



Franklin D. Roosevelt | Lesson Plan

How does Roosevelt's presidential legacy impact Americans even today?

Students will understand how Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency increased the role of the federal government during two of the most significant crises America has ever faced: the Great Depression and World War II.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- Explain the effects of the Great Depression on America's economy.
- Identify the event that caused the United States to enter into World War II.
- Record the key hardships, achievements, and consequences of decisions made during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.
- Evaluate Franklin D. Roosevelt's leadership skills and decisions, which have named him one of the United States' most powerful presidents.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Great Depression:** The time in American history, starting in 1929 and continuing throughout the 1930s, when the economy collapsed and millions of people didn't have jobs.
- **World War II:** A war that involved many of the world's countries from 1939 to 1945. During the war, the Allied powers, led by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, defeated the Axis powers, led by Nazi Germany and Japan.
- **Progressive:** A person who believes in achieving social, political, and economic reform by replacing the Founding Fathers' principles with new ideas and a more powerful government.
- **Poliomyelitis:** A disease that can cause temporary or permanent paralysis.
- **New Deal:** A series of government laws, regulations, and programs implemented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the 1930s. Although the stated goal of the New Deal was to provide economic relief during the Great Depression, it also implemented many policies progressives had supported for several decades.
- **D-Day:** The codeword for the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history and was commanded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The success of the invasion led to the liberation of France and, ultimately, the defeat of Nazi Germany.

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, World War II



What You'll Need

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

Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

Introduction to Roosevelt: (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 leadership during challenging times in the United States.
2. Display the *Franklin D. Roosevelt* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly highlight FDR's significance as the 32nd president, his role in creating the New Deal, how he served four terms, and the role he had in World War II. Show images from the digital book to give a visual overview of his life and presidency.

Roosevelt History Huddle: (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Franklin D. Roosevelt" 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 Roosevelt'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. The following are recommendations:
 - Group 1: *Young Franklin, Early Career, Paralysis* (pages 3-4)
 - Group 2: *Rise to Power, The 1932 Presidential Election, Depression President* (pages 5-6)
 - Group 3: *A Modern First Lady, Wartime President* (pages 7-8)
 - Group 4: *A Powerful President, Creating a New World* (pages 9-10)
 - Group 5: *A Dangerous Secret, Legacy* (pages 11-12)
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:
 - 1882 - Birth of FDR
 - 1921 - Diagnosed with polio
 - 1929 - Beginning of the Great Depression
 - 1933 - FDR's first inaugural address
 - 1935 - FDR signs the Social Security Act
 - 1939 - Beginning of World War II
 - December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor bombed by Japan
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 Franklin D. Roosevelt 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 13 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt, focusing on his life, presidency, and aspects of his legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Franklin D. Roosevelt 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt?
 - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
 - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something FDR 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt—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 that provide students with a deep dive into the lives and legacies of America's leaders. To view *Franklin Roosevelt: Preparing for War*, click [here](#).

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

Read the *Franklin D. Roosevelt* 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.