



GRADE 6+

The Office of Vice President | Lesson Plan

What are the responsibilities of the Vice President of the United States?

Students learn about the role of the Vice President of the United States, what his responsibilities are, and how his position has evolved throughout history.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the history of how the Founding Fathers created the role of Vice President.
- List the roles and responsibilities of the Vice President within the executive branch of government.
- Examine and contrast the roles and responsibilities of past Vice Presidents with those of the current Vice President, highlighting the evolution and changes over time.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Vice President:** the official next in line to be President of the United States in the event the President dies, resigns, is removed from office, or is unable to serve
- **12th Amendment:** Constitutional amendment ratified in 1804, which states that electors vote separately for the offices of president and vice president
- **25th Amendment:** Constitutional amendment which allows for a president to name their vice president as acting president in the event of a medical procedure
- **U.S. Naval Observatory:** the official home of the Vice President of the United States

Educational Standards: History, Civics, Government, Western Civilization, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Street Smarts: The Office of Vice President*.



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: The Office of Vice President*. ([Download PDF](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: First Runner-Up (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *What does the term "first runner-up" mean?* Allow the class to share answers.
2. Say: *Did you know that, at one point in American history, the first runner-up in the Presidential election was chosen to be the Vice President? Is that a good idea? Why or why not?* Allow the class to share answers.
3. Say: *How much do you know about the responsibilities of the Vice President of the United States? Let's find out.*
4. Display a copy of Street Smarts: The Office of Vice President Worksheet on a screen in the classroom.
5. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to answer them as a class. Invite students to share out loud (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see how many answers we got right.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a formative assessment or discuss in class.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

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