

LESSON PLAN – 10th Grade

Title

Theodore Roosevelt: Progressivism, Power, and the Strenuous Life

Objective

Students will:

- Analyze Roosevelt’s philosophy and leadership
 - Evaluate his domestic and foreign policies
 - Connect Roosevelt’s experiences to his presidency
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Vocabulary

Progressivism, Imperialism, Conservation, Trust-Busting, Diplomacy

Warm-Up

 “Should leaders prioritize strength and action over caution?”

Direct Instruction

Roosevelt’s Philosophy

- “The Strenuous Life” → courage and effort
- “Man in the Arena” → action over criticism

Reform Policies

- Trust regulation
- Meat Inspection Act
- Food and Drug Act
- Labor mediation (“Square Deal”)

Foreign Policy

- “Big Stick Diplomacy”


- Panama Canal
- Nobel Peace Prize for mediating Russo-Japanese War

Conservation Legacy

- Expanded national forests and parks
- Worked with John Muir

Personal Hardships

- Death of wife and mother in 1884
- Recovery and reinvention in the Dakota Badlands

 Roosevelt believed national greatness required strong character, sacrifice, and action

Guided Practice

Students analyze:

- Cause → effect between Roosevelt’s life experiences and policies
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Activity

Essay / Group Analysis:

 “How did Theodore Roosevelt redefine the presidency?”

Discussion

- Did Roosevelt expand presidential power too much?
 - Was Roosevelt more progressive or imperialist?
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QUIZ – 10th Grade

Multiple Choice

1. Roosevelt’s “Square Deal” focused on:
A. Isolationism

- B. Fairness and reform
 - C. Tax cuts only
2. Roosevelt's foreign policy was known as:
- A. Dollar Diplomacy
 - B. Big Stick Diplomacy
 - C. Containment
3. Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize for helping end:
- A. World War I
 - B. Russo-Japanese War
 - C. Civil War
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Short Answer

- 4. One way Roosevelt expanded presidential power
 - 5. One reason conservation mattered to Roosevelt
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Essay

- 6. Evaluate Theodore Roosevelt's long-term impact on America
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Answer Key

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4-6. Evidence-based answers