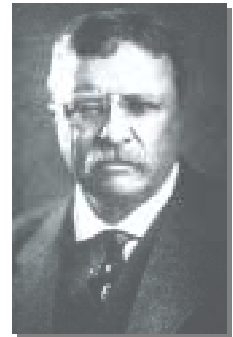# NATIONAL POLITICS:
ROOSEVELT, TAFT, AND WILSON

DESCRIPTION

Presentation covers America's national politics at the beginning of the 20th century. Discusses the backgrounds and presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson. Each of the three segments begins with a pretest, followed by historic footage that contains the answers. Viewers determine their scores.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Historical Understanding

◆ Standard: Understands the historical perspective

- Benchmark: Analyzes the values held by specific people who influenced history and the role their values played in influencing history

- Benchmark: Analyzes the influence specific ideas and beliefs had on a period of history

Subject Area: United States History

◆ Standard: Understands how Progressives and others addressed problems of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption

- Benchmark: Understands the influence of events and individuals on the Progressive Movement

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore the contributions of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson to the first half of the 20th century.
2. To provide factual information about United States politics in the early 1900s.
3. To stimulate interest in United States politics.

VOCABULARY

1. assassination
2. conservative
3. inauguration
4. liberal
5. orator
6. Progressive
7. Rough Riders

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Prepare students for their role in playing a history game.
   a. Determine if students will play on an individual or team basis.
   b. Provide each student/team with a "History Game Worksheet." (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
   c. Begin the video and allow the program to play until the narrator completes question #3. Stop the tape each time the star symbol (accompanied by an audible beep) appears on the screen. This will occur after every third question. Allow the student/team time to answer the three questions before continuing. In the segment following the three questions, the video presents historical footage to provide the answers for each question.
   d. After each set there will be a bonus question. The answers will appear at the end of the video.
2. Discuss vocabulary words used in the video.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss the role of the President of the United States of America.
2. Discuss the leadership roles of Presidents Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.
   a. What did each man do prior to becoming President?
   b. What were their major contributions while in office?
   c. What contributions did the men make after their presidential term?

Applications and Activities

1. Create a time line depicting the major contributions and events throughout the presidential terms of Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.
2. Compare and contrast the presidential styles of Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. Discuss how their styles compare to more recent presidents.
3. Using the Internet and other resources, research political parties of the past and present.
   a. What is the purpose of political parties?
   b. Which parties have been the strongest?
   c. What does the term *third party* mean?
   d. What is the importance of third parties?
   e. Choose a party that interests you. Based on current issues, create a platform for your party and present the platform to the class. Have the class vote for their favorite candidate.
4. Explore the League of Nations.
   a. Who first proposed the League of Nations?
   b. What were the goals of the League?
   c. What barriers halted the success of the League?
   d. What organization replaced the League?

e. Lead a class discussion on the importance of these organizations.
5. Research the election of 1912.
    a. What candidates were involved in this election?
    b. What made this election unique to previous elections?
    c. What was the outcome of the election?
    d. What impact did this election have on future elections?

RELATED RESOURCES

Captioned Media Program

- Had You Lived Then: Life in a Midwestern Small Town in the 1900's #1979
- National Politics: Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and Al Smith #8830
- Theodore Roosevelt: Cowboy in the White House #1577

World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **POLITICS.COM**
http://www.politics.com

- **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT**
http://www.americanpresident.org

- **THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION**
http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/index.htm

- **WOODROW WILSON BIRTHPLACE**
http://www.woodrowwilson.org/index2.html

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- HISTORY GAME WORKSHEET

History Game Worksheet

Student/Team Name: _____

Directions: Place the letter of the correct answer on the line provided.
Answers will be revealed at the end of each round. Answers for the
bonus questions will be revealed at the end of the video.

Pretest	Posttest
a) _____	a) _____
b) _____	b) _____
c) _____	c) _____

Round One

1)   _____ (5 points)
2)   _____ (10 points)
3)   _____ (15 points)

Bonus Question: _____ (10 points)

Round Two

4)   _____ (5 points)
5)   _____ (10 points)
6)   _____ (15 points)

Bonus Question: _____ (10 points)

Round Three

7)   _____ (5 points)
8)   _____ (10 points)
9)   _____ (15 points)

Bonus Question: _____ (5 points)

Round Four

10)   _____ (5 points)
11)   _____ (10 points)
12)   _____ (15 points)