



## Theodore Roosevelt | Lesson Plan

How did Theodore Roosevelt's leadership help expand U.S. influence and lead the country in to a world power during the early 20th century?

---

Students will understand how Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, brought energy and reform to the office while expanding America's role in world affairs. They will explore his diverse achievements as a rancher, war hero, reformer, and advocate for conservation and progressive policies.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Theodore Roosevelt.
- Identify the key achievements of Theodore Roosevelt's career.
- Identify Theodore Roosevelt's progressive ideas and policies and how they impacted the United States.
- Analyze how Theodore Roosevelt's actions and decisions helped to expand U.S. power and ultimately led the United States to become a world power.
- Evaluate Theodore Roosevelt's character, decisions, and overall legacy as president.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Strenuous Life:** Roosevelt's philosophy that emphasizes hard work, masculinity, and perseverance.
- **Progressive:** A person advocating for reforms, often supporting stronger government intervention in economic and social issues.
- **Trust Buster:** A nickname given to Roosevelt for breaking up large business monopolies.
- **Great White Fleet:** A fleet of U.S. Navy ships sent around the world to showcase American naval power.
- **Nobel Peace Prize:** An international award given annually for outstanding contributions to peace.

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



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

### Introduction to Roosevelt: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about adventurous leaders and their impact. Ask students if they know any leaders who were also explorers or reformers.
2. Display the *Theodore Roosevelt* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Roosevelt's role in promoting progressive policies, conservation efforts, and America's global influence.

### Roosevelt History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Theodore Roosevelt" 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 Theodore, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
  - Group 2: *Early Career, The Worst Day of His Life* (page 4)
  - Group 3: *Rancher, Reformer* (page 5)
  - Group 4: *War Hero*(page 6)
  - Group 5: *Rise to Power, President* (pages 7- 8)
  - Group 6: *A Zoo in the White House, The Teddy Bear* (page 9)
  - Group 7: *Assassination Attempt, Retirement* (pages 10-12)
  - Group 8: *Legacy* (page 13)
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:
  - 1858 - Birth of Theodore Roosevelt
  - 1901 - Becomes President
  - 1904 - Elected to his own term
  - 1919 - Death of Roosevelt
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 Theodore Roosevelt 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 Theodore Roosevelt 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 Theodore Roosevelt, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. Think-Pair-Share: Ask students to recall one fact about Theodore Roosevelt 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 Theodore Roosevelt?
  - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
  - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Roosevelt dealt with?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, let students solve the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout the book. They can also explore 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 Theodore Roosevelt—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 deeper dive into the lives and legacies of America’s leaders. Click on the links below to watch these two videos about Theodore Roosevelt:

- *Theodore Roosevelt: The Action Hero President* (Click [Here](#))
- *Theodore Roosevelt: City Slicker to Cowboy President* (Click [Here](#))

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

Read the *Theodore Roosevelt* 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.

