



Ulysses S. Grant | Lesson Plan

How did Ulysses S. Grant help preserve the United States and lead the nation during a period of rebuilding?

Students will understand how Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States, played a critical role in preserving the Union during the Civil War and guiding the nation through Reconstruction. They will explore his military achievements, presidency, and his efforts to protect civil rights and combat corruption.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Ulysses S. Grant.
- Explain Grant's leadership during the Civil War and his role in preserving the Union.
- Discuss Grant's presidency, including his efforts in Reconstruction and civil rights protection.
- Evaluate Ulysses S. Grant's legacy and his impact on American history.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Civil War:** A war between the Northern and Southern states of the United States from 1861 to 1865.
- **Reconstruction:** The period after the Civil War focused on rebuilding the Southern states and integrating freed African-Americans into society.
- **Enforcement Acts:** Laws signed by Grant to protect the rights of African-Americans and suppress the Ku Klux Klan.
- **Scandal:** An event involving dishonest or illegal activities that causes public outrage.
- **Appomattox Court House:** The site where Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the Civil War.

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, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

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



Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Grant: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about leadership during times of war and peace. Ask students if they know who led the United States during the Civil War.
2. Display the *Ulysses S. Grant* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Grant's rise from humble beginnings, his role in the Civil War, and his presidency during Reconstruction.

Grant History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Ulysses S. Grant" section on page 2 together as a class, with the teacher leading to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. Split the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore:
 - Group 1: *Young Hiram, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
 - Group 2: *Early Career* (page 4)
 - Group 3: *Rock Bottom, Freedom* (page 5)
 - Group 4: *Civil War* (page 6)
 - Group 5: *1868 Presidential Election, President* (page 7)
 - Group 6: *Retirement* (page 8)
 - Group 7: *Grant's Final Battle, Legacy* (page 9)
3. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. Students should discuss the main ideas.
4. 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.
5. 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 with these instructions:
2. **Timeline:** Students should select key dates and events mentioned throughout the digital book. Suggested dates:
 - 1822 - Birth of Ulysses S. Grant
 - 1865 - Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox, ending the Civil War
 - 1869 - Becomes President
 - 1877 - Ends his presidency
 - 1885 - Death of Grant
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 Ulysses S. Grant that stood out to them and write it in the space provided.

5. **Vocabulary Builder:** Instruct students to choose a word from the Glossary 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 Ulysses S. Grant 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 Ulysses S. Grant, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Ulysses S. Grant 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 reflection questions:
 - What did you find most interesting about Ulysses S. Grant?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Grant dealt with?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, let students solve the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout 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 Ulysses S. Grant—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 watch *Ulysses S. Grant: The General Who Saved the Union*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *Ulysses S. Grant* 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.