



Herbert Hoover | Lesson Plan

How did Herbert Hoover's early accomplishments as a humanitarian and his leadership during the Great Depression shape his presidency and legacy?

Students will understand Herbert Hoover's contributions during World War I as a humanitarian leader and his challenges in handling the Great Depression. They will also learn about his efforts to promote public service and his long-lasting impact on American society.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Herbert Hoover.
- Explain how Hoover's humanitarian work during World War I saved millions of lives.
- Compare the key hardships and achievements of Herbert Hoover that influenced his presidency.
- Evaluate Herbert Hoover's leadership skills and decisions during the Great Depression.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Great Depression:** A severe economic downturn that lasted from 1929 to the late 1930s, characterized by high unemployment and widespread poverty.
- **Humanitarian:** A person who works to improve the lives of others, often in times of crisis.
- **Hoover Dam:** A large dam on the Colorado River, initially named after President Hoover, built to provide hydroelectric power.
- **Quaker:** A member of a Christian religious group known for advocating peace and simplicity.
- **Stock Market Crash:** A sudden and severe downturn in stock prices, often leading to economic turmoil.
- **Hoovervilles:** Makeshift shantytowns built by homeless people during the Great Depression, named mockingly after President Hoover.

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

What You'll Need:

- Video: *Guess or Mess: Herbert Hoover* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: Herbert Hoover* (Click [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- PragerU Kids biographical book: *Herbert Hoover* (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper or poster board for each group, along with markers

Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Hoover: (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 humanitarian efforts or leadership during economic crises.
2. Display the *Herbert Hoover* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Hoover's significance as the 31st president, his role in providing aid during World War I, and his presidency during the Great Depression. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Hoover History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Herbert Hoover" 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 Hoover'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 Herbert, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
 - Group 2: *Education, Family, and Early Career, Boxer Rebellion* (page 4)
 - Group 3: *Rise to Power* (page 5)
 - Group 4: *Secretary of Commerce, President* (page 6)
 - Group 5: *Hoover Dam* (page 7)
 - Group 6: *Retirement, Legacy, Hoover Ball* (page 8-9)
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:

- 1874 - Birth of Herbert Hoover
 - 1914-1918 - Humanitarian Work During World War I
 - 1921-1928 - Secretary of Commerce
 - 1929-1933 - Presidency and the Great Depression
 - 1964 - Death of Herbert Hoover
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 Herbert Hoover 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 Herbert Hoover 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 Herbert Hoover, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Herbert Hoover 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 Herbert Hoover?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Hoover 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 Herbert Hoover—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, which provide students with a deeper dive into the

lives and legacies of America's leaders. To view *Herbert Hoover: Success or Failure*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *Herbert Hoover* 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.