



Andrew Carnegie | Lesson Plan

How can great wealth be used responsibly to benefit society?

Students will understand how Andrew Carnegie rose from humble beginnings to become one of the wealthiest men in America, his role in the American steel industry, and his contributions to philanthropy.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Andrew Carnegie.
- Explain how Carnegie expanded the American steel industry.
- Analyze Carnegie's philosophy on wealth and how he used his fortune for philanthropic purposes.
- Evaluate Carnegie's leadership, business strategies, and lasting impact on society.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Philanthropy:** The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed by the generous donation of money to good causes.
- **Steel:** A strong, hard metal made of iron and carbon, crucial to the industrial revolution.
- **Vertical Integration:** A business strategy where a company controls all aspects of production, from raw materials to finished products.
- **Industrial Revolution:** The period of time during which major technological advances changed how goods were produced.
- **Gospel of Wealth:** Carnegie's philosophy that the wealthy should use their riches to improve society.

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

Lesson Plan: Read and Complete (60 minutes)

Introduction to Andrew Carnegie (5 minutes):

1. Begin with a brief discussion about wealthy individuals and their responsibilities. Ask students if they can name any philanthropists or business leaders they know about.



Scan to watch episode:

2. Display the *Andrew Carnegie* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Carnegie's significance as a business leader and philanthropist, his role in the expansion of the American steel industry, and his efforts to give away his fortune. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Carnegie's Journey: Group Activity (25 minutes):

1. As a class, read the "Meet Andrew Carnegie" 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: Humble Origins (page 2)
 - Group 2: Immigrants in a New Land, From Messenger to Messages (page 3)
 - Group 3: Industrious Investor, Civil War (page 4)
 - Group 4: Iron Bridges and Oil Wells, "Steel Is King" (page 5)
 - Group 5: Vertical Integration, Innovation = Success, Controversy Strikes (page 6)
 - Group 6: Later Life, Fascinating Facts (page 7)
3. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. As students read, they should discuss the main ideas.
4. Provide each group with a large piece of paper or poster board and markers to write down key points and any interesting facts or quotes they find.
5. Allow each group 1-2 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 Andrew Carnegie Worksheet to each student. Explain how to fill out each section of the worksheet:
2. **Timeline:** Students should plot key dates and events from the digital book. The following are a few recommendations, but there are more to add:
 - 1835: Birth of Andrew Carnegie
 - 1901: Carnegie sells Carnegie Steel
 - 1919: Death of Andrew Carnegie
3. **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.
4. **Vocabulary Builder:** Choose a word from the glossary on page 9 and use it in a sentence that clearly conveys its meaning.
5. **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 Andrew Carnegie and can also be used to play along while watching the game show video. See "Extension Activity" below.)

Reflection Round-Up (10 minutes):

1. Briefly summarize the key points covered about Andrew Carnegie, focusing on his life, innovations, and philanthropy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Andrew Carnegie 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 sample reflection questions:
 - What did you find most interesting about Andrew Carnegie?
 - 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 7 or the “Try Your Hand as a Telegraph Operator” activity on page 9.

Extension Activity (20 minutes):

Guess or Mess Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for Andrew Carnegie, 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 Carnegie* 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.