

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

April 2014: Theodore Roosevelt: Larger Than Life

By Debbie Vilardi

Debbie Vilardi is an author of poetry, lesson plans and works of fiction. She is seeking an agent and publisher for her chapter book, *Flood*, set during Hurricane Katrina.

Goal: To learn about the life and accomplishments of Theodore Roosevelt.

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

Before Beginning:

Study the cover. What do you know about Theodore Roosevelt? What impression of his personality do you get from the cover photo?

"Meet TR" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 2-3)

Vocabulary: contiguous

Activity: Many of the items mentioned in this article are described in other articles. As you continue to read the issue, note the page numbers where you find more information about each of these items.

Research: Theodore Roosevelt

"A Good Start" by Shari Lyn Zuber (Pages 4- 5)

Vocabulary: philanthropic, pince-nez

Comprehension:

1. Where and when was Teedie Roosevelt born?
2. How had the family earned its money?
3. What was Teedie's young life like?
4. Why did the family travel to Europe?
5. How did the trip inspire Teedie?
6. What activities did he take up in college?
7. What effect did his father's death have on him?

8. How old was he when he got married?

Writing Activity: Interpret the statement, "You have the mind, but you have not the body, and without the help of the body, the mind cannot go as far as it should." What does this mean? Do you agree with it? What effect did it have on Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.?

Research: Martha Bulloch, Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., Harvard College

"Badlands Cowboy" by Shawn Hoffelt (Pages 6-8)

Vocabulary: tenderfoot, brand

1. How did the badlands get their name?
2. Why did ranchers settle there?
3. What happened to the buffalo and the Plains Indians?
4. What formed the basis for Ferris and Mulvane's original opinion of Roosevelt?
5. Why were cattle branded?
6. What sad events followed the birth of Roosevelt's daughter Alice?
7. What was life like on the ranch?
8. What drew Roosevelt to return east?
9. What became of his cattle ranches?

Math Activity: Using information in the previous article, answer the following questions.

1. How long was Teddy Roosevelt married to Alice?
2. How old was Alice Lee when her father married Edith Carow?
3. How old was Roosevelt when he married Edith?

Research: Dakota Territory Badlands, Maltese Cross Ranch, Edith Kermit Carow,

"A Political Cyclone" by Joan Hunt (Pages 9-11)

Vocabulary: prophetic, penal

Comprehension:

1. What was Roosevelt's first speech in office about?
2. What political office did he hold?

3. Why did he temporarily leave politics?
4. What changes did Roosevelt institute in the Civil Service Commission?
5. What was Roosevelt's attitude toward making political enemies?
6. How did he reform the police department in New York City?
7. What other changes did he make?
8. What was Roosevelt's next job?
9. Why did he enlist in the Army?
10. Why might Platt have encouraged Roosevelt to run for governor?
11. How did Roosevelt make an enemy of Platt?
12. What did Platt do to get Roosevelt out of New York?
13. How did Roosevelt assist with McKinley's campaign?
14. What happened to make Roosevelt president?

Discussion: Roosevelt believed it was better to do a good job and be thrown out of office than to do a bad one in order to remain. Do you agree?

Math Activity: How old was Roosevelt when he became president?

Research: President Benjamin Harrison, U.S. Civil Service Commission, history of the New York City Board of Health, Senator Thomas C. Platt, President William McKinley

"The Cavalry Colonel" by Mitchell Yockelson and Andrew Matthews (Pages 12-13)

Vocabulary: cavalry

Comprehension:

1. Why did the United States need soldiers?
2. Why did Roosevelt resign his navy position?
3. How did Roosevelt use his political connections?
4. How did the early battles go?
5. Why was Roosevelt seen as a hero?
6. What disagreement is seen in the reporting of the facts?

Discussion: Roosevelt used political connections to outfit his unit. Does this go against the beliefs about political favors which were ascribed to him in the previous article?

Geography Activity: Study the map on page 13. Using a more detailed map of Cuba, locate El Caney and San Juan Heights.

Research: Spanish-American War, Rough Riders, National Guard, Colonel Leonard Wood

"The People's Steward" by Shari Lyn Zuber (Pages 14-17)

Vocabulary: capitalism, monopoly, foreign, domestic, corollary,

Comprehension:

1. What were Roosevelt's views on big business?
2. Why did he sue J.P. Morgan?
3. What was the United States Supreme Court's ruling?
4. How did Roosevelt use this decision?
5. How did Roosevelt resolve the coal strike?
6. What "big stick" did Roosevelt use to get Germany to back down in 1902?
7. Why did Roosevelt want to build the Panama Canal?
8. What was the primary obstacle to the canal?
9. How was this obstacle overcome?
10. Why did some people object to Roosevelt's show of force?
11. How was he shown to also be a man of peace?
12. What were some of Roosevelt's other accomplishments while in office?
13. Why is Roosevelt considered the first modern president?

