



Grover Cleveland | Lesson Plan

How did Grover Cleveland maintain his principles and navigate the challenges of serving two non-consecutive terms as President of the United States?

Students will understand how Grover Cleveland stayed true to his values despite pressures during his presidency and how he managed two terms in office separated by four years. They will also learn about his commitment to limited government and his stance during the economic depression of his second term.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Grover Cleveland.
- Explain how Grover Cleveland's commitment to his principles influenced his presidential decisions.
- Compare the key hardships and achievements of Grover Cleveland that made him a unique president.
- Evaluate Cleveland's leadership style and decisions, highlighting his non-consecutive terms and their impact on American politics.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Gilded Age:** A period of rapid economic growth in U.S. history, often marked by political corruption.
- **Veto:** When a president rejects a bill passed by Congress.
- **Depression:** A period of severe economic downturn.
- **Non-Consecutive Terms:** Two terms served by a president that are not back-to-back.
- **Strike:** A work stoppage by employees protesting conditions.
- **Pass the Bar:** To qualify as a lawyer by meeting specific requirements.

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



Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Cleveland: (5 minutes)

1. Begin with a brief discussion about U.S. presidents and the qualities that make a great leader. Ask students if they know any presidents who were known for their steadfastness during challenging times.
2. Display the Grover Cleveland digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Cleveland's significance as the 22nd and 24th president, his unique non-consecutive terms, and his focus on limited government. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Cleveland History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Grover Cleveland" 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 Cleveland'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 Grover, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
 - Group 2: *A Rapid Rise to the Presidency* (page 4)
 - Group 3: *First Terms as President, Private Citizen* (pages 5-6)
 - Group 4: *Second Term as President, A Secret Operation* (page 7)
 - Group 5: *Retirement, Legacy, A Chance Encounter* (page 8)
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 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:
 - 1837 - Birth of Grover Cleveland
 - 1885-1889 - First Presidential Term
 - 1893-1897 - Second Presidential Term
 - 1908 - Death of Grover Cleveland
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 Grover Cleveland 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 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 Grover Cleveland 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 Grover Cleveland, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Grover Cleveland 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 Grover Cleveland?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Cleveland dealt with?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, let students complete the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout the book. They can also explore and engage with 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 Grover Cleveland—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 *Grover Cleveland: The 22nd and 24th President*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *Grover Cleveland* 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.