," responsive to the American people and their expectations. His achievements were notable, but in an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and continuing tensions, it was impossible for his administration to meet these high expectations.
- 15.) **Ronald Reagan** - (**PREVIEW PROGRAM**) At the end of his two terms, Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce their reliance upon government.
- 16.) **George H. W. Bush** - George Bush brought to the White House a dedication to traditional American values and a determination to make us a "kinder and gentler nation." He pledged to use American strength as "a force for good" but lost his bid for reelection.
- 17.) **William Clinton** - During the administration of Clinton, the U.S. enjoyed more peace and economic well-being than at any time in its history. He was the first Democratic president since FDR to win a second term in office.