Understanding Cartoons: Look at the cartoon on page 15. How are items and people labeled? What does the cartoon symbolize?

Research: Sherman Anti-trust Act of 1890, J.P. Morgan, Northern Securities Company, Department of Commerce and Labor, Panama Canal, Monroe Doctrine of 1823, Treaty of Portsmouth, Hepburn Act, Upton Sinclair, Pure Food and Drug Act

"A Special Guest" by John P. Riley (Pages 18-19)

Vocabulary: segregated

Comprehension:

1. Why was Booker T. Washington's visit to the White House seen as scandalous?
2. How had other African Americans appeared at the White House?
3. Why did Roosevelt seek advice from Washington?
4. What did he learn from the scandal?

Research: Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marian Anderson

"Nature's Pull" by Diana Childress (Pages 20-23)

"Remembering TR" by Diana Childress (Page 23)

Vocabulary: zoologist, specimens, taxidermy, ecosystem

Comprehension:

1. What incident inspired young Roosevelt's interest in animals?
2. How did his collections grow, and what did he do with them?
3. How did his time in the West impact his beliefs about conservation?
4. What was the Boone and Crocket Club?
5. What were the club's accomplishments?
6. How did Roosevelt work around a bill that would prevent him from establishing new forest reserves?
7. What were some of his other environmental accomplishments during his presidency?

Writing Activity: Write an essay about one of the sites named for Theodore Roosevelt, Mount Rushmore or Sagamore Hill. Include why it is important, how it was established and what services or features it offers to visitors.

Research: John James Audubon, American Museum of Natural History, Daniel Boone, Davy Crocket, George Bird Grinnell, Yellowstone Park, Reclamation Act, U.S. Forest Service, Grand Canyon, Devils Tower, American Antiquities Act, Inland Waterways Commission, Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, Mount Rushmore

"Teddy's Bear" by Gail Greco (Pages 26)

Research: Clifford Berryman, teddy bear, National Museum of American History

"Death-Defying Speech" by Robert Walsdorff (Page 27)

Comprehension:

1. Why did Roosevelt ask the crowd to be very quiet?
2. What was the condition of Roosevelt's campaign on October 14, 1912?
3. What obstacles saved Roosevelt from a graver injury?
4. How did the incident affect Roosevelt's campaign?
5. What was the result of the election?

Research: William Howard Taft, Progressive Party

"Father of Six" by Virginia Calkins (Pages 28-30)

"Princess Alice" by Ann Woodbury Moore (Page 31)

Comprehension:

1. What was Roosevelt like as a father?
2. How did the children behave in the White House?
3. How did America feel about Alice?
4. What was Alice's personality like?
5. How well did she get along with her father?

Math Activity: How old was each of Roosevelt's children upon his or her death?

Writing Activity: You are visiting the Roosevelts. Decide if you are a child or an adult and which home you visited. Write a letter describing your visit.

Research: Ike Hoover, Alice Roosevelt Longworth

"Home Sweet Home: Sagamore Hill" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 32-34)

Comprehension:

1. Why did Roosevelt choose to live on Long Island?
2. What events almost kept him from moving there?
3. Why was Sagamore Hill only a summer home at first?

4. What made it possible for President Roosevelt to work from Sagamore Hill?
5. What are some of the rooms that can be visited today?
6. How did the house become a historic site?
7. What areas can be visited today?

Discussion Activity: What do the objects in the pictures tell you about life in the early 20th century, Roosevelt, and his family?

Research: Sagamore Hill

"Famous Family" by Douglas Gladstone (Pages 35-37)

Comprehension:

1. How is Kermit Roosevelt III related to President Theodore Roosevelt?
2. What are some of his accomplishments?
3. How did being related to the president affect his childhood?
4. What does Kermit III value about his famous ancestor?

Research: Professor Kermit Roosevelt III

"Award-Winning Leaders" by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 40-41)

Research: Mikhail Gorbachev, Cold War, Berlin Wall, Nobel Peace Prize, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Oscar Arias

Activities for the Entire Issue:

1. Use information in the articles to create a timeline of the important events in Roosevelt's life.
2. Enter the contest described on page 42.