



George H.W. Bush | Lesson Plan

How did President Bush demonstrate leadership and service during his life and presidency?

Students will understand how George H.W. Bush's presidency marked a significant period in world history with the end of the Cold War and how he led the country through other global challenges, including the Persian Gulf War. They will also explore his long career in public service and his legacy of integrity.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of George H.W. Bush.
- Explain how George H.W. Bush's presidency contributed to the end of the Cold War and managed other international conflicts.
- Compare the key hardships and key achievements of George H.W. Bush that shaped his presidency.
- Evaluate George H.W. Bush's leadership skills and decisions, which have impacted the United States and the world.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Cold War:** The conflict between America, which was free, and the Soviet Union, which was a communist dictatorship that lasted from the 1940s to the 1980s.
- **Soviet Union:** A country that existed from 1922 to 1991 that oppressed its people and tried to spread its communist system around the world.
- **Communism:** A political and economic system where all property and resources are owned and controlled by the government. The result of this system is often dictatorship and government control of every aspect of people's lives.
- **Persian Gulf War:** A conflict in 1990-1991 where the U.S.-led coalition forces liberated Kuwait from Iraqi invasion under Saddam Hussein.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** A major civil rights law signed by Bush that prohibits discrimination based on disability.
- **Dictatorship:** A form of government where one person or a small group holds absolute power.
- **Prosperity:** A period of economic success and wealth.
- **Diplomat:** A person who represents their country in foreign nations.

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, Cold War, International Relations



What You'll Need

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

Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to George H.W. Bush: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about U.S. presidents who led the country during international challenges. Ask students if they know any presidents who dealt with major global events like the end of a war or conflict.
2. Display the *George H.W. Bush* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Bush's significance as the 41st president, his role in ending the Cold War, and his leadership during the Persian Gulf War. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and presidency.

Bush History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet George H.W. Bush" section on page 2 together as a class, with the teacher leading this page to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. After completing the teacher-led reading, explain that students will now explore other key aspects of Bush's life in small groups.
3. Split the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore:
 - Group 1: *Young George, Interesting Facts, War Hero* (pages 3-4)
 - Group 2: *A Long Rise to Power* (page 5)
 - Group 3: *Vice President, President, Americans with Disabilities Act* (pages 6-7)
 - Group 4: *Retirement, Skydiving* (page 8)
 - Group 5: *Legacy* (page 9)
4. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. As students read, they should discuss the main ideas.
5. 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.
6. 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 of the worksheet with these instructions:
2. **Timeline:** Students should select key dates and events mentioned throughout the digital book. The following are recommendations, but the teacher and students can use many other dates mentioned in the book:
 - 1924 - Birth of George H.W. Bush

- 1980 - Elected Vice President of the United States
 - 1988 - Elected President of the United States
 - 1990-1991 - Persian Gulf War
 - 1992 - Lost re-election to Bill Clinton
 - 2018 - Death of George H.W. Bush
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 George H.W. Bush that stood out to them and write it in the space provided.
 5. **Vocabulary Builder:** Instruct students to choose a word from the Glossary on page 10 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 George H.W. Bush 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 George H.W. Bush, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about George H.W. Bush 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 three sample reflection questions:
 - What did you find most interesting about George H.W. Bush?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States and the world?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Bush dealt with?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, allow students to complete the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout the book. They can also explore and engage with the 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 George H.W. Bush—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.

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

Read the *George H.W. Bush* 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.