



Warren G. Harding | Lesson Plan

What defines a successful presidency?

Students will understand how Warren G. Harding's policies ended a major depression and improved the lives of millions of Americans while also evaluating his leadership amidst challenges.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Warren G. Harding.
- Explain how Warren G. Harding earned the reputation of being charismatic.
- Record the key challenges, achievements, and historical factors of Harding's presidency.
- Evaluate how Harding managed his administration and if his reputation is deserved.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Charismatic:** Having attractive or charming qualities that inspire admiration and devotion from others.
- **Roaring Twenties:** The nickname for the decade from 1920 to 1929, remembered for great prosperity.
- **Editorial:** An article in a newspaper that expresses an opinion.
- **Women's Suffrage:** The right of women to vote.
- **Segregation:** The separation of people by race.
- **Scandal:** An event involving dishonest and/or illegal activity that provokes outrage.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, U.S. Presidents, Roaring Twenties

What You'll Need

- Video: *Guess or Mess: Warren G. Harding* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: Warren G. Harding* (Click [Here](#))
- PragerU Kids biographical book: *Warren G. Harding* (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper or poster board for each group, along with markers

Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Harding: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about U.S. presidents and the qualities that make a leader great or controversial. Ask students if they know any presidents who were known for their leadership during challenging times.



2. Display the *Warren G. Harding* digital book on a screen. Briefly highlight Harding's significance as the 29th president, his rise from small-town beginnings, and his campaign slogan proposing a "return to normalcy." Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Harding History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Warren G. Harding" section on page 2 together as a class, with the teacher leading this page to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. After completing the teacher-led reading, explain that students will now explore other key aspects of Harding's life in small groups.
3. Split the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore. The following are recommendations:
 - Group 1: *Young Warren, Education, Family, and Early Career* (pages 3-4)
 - Group 2: *Rise to Powers, President* (pages 5-6)
 - Group 3: *Roaring Twenties, Harding Speaks Out for Civil Rights* (page 7)
 - Group 4: *Legacy* (page 8)
4. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. As students read, they should discuss the main ideas.
5. Provide each group with a large piece of paper or a poster board and markers to write down key points and any interesting facts or quotes they find.
6. Allow each group one to two minutes to present their findings to the class. After each presentation, provide time for classmates to ask questions and discuss the content.

Worksheet Workshop: (15 minutes)

1. Hand out individual copies of the worksheet to each student. Explain how to fill out each section of the worksheet with these instructions:
2. **Timeline:** Students should select key dates and events mentioned throughout the digital book. The following are recommendations, but the teacher and students can use many other dates mentioned in the book:
 - 1865 - Birth of Warren G. Harding, November 2.
 - 1884 - Harding buys the *Marion Star* newspaper and begins his career in journalism.
 - 1899 - Elected to the Ohio State Senate, beginning his political career.
 - 1914 - Becomes a U.S. Senator for Ohio.
 - 1920 - Wins the presidential election and becomes the 29th president.
 - 1923 - Dies in office on August 2 from a heart attack.
3. **Interesting Quote:** Have students choose a meaningful quote from the book to fill in the quote section on their worksheet.
4. **Interesting Fact:** Ask students to select an interesting fact about Warren G. Harding that stood out to them and write it in the space provided.
5. **Vocabulary Builder:** Instruct students to choose a word from the Glossary on page 14 that they find interesting and use it in a sentence that conveys its meaning.

6. **Multiple Choice:** Explain that students should complete the multiple-choice section of the worksheet individually. (Note: The multiple-choice section corresponds to the *Guess or Mess* episode about Warren G. Harding and can also be used to play along while watching. See “Extension Activity” below.)

Reflection Round-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Briefly summarize the key points covered about Harding, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Harding and share it with a partner. Encourage them to discuss why that fact was significant.
3. Give each student a sticky note or index card and ask them to answer one of these three sample reflection questions:
 - What did you find most interesting about Harding’s presidency?
 - Do you agree that his economic policies helped America prosper? Why or why not?
 - How might Harding’s struggles with scandals influence how leaders are remembered?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, allow students to complete the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout the book. They can also explore and engage with the other interactive activities included in the book.

Extension Activity: (20 minutes)

Guess or Mess Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for Warren G. Harding—direct students to the multiple-choice section of the worksheet. Students can play along with the contestants to see if they can answer the trivia questions correctly.

PragerU 5-Minute Videos:

Did you know that PragerU has a comprehensive video catalog of U.S. Presidents in an easy-to-watch 5-minute format? Enhance this lesson plan with one of our insightful, engaging, and educational videos that provide students with a deep dive into the lives and legacies of America’s leaders. To view *Warren Harding: Return to Normalcy*, click [here](#). To view *Warren Harding: The Least Appreciated President*, click [here](#).

Don’t have time for a full lesson? Quick Activity (30 minutes)

Read the *Warren G. Harding* book together as a class, with students taking turns reading aloud. Then, watch the *Guess or Mess* video and play along with the trivia questions.