



Calvin Coolidge | Lesson Plan

How did Calvin Coolidge lead the United States during a time of great prosperity, and what were his key contributions to American history?

Students will understand Calvin Coolidge's role as the 30th President of the United States, his commitment to limited government and fiscal responsibility, and his leadership during the "Roaring Twenties."

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Calvin Coolidge.
- Explain how Calvin Coolidge's policies promoted economic prosperity during the 1920s.
- Analyze Coolidge's commitment to limited government and fiscal responsibility and how these values shaped his presidency.
- Evaluate Calvin Coolidge's leadership and decisions, which contributed to the era's prosperity and his lasting legacy.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Prosperity:** A period of time when the economy is strong, and people have a lot of money and good jobs.
- **Debt:** The total amount of money that a person or organization has borrowed from others.
- **Limited Government:** The idea that the government should have restricted powers and not interfere excessively in the lives of citizens.
- **Taxes:** Money that the government takes from people so that it can function.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** The practice of managing government funds wisely, avoiding unnecessary spending, and reducing debt.

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

Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Coolidge: (5 minutes)

Scan to watch episode:



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 helped the country prosper economically.
2. Display the *Calvin Coolidge* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight Coolidge's significance as the 30th President, his commitment to limited government, and his leadership during the prosperous 1920s. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and achievements.

Coolidge History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Calvin Coolidge" 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 Coolidge'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 Calvin, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
 - Group 2: *Calvin's World, The Bookshelf* (page 4)
 - Group 3: *Education, Family, and Early Career, Rise to Power* (page 5)
 - Group 4: *National Figure, Civil Rights for All* (page 6)
 - Group 5: *President, Tragedy in the White House* (page 7)
 - Group 6: *Retirement, Legacy* (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 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:
 - 1872 - Birth of Calvin Coolidge
 - 1891 - Enrolled in Amherst College in Massachusetts
 - 1905 - Married Grace Goodhue
 - 1923-1929 - Presidency of Calvin Coolidge
 - 1924 - Re-election of Coolidge
 - 1933 - Death of Coolidge
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 Calvin Coolidge 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 Calvin Coolidge 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 Calvin Coolidge, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Calvin Coolidge 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 Calvin Coolidge?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Coolidge 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 Calvin Coolidge—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: Presidents

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 *Calvin Coolidge: The Best President You Don’t Know*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *Calvin Coolidge* 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.