



## William Henry Harrison | Lesson Plan

How did William Henry Harrison influence presidential campaigns and leave his mark on American history despite his short time in office?

---

Students will understand how William Henry Harrison, the 9th president of the United States, was a pioneer in modern presidential campaigning and left a legacy despite his brief presidency. They will explore his achievements as a military hero, his unique campaign strategies, and his impact on American politics.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of William Henry Harrison.
- Explain Harrison's role in the development of modern presidential campaigns.
- Discuss Harrison's achievements as a military leader and his short tenure as president.
- Evaluate William Henry Harrison's legacy and his contributions to American history.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Whig Party:** A political party that opposed Andrew Jackson and supported economic development through infrastructure projects.
- **Common Man:** An ordinary person without high social status or significant wealth, often representing the general population.
- **Tippecanoe:** Harrison's nickname, derived from his military victory at the Battle of Tippecanoe.
- **Inaugural Address:** The speech given by a president at their inauguration, marking the start of their term.
- **Pneumonia:** A lung infection that inflames the air sacs, which Harrison contracted shortly after taking office.

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



Scan to watch episode:

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

### Introduction to Harrison: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about what it means to run a modern political campaign. Ask students if they know of any early presidents who changed the way campaigns were conducted.
2. Display the *William Henry Harrison* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Harrison's role in pioneering new campaign strategies, his military career, and his brief tenure as president.

### Harrison History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet William Henry Harrison" 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 William, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
  - Group 2: *Early Career, Frontier Leader* (page 4)
  - Group 3: *Military Hero* (page 5)
  - Group 4: *Rise to the Presidency* (page 6)
  - Group 5: *A Groundbreaking Campaign, The Shortest Presidency* (page 7)
  - Group 6: *Legacy* (page 8)
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:
  - 1773 - Birth of William Henry Harrison
  - 1811 - Battle of Tippecanoe
  - 1840 - Elected President
  - 1841 - Dies in office after 31 days
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 William Henry Harrison 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 William Henry Harrison 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 William Henry Harrison, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. Think-Pair-Share: Ask students to recall one fact about William Henry Harrison 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 William Henry Harrison?
  - How do you think his campaign changed American politics?
  - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Harrison 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 William Henry Harrison—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 *William Henry Harrison: President for 31 Days*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *William Henry Harrison* 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.