



J.P. Morgan Lesson Plan

How do financial leaders like J.P. Morgan help businesses grow and support the economy during challenging times?

Students will understand how J.P. Morgan's financial leadership and innovative business strategies helped grow major industries and stabilize the U.S. economy during times of crisis, leaving a lasting impact on American business.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key life events of J.P. Morgan.
- Explain how Morgan restructured the railroad industry and helped finance major corporations like General Electric and U.S. Steel.
- Analyze Morgan's role in stabilizing the U.S. economy during financial crises, including the Panic of 1893 and 1907.
- Evaluate Morgan's influence on American business and his legacy in the financial world.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Financier:** A person who manages large financial transactions or investments.
- **Monopoly:** Exclusive control over an industry, limiting competition.
- **Consolidation:** The process of merging companies or industries.
- **Gold Reserve:** The gold held by a government or central bank to back its currency.
- **Federal Reserve System:** The central banking system of the United States, established after Morgan's interventions in financial crises.

Educational Standards: 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, Historical Figures, Banking

What You'll Need

- Video: *Guess or Mess: J.P. Morgan* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: J.P. Morgan* (Click [Here](#))
- PragerU Kids *Builders of America* biographical book: *J.P. Morgan* (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper or poster board for each group, along with markers

Lesson Plan: Read and Complete (60 minutes)

Introduction to J.P. Morgan (5 minutes):

1. Begin with a brief discussion about financial leaders who play important roles in both business and government. Ask students if they know of anyone who helped save an economy during a crisis.

Scan to watch episode:



2. Display the *J.P. Morgan* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly introduce Morgan's role in restructuring industries, financing large corporations, and stabilizing the U.S. economy during financial crises. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Morgan's Journey: Group Activity (25 minutes):

1. As a class, read the "Meet John Pierpont Morgan" section on page 1 of the digital book. The teacher should lead the reading to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore:
 - Group 1: Early Life, A Bold Transaction (page 2)
 - Group 2: Finding His Way (page 3)
 - Group 3: Discreet Dealings, Railroads: Off the Rails (page 4)
 - Group 4: Back on Track (page 5)
 - Group 5: Central Banker, Later Life (page 6)
3. Allow time for each group to take turns reading their section aloud and to discuss key points.
4. Provide large paper or poster boards and markers. Each group should write down key facts, ideas, and quotes they find.
5. Allow each group 1-2 minutes to present their findings to the class, followed by a brief discussion to ensure that the class understands the points covered.

Worksheet Workshop (15 minutes):

1. Distribute individual worksheets to students and explain how to complete them.
 - **Timeline:** Plot key dates and events from the digital book. Some suggestions:
 - 1837: Birth of J.P. Morgan
 - 1895: Founding of J.P. Morgan & Company
 - 1901: Formation of U.S. Steel
 - 1913: Death of J.P. Morgan
 - **Innovator's Gears:** In this section, students will identify a problem or need in their community, brainstorm solutions, and then draw an invention that could solve the problem based on one of their ideas. They could add labels or descriptions to explain how their invention works.
 - **Vocabulary Builder:** Choose a word from the glossary on page 9 and use it in a sentence that clearly conveys its meaning.
 - **Multiple Choice:** Allow students to complete the multiple-choice section of the worksheet individually. (Note: The multiple-choice section corresponds to the *Guess or Mess* episode about J.P. Morgan and can also be used to play along while watching the game show video. See "Extension Activity" below.)

Reflection Round-Up (10 minutes):

1. Briefly summarize key points about J.P. Morgan's life, his role in stabilizing the U.S. economy, and his influence on American business.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Morgan and discuss its significance with a partner.
3. Ask students to answer one of these reflection questions on a sticky note or index card:
 - What did you find most interesting about J.P. Morgan?
 - How did Morgan's actions during financial crises impact the U.S. economy?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, have students complete the "Fill-in-the-Blank" activity on page 7 and the "Word Scramble" and "Making Order—Word Ladder" activities on page 8.

Extension Activity (20 minutes):

Guess or Mess Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for J.P. Morgan, using the multiple-choice section of the worksheet to play along.

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

Read the *J.P. Morgan* 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.