

## Today Is Presidents' Day | Lesson Plan

Why was the leadership of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln significant to American history?

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Students will comprehensively understand George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's historical significance in American history.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify and understand the use of rhyming in *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day*.
- Recall key historical facts about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- Analyze the elements of *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day* by listening and answering comprehension questions.
- Apply knowledge of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln through creative expression.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Revolutionary War:** A conflict from 1775 to 1783 in which the American colonies fought for independence from British rule. It ended with the creation of the United States.
- **Declaration of Independence:** Adopted on July 4, 1776, this document declared that American colonies were no longer under British rule and outlined the grievances of the British king.
- **George Washington:** The first President of the United States, serving from 1789 to 1797, and the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He is known as a founding father of the United States.
- **Civil War:** A conflict between the Northern states (Union) and Southern states (Confederacy) in the United States, primarily over the issues of slavery and states' rights.
- **Abraham Lincoln:** The 16th President of the United States, serving from 1861 until his assassination in 1865, is best known for leading the country during the Civil War and his efforts to abolish slavery.
- **Emancipation Proclamation:** An executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declaring all slaves in Confederate-held territory free.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.R.9, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.R2, CCRA.SL.3, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.L.6

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, Historical Figures, U.S. Holidays

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Coloring Page (Click [Here](#))



- Coloring supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils)
- Stickers (e.g., stars, smiley faces, dots, etc.), one for each student

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

### Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin with a simple, engaging activity to introduce the concept of rhyming. For instance, say a word (e.g., hat, dog, ice, etc.) and ask students to come up with words that rhyme with it.
2. Briefly discuss why rhyming words are fun and important in stories and poems.
3. Introduce the story *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day*, explaining that the story is written in rhyme and involves important American presidents.
4. Ask students to listen carefully to the rhymes as they hear the story.

### Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Read the book or play the video for the students.
2. Pause briefly after a few choice rhyming sections to emphasize the rhymes and what they illustrate about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln (note guiding questions below to help know when to pause).
3. After listening to the story, ask students guiding questions to aid comprehension of the story:
  - Who are the two presidents talked about in the story, and why are they important?
  - Tell one special thing that George Washington did.
  - Tell one special thing that Abraham Lincoln did.
  - What are the two wars that were mentioned in the story?
  - What are the two special proclamations (important announcements) from the story?
4. Have students identify some of the rhyming pairs from the story. Write them on the board as the students recognize them. An additional challenge would be to see if students can come up with more rhyming words for those written on the board.

### Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Hand out the coloring page *Otto's Tales: Today Is Presidents' Day* to each student.
2. Point out George Washington and Abraham Lincoln so students know who is who.
3. Ask students to point to which president did the following:
  - Fought in the Revolutionary War
  - Freed the slaves
  - Was the first president
  - Was the sixteenth president
  - Lived in the 1700s
  - Lived in the 1800s
  - Issued the Emancipation Proclamation

4. Give students time to color the page and place a sticker next to the President they find the most interesting and would like to learn more about.

**Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)**

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.