

A photograph of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Carolina, showing the carved faces of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and George Madison. The title "Presidents' Day Lesson Plan" is overlaid in blue text on the top right of the image.

Presidents' Day Lesson Plan

Introduction

- ★ Presidents' Day is a nationally recognized holiday originally established to celebrate President George Washington's birthday (February 22nd). Presidents' Day is now more commonly celebrated as a day of remembering all past and present Presidents. In addition to Presidents' Day, this lesson plan incorporates the fact that 2016 is a presidential election year.

Learning Objectives

- ★ Gather knowledge about presidents through comprehensive research practices;
- ★ Analyze information on presidents, sort information appropriately, and identify connections and/or patterns; and
- ★ Present.

Material and Preparation

- ★ "U.S. Presidents" video available on the South Carolina Bar website;
 - <http://www.sctbar.org/LawRelatedEducation/AllPrograms/iCivics/VideoResources/USPresidents.aspx>
- ★ Presidential Campaign blank worksheet and sample worksheet; and
- ★ Websites, books, iPad apps, along with other resources for research on presidents.

Procedure

- ★ Start this lesson by playing "U.S. Presidents" video narrated by South Carolina Court of Appeals Judge, Honorable James E. Lockemy;
- ★ Distribute the Presidential Campaign example worksheet and blank worksheet;
- ★ Walk through the example worksheet with the students;
- ★ Offer research materials to students in order to create their own campaign;
- ★ Allow students (either individually or in small groups) to begin researching a past president of their choosing and begin filling in the blank worksheet;
- ★ After students have completed their campaign worksheets, have the student(s) advocate for their president to the class; and
- ★ Ask the rest of the class to ask questions to the presenting campaigner(s).
- ★ **EXTRA ACTIVITY:** Create campaigning poster boards with the information collected and pictures to display on the school hallways.

Discussion Questions

- ★ What were some common themes among the different campaigns and presidents?
- ★ Did any of the information about the presidents surprise you? Inspire you?

Personal Information

- *Founder of Democratic Party,*
- *Studied Law,*
- *Nickname "Old Hickory", and*
- *Served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812*

Character Traits

- *Fearless,*
- *Strong-willed,*
- *Loyal,*
- *Passionate,*
- *Strict, and*
- *Quick-tempered*

Vote For...

Andrew Jackson

Important Issues

- *First and only president to pay off the national debt.*
- *Anti-Bank of the United States - unconstitutional, unnecessary, and improper*

Campaign Slogan

"A hero to the people and for the people."

Personal Information

Character Traits

Vote For...

Important Issues

Campaign Slogan