

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

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Hail to the Chief: Meet the Presidents Part 2

By Debbie Vilardi

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Goal: To learn about the United States presidents from Theodore Roosevelt through Barack Obama

*Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.

Before Beginning:

- Look at the cover illustration. How many presidents can you identify? What do you know about them?
- Next, look at the table of contents. What do you know about the presidents listed? Why do you think you know more about some of the presidents than others?

"A Juggling Act" by Kathiann M. Kowalski (Page 2)

"Cabinet Positions" (Page 3)

"Constitutional Amendments and the Office of the President" (Page 3)

Vocabulary: bureaucracy

Comprehension:

1. What roles does a president have to fulfill?
2. Why is each role important?
3. What was the purpose of the 12th Amendment?
4. What changes made the 20th Amendment possible to carry out?
5. According to the 22nd Amendment, what is the maximum number of years a president may hold the office?

Discussion: Which presidential role is most important and why? What would be the consequences if a president neglected any role?

Research: Constitutional provisions for the presidency, capitalism, each cabinet position, 12th Amendment, 20th Amendment, 22nd Amendment, 25th Amendment

Select a cabinet position, research it, and answer the following questions:

- When was the position established?
- What events led to the president creating this position?
- Which president created it?
- Who was the first person to fill it?
- Were any other people famous for their work in this position? Why?
- How have the responsibilities of this cabinet position changed over time? Why were those changes made?

"Mapping It" (Pages 4-5)

Comprehension:

1. How many presidents have sites listed on the map?
2. Which presidents are missing?
3. Which state has the most sites?

Research: National Archives and Records Administration

The majority of the remainder of this issue is devoted to articles on individual presidents. For each president, answer as many of the following questions as possible.

Vocabulary: monopoly, corollary, disarmament, impeachment, pardon, incumbent, inflation, perjury

Comprehension:

1. What years was he in office?
2. Which party did he belong to?
3. What led to him becoming president?
4. What were his initial domestic and foreign goals as president?
5. Did he succeed with these goals? Why or why not?
6. What were the impacts of the laws that he helped to pass?
7. What were some of the most important domestic events during his time as president?
8. What factors made these events important?
9. Did these events change his goals?
10. What decisions did he make to help the nation navigate these events?
11. How did the people feel about these decisions?
12. What foreign conflicts were occurring during his presidency and how was the United States involved in them?
13. What actions did he take to support his foreign policy?
14. Did any events cause him to change his foreign policy? Why?
15. How many terms did he serve?
16. How and why did he leave office?
17. What is the lasting legacy of his presidency?

Discussion: Many of these presidents interfered with foreign governments, some to the extent of setting up those governments. Some of them waited until American lives were threatened. Do we, as Americans, have the right to compel other governments to follow our democratic and capitalistic systems? Do we have the right to interfere in conflicts that impact our interests but not our personal safety?

Research:

Legislation: Hepburn Act, Pure Food and Drug Act, Underwood Act, Federal Reserve Act, 16th Amendment, 17th Amendment, New Deal, Fair Deal, Area Redevelopment Act, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Civil Rights Act of 1968, Voting Rights Act, Medicare, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Fair Housing Act, No Child Left Behind, USA Patriot Act, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Affordable Care Act

Foreign Matters: Monroe Doctrine, Russo-Japanese War, Nobel Peace Prize, Panama Canal, World War I, *Lusitania*, League of Nations, World War II, Lend—Lease policy, Nazi Germany, bombing

of Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill, atomic bomb, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Cold War, Truman Doctrine, George C. Marshall, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Korean War, United Nations, Suez Canal, Fidel Castro, Geneva Conference, Eisenhower Doctrine, Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, Nikita Khrushchev, Bay of Pigs invasion, Berlin Wall, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, Helsinki Accords, Panama Canal treaties, Camp David Accords, Iranian Hostage Crisis, Nicaraguan contras, Strategic Defense Initiative, Mikhail Gorbachev, *perestroika*, *glasnost*, Saddam Hussein, Desert Storm, North American Free trade Agreement, Al Qaeda, Taliban, Osama bin Laden

Government Organizations: Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Energy, Office of Homeland Security

Other: Progressive Party; Teapot Dome scandal; Albert B. Fall; Roaring 20s; Great Depression; polio; Social Security; U-2 spy planes; Project Apollo; Democratic National Committee; Watergate Hotel; Spiro T. Agnew; baby boomers; Newt Gingrich; Al Gore; Electoral College; September 11, 2001

“Rising to the Top” by Will Bremen, illustrated by Chris Murphy (Pages 14-15)

“Getting Personal” by Will Bremen (Pages 22-23)

“Trivia Q&A” by Will Bremen, illustrated by K.E. Lewis (Pages 32-33)

Complete the activities.

Research: Sandra Day O’Connor, Clifton Weaver, Thurgood Marshall, Frances Perkins

“Did You Know?” illustrated by Chris Ware (Pages 24-25)

Research: Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House, Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, AIDS, Michelle Obama

“Going Global” by Marcia Amidon Lusted, illustrated by Brian Langdo (Pages 42-43)

Vocabulary: apartheid

Research: Albert Luthuli, African National Congress, Golda Meir, Israeli Declaration of Independence, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Jawarharlal Nehru, Mohandas Gandhi, Indian National Congress

“She’s All That” by Dr. Dennis Denenberg (Page 45)

Research: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Activities for the Entire Issue: Research one of the presidents listed.

1. How did he fulfill each role set out on page 2 of this issue? Did he expand this role while he was in office? If so, how? Did opposition prevent him from expanding the role? How?

2. The role of the presidency expanded in the 20th Century. Contrast the role of your president and the size of his cabinet with that of George Washington and the precepts set out in the Constitution. Do you believe these changes have helped the nation? What may have happened if the president's role had not expanded over time? Should some of the changes be reversed? If so, which ones and why?
3. Theodore Roosevelt said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." What does this mean? Did your president follow this idea? Write an essay using historical detail to argue whether he did, tried to and failed, or preferred other methods.