



## Andrew Mellon | Lesson Plan

How can successful business leadership and public service contribute to society?

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Students will understand how Andrew Mellon's leadership in both business and government shaped the U.S. economy and contributed to its growth while also learning about the balance between wealth, public service, and philanthropy.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify key life events of Andrew Mellon.
- Explain how Mellon contributed to the growth of American industries and his role as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.
- Analyze Mellon's tax reform policies and their impact on the U.S. economy.
- Evaluate Mellon's philanthropy and his lasting contributions to society, including the National Gallery of Art.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Economics:** The study of production, distribution, consumption of goods and services, and money systems.
- **Cabinet of the United States:** The principal advisors to the President of the United States. The Secretary of the Treasury is an important member of this group.
- **Treasury:** The governmental department in charge of a nation's finances.
- **Meek:** Having a patient, quiet, or shy personality.
- **Efficient:** Able to do a task without wasting resources.

**Educational Standards:** 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, Investors, Historical Figures

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Guess or Mess: Andrew Mellon* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: Andrew Mellon* (Click [Here](#))
- PragerU Kids *Builders of America* biographical book: *Andrew Mellon* (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper or poster board for each group, along with markers

### Lesson Plan: Read and Complete (60 minutes)

**Introduction to Andrew Mellon (5 minutes):**



1. Begin with a brief discussion about individuals who balance business success with public service. Ask students if they can name any business leaders who have also contributed to the government.
2. Display the *Andrew Mellon* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Mellon's role as a financier, philanthropist, and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life, achievements, and contributions.

### **Mellon's Journey: Group Activity (25 minutes):**

1. As a class, read the "Meet Andrew Mellon" section on page 1 of the digital book. The teacher should lead the reading to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore:
  - Group 1: Early Life, Making Change (page 2)
  - Group 2: Quote, Banking on Success (page 3)
  - Group 3: From Capital to the Capitol (page 4)
  - Group 4: Builder News, Help Wanted (page 5)
  - Group 5: Taxing Work, Quote (page 6)
  - Group 6: The Mellon Plan, National Debate (page 7)
  - Group 7: Calculating the Difference (page 8)
  - Group 8: Later Life, Fascinating Facts about Mellon (page 9)
3. Allow time for each group to read their section aloud and discuss key points.
4. Provide each group with large paper or poster boards and markers. Each group should write down key facts, ideas, and quotes they find.
5. Allow each group 1-2 minutes to present their findings to the class, followed by a brief discussion.

### **Worksheet Workshop (15 minutes):**

1. Distribute individual worksheets to students and explain how to complete them.
  - **Timeline:** Plot key dates and events from the digital book. Some suggestions:
    - 1855: Birth of Andrew Mellon
    - 1921: Mellon becomes U.S. Secretary of the Treasury
    - 1937: Death of Andrew Mellon
  - **Innovator's Gears:** In this section, students will identify a problem or need in their community, brainstorm solutions, and then draw an invention that could solve the problem based on one of their ideas. They could add labels or descriptions to explain how their invention works.
  - **Vocabulary Builder:** Choose a word from the glossary on page 11 and use it in a sentence that clearly conveys its meaning.
  - **Multiple Choice:** Allow students to complete the multiple-choice section of the worksheet individually. (Note: The multiple-choice section corresponds to the

*Guess or Mess* episode about Andrew Mellon and can also be used to play along while watching the game show video. See “Extension Activity” below.)

**Reflection Round-Up (10 minutes):**

1. Summarize key points about Andrew Mellon’s life, his role as a financier and Secretary of the Treasury, and his contributions to the arts.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Mellon and discuss its significance with a partner.
3. Give each student a sticky note or index card and ask them to answer one of these sample reflection questions:
  - What did you find most interesting about Andrew Mellon?
  - How do you think his innovation and philanthropy impacted the United States?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, have students complete the “True or False?” activity on page 8 or the “Word Search” activity on page 10.

**Extension Activity** (20 minutes):

*Guess or Mess* Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for Andrew Mellon, using the multiple-choice section of the worksheet to play along.

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

Read the *Andrew Mellon* 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.