

Teacher's Guide to Cobblestone: *Office of the President*

July/August 2008

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Race to the White House (pgs. 2-5)

Extended Research

Using sources such as the Internet, local/state newspaper archives or personal interviews, answer the following:

LOCAL/STATE

1. Which did your state hold, a primary or caucus?
2. How many delegates will your state send to the conventions?
3. Are the answers to the above the same for both Democrats and Republicans?
4. What were the results of your state's primary/caucus?

NATIONAL

Are there any "third-party" candidates in the 2008 presidential election? If so, who are they and what are the names of their parties?

Position of Power (pgs. 6-7)

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why do you think the Speaker of the House and the President Pro-Tem of the Senate are in the line of succession for the presidency (see "Just In Case") ahead of the cabinet secretaries and the attorney general?
2. Why is it important to have "checks and balances" in the government?
3. What problems might (and do) happen when running a government with power divided among three groups? Can you think of any happening today?

Ghosts of the Oval Office (pgs. 8-12)

Match the president to the item from the list below.

George Washington...Thomas Jefferson...Andrew Jackson...James Polk...Abraham Lincoln...Theodore Roosevelt...Woodrow Wilson...Franklin D. Roosevelt...Jimmy Carter...Ronald Reagan

Florida Purchase 1805
Make the world safe for democracy
Preservation of the union
Depression
New Deal
Man of the people
Louisiana Purchase 1803
"Bully!"
Empire for liberty
World War I
Brokered peace between Israel and Egypt
Speak softly and carry a big stick
Increasing military force to eventually end Cold War
Brokered peace between Japan and Russia, 1905
Civil War
Manifest Destiny

A Juggling Act (pgs. 14-17)

Discussion/Essay Questions

1. Of all the different roles of the U.S. president, which do you believe is most important and why? the least?
2. Which presidential roles might be more important to U.S. citizens than citizens of other countries? Which role might be most important to a non-citizen?
3. In the upcoming November election, which presidential role(s) do you think will be most important to American voters and will influence their choice on Election Day? Is this answer different from your personal opinion (Question 1)?

An Annual Address (pg. 18)

Critical Thinking

Why do you think "it is 'rare' for both houses of Congress to meet together"?

The President's People (pgs. 26-28)

Select three of the positions below and briefly describe the duties involved.

Chief of Staff
National Security Advisor
Press Secretary
Presidential Diarist
Photographer
Pet Caregiver
Military personnel
Medical staff
Pilots
Florists
Secret Service
Chief Usher
On-call projectionist
Social secretary
Protocol staff
Mail staff

Our First Lady (pg. 29)

Short Answer Comprehension Questions

1. In 1901, why was federal funding granted for the first lady?
2. Before federal funding, how did first ladies get help for official responsibilities?
3. Does the first lady get a salary?

Welcome to the White House (pgs. 30-33)

Moving-In Day (pg. 34)

Short Answer Comprehension Questions

1. What kind(s) of changes were made to the White House to accommodate presidents' children?
2. Why did Thomas Jefferson alter the dining room?
3. How did the White House change under President Theodore Roosevelt?
4. Who was the first resident of the White House?
5. When was "White House" designated as the official name of the executive mansion?
6. How long does it take to move out one president's belongings and move in the next president's?
7. What kinds of activities do children enjoy in the White House?

The Ex-Presidents Club (pgs. 38-39)

Below is a brief list of some activities of selected former presidents. Write the name(s) of the president(s) next to the item associated with his post-presidency.

Began a fund to help victims of Indian Ocean tsunami
Lawyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Gentleman farmer
Reelected after losing an election
Helped victims of Hurricane Katrina
U.S. Supreme Court justice

The Past is Present: Catching Up With President Carter (pgs. 36-39)

Essay/Discussion questions

1. President Carter identified three characteristics he believes a president should have. Based on the information in the article and what you know about President Carter, do you think he displayed those characteristics while he was president? What are three characteristics you believe a president should have and why?
2. President Carter says that as president, "My greatest challenge was to promote American ideals and moral values throughout the world while at the same time showing respect for others with different ideals and values." Do you think this is still true today? Why or why not?