

George Marshall | Lesson Plan

Who was George Marshall, and how did his life and military career demonstrate the importance of humility?

Students will understand how George Marshall's humble leadership made him one of American history's most respected military leaders.

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the military career of George Marshall and the significance of his accomplishments.
- Explain how humility is a characteristic that can contribute to success.
- Describe the negative impacts of a proud or boastful attitude.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Humility:** The ability to consider the needs and feelings of others before oneself.
- **Integrity:** Strength and conviction to do what is right.
- **D-Day:** The first day of Operation Overlord during World War II—when the Allies, led by America, stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, and began pushing the Nazis back. It was the largest air, land, and sea military mission in the history of the world.
- **Nazi:** A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which was led by Adolf Hitler and ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945, promoting a totalitarian regime and antisemitic policies that led to the Holocaust and World War II.
- **Secretary of State:** A person chosen by the President to represent America to all foreign nations.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Character Development, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: *George Marshall: The General Who Rebuilt Post-War Europe* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *George Marshall: The General Who Rebuilt Post-War Europe* (Click [Here](#))
- Sticky notes

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Write each student's name on the back of a sticky note (so that names cannot be seen) and place sticky notes on the board.



2. Call each student up to choose a sticky note. Any students who choose their own names must choose a different note.
3. Disclose that students will be asked to pay a sincere compliment to the student whose name is on the back of the sticky note. Compliments may not be given based on appearance.
4. Facilitate students' discussions as they give each other compliments.
5. Discuss the definition of humility (see definition above) and cite real-world examples.
6. Explain that recognizing the value in others can help combat pride and maintain a sense of humility. Remind students that every person is valuable and has unique gifts and talents.
7. Reveal that students will watch a video about a man named George Marshall, whose honesty and humility led to great success as a military leader.
8. Give the class a brief introduction to George Marshall.
 - Marshall was a general during World War II and served as Army Chief of Staff. He did much of the strategic planning for "Operation Overlord," the largest air, land, and sea military mission in the history of the world. But because he was a humble leader, General Marshall refused to take personal credit for himself.
 - Later, as America's Secretary of State, George Marshall led a campaign to rebuild Western Europe after World War II. In this campaign, the U.S. Army assisted Europe with reconstruction in a way that emphasized democratic government, capitalism, and freedom—things that have helped make America so great.
9. Display the worksheet and distribute individual copies to students.
10. Read over the worksheet as a class so that students know what to listen for during the video.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Pause throughout the video to allow students to complete answers on the worksheet. Assist as needed.

Wrap-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Allow students several minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Invite volunteers to share their responses with the class.
3. Conclude by restating the benefits of choosing a humble attitude over a proud or boastful one.
4. Collect the worksheet as a formative assessment or participation grade.
5. As a culminating exercise, pose the following questions for classroom discussion.
 - Who was George Marshall, and for what is he well-known?
 - What qualities did General Marshall display that caused world leaders to hold him in high regard?
 - Why do you think humility is important to success?

6. Summarize the lesson by reminding students that people who boast are often very self-conscious and sometimes brag because they are unsure of their abilities. Remind students of strategies they can use to combat a boastful attitude from others: examples include paying compliments freely and bringing attention to things other people do well.
7. Encourage students to reflect on what can be learned by studying the life of George Marshall. Review the concept that humble people, those who let their actions speak for themselves, earn the respect and admiration of others regardless of politics or religion. General George Marshall is remembered as just such a man.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

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