

Ulysses S. Grant | Lesson Plan

How was Ulysses S. Grant a gracious winner during the Civil War and throughout his tenure as the 18th President of the United States?

Students will understand that being a gracious winner is as important as politely accepting defeat. Students will learn how Ulysses S. Grant navigated exceptional victories, both in the Civil War and as the 18th President of the United States.

Learning Objectives:

- Examine the qualities that made Ulysses S. Grant a successful leader and a gracious winner.
- Analyze Ulysses S. Grant's character in the aftermath of the Civil War.
- Understand the importance of humility in both victory and defeat.
- Compare and contrast the concept of a boastful victory and a gracious victory.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Gracious:** Kind and compassionate.
- **Boastful:** Showing self-pride and prone to bragging.
- **Confederates:** Soldiers from southern states who fought the northern states in the American Civil War.
- **Loot:** To rob and violently destroy property.
- **Civil War:** A war that took place from 1861-1865 between the northern and southern states regarding the power and role of the federal government.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, U.S. Presidents, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: Ulysses S. Grant: The Victorious General of the Civil War (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: Ulysses S. Grant: The Victorious General of the Civil War (Click [Here](#))
- Paper, pencils
- Timer (most cell phones have this feature)

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15-20 minutes)

1. Ask students to think about a time they won a competition or contest. Pose questions similar to the following:
 - a. How did it feel to win? Did you express humility or pride?

Scan to watch episode:



- b. How do you think your attitude and actions affected those around you?
2. Conclude that it is important to accept defeat politely, but it is equally vital to be a gracious winner. Discuss the meaning of “gracious” and the other Key Vocabulary words.
3. Write the word GRACIOUS on the board in all capital letters.
4. Direct students to take out a sheet of paper and a pencil. Explain that the class will participate in a quick contest—explain that you will set a timer for two minutes and challenge students to write as many words as possible using the letters in the word.
5. Explain that the winner(s) should demonstrate a gracious attitude, as discussed.
6. After the two-minute challenge, analyze the papers to determine which student(s) found the most words.
7. Have the winner(s) and other participants role-play appropriate comments and reactions.
8. Students will watch a video about a successful man in American history who set a good example by being a gracious winner.
9. Distribute worksheets for students to complete while watching the video.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Encourage students to complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Depending on the age of students, pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions—especially short answer responses.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Give students time to finish their worksheets. Collect them as a formative assessment, or discuss them as a class.
2. In conclusion, review how Ulysses S. Grant was an example of a gracious winner and invite students to share final insights.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.