

LESSON PLAN – 8th Grade

Title

Theodore Roosevelt: Reform, Courage, and the American Spirit

Objective


Students will:

- Explain Roosevelt’s beliefs and leadership
 - Analyze his reforms and accomplishments
 - Understand how personal hardship shaped his life
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Vocabulary

Progressive, Conservation, Reform, Trustbuster, Diplomacy

Warm-Up

 “Can difficult experiences make someone a stronger leader?”

Direct Instruction

Early Challenges

- Asthma and physical weakness
- Developed discipline through exercise and boxing

Dakota Territory

- Ranching life in North Dakota
- “The romance of my life began there”

Rough Riders


- Led volunteer cavalry during Spanish-American War
- Became national hero

Presidency

- Trust-busting and regulation
- Panama Canal
- Conservation and national parks

Famous Ideas

- “Speak softly and carry a big stick”
- “The Man in the Arena” speech

 Roosevelt believed leadership required courage, action, and responsibility

Guided Practice

Comparison chart:

Roosevelt Belief Example

Hard work Strenuous Life

Conservation National parks

Activity

Debate:

 “Was Theodore Roosevelt more important as a reformer or conservationist?”

Discussion

- Why did Roosevelt challenge powerful businesses?
 - How did his time in the West affect his presidency?
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QUIZ – 8th Grade

Multiple Choice

1. Roosevelt became famous during the:
A. Civil War

- B. Spanish-American War
 - C. World War I
2. Roosevelt helped create:
- A. Interstate Highway System
 - B. National Parks expansion
 - C. Social Security
3. “Speak softly and carry a big stick” refers to:
- A. Farming
 - B. Foreign policy
 - C. Sports
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Short Answer

- 4. One reform Roosevelt supported
 - 5. One reason Roosevelt loved the West
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Critical Thinking

- 6. Why did Roosevelt believe America needed strong leadership?
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Answer Key

- 1. B
 - 2. B
 - 3. B
 - 4–6. Answers vary
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