



Legends in Conservation

By J. Howard Fisk

The goal of the program is to provide an immersive youth conservation and heritage awareness program that would be unique and memorable. This is accomplished by featuring highlights of the lives of Daniel Boone, Meriwether Lewis, John James Audubon, William Temple Hornaday and President Theodore Roosevelt. Each Legend is an important figure in the exploration and conservation of wild America; chosen for their diversity of influence. These Americans played a significant role in the early life of the Conservation Movement.

Each Legends in Conservation Program includes a videotape of the Legend, complete curriculum for teachers with a study guide, script for use in the classroom, a quiz, and other educational elements. Each of the Legends is a standalone program element so they can be used for a series of presentations. The filming was all done within Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium to utilize many of the exhibits and features only available at that location.

In the future, the program outline, script, PowerPoint and a complete video of the production will be available online at <http://www.ozarkmountainsar.org/education.html> so that schools across America can access the training materials.

The Sons of the American Revolution, Springfield Little Theatre, Wonders of Wildlife, Missouri Humanities Council, Missouri Bicentennial Commission, Ozarks Technical Community College and Families of Antebellum Missouri served as partners of this opportunity to bring this program to youth across America.

<https://youtu.be/ouL9I6ixaBk> (Roosevelt)

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Legends of Conservation

Theodore Roosevelt

My name is Theodore Roosevelt; I was born in New York City in 1858, fifty years after the Lewis and Clark expedition across the west. The American West was still untamed and wild, though. A lot of people think I was among the most interesting and colorful characters in American History.

As a sickly child, I spent many of my young days indoors. I filled my time with reading and writing. But as I grew older, my health became less of a concern. I was finally able to spend more time outside. I learned to love animals and nature. My parents were not happy when some of those animals made their way into the house.

Since my parents were wealthy and generous and they took me with them when they travelled. I learned to speak five languages on our journeys. I went to Europe and to Egypt where I learned to hunt. I was good at it and I enjoyed it immensely. My parents taught me to help others whenever I could.

When I went away to school, I learned that I was especially good at publicspeaking and loved to study history. It was at Harvard that I met my first wife, Miss Alice Lee.

I became interested in politics after college. There were a lot of corrupt politicians in the New York City government, and I knew I could help straighten things out and use my own code of morals to guide me on the way. I was able to start doing a lot of good the moment I was elected to city office, and I stayed busy with my job, going from here to there, helping where I could.

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Theodore Roosevelt

Alice Lee gave birth to our daughter while I was away on one of my trips and we named her Alice. My dear wife, tragically, passed away shortly after that and I found my grief was overwhelming. The only way I could deal with it was by throwing myself into travelling out west. I learned that I loved the land and the outdoors, eventually buying a cattle ranch in North Dakota. I spent most of the next several years riding horses, camping, and hunting on the wild frontier. I was truly fascinated and inspired by the wide-open space of the west.

I chose to make my way back to New York after some time to myself where I reconnected with my childhood friend, Edith. We decided to marry and start a family and we had 5 children.

During this time I wrote several books about the history of the American West. I undertook a series of government jobs that contributed to end of the widespread police corruption. Though not something I am remembered for, I was very proud of my work there.

As the Assistant Secretary of the US Navy, I was uniquely involved in the war against Spain being fought in Cuba. I was so captivated by the conflict that I quit my job with the Navy to join the fight in Cuba. It was here that the stories of the Rough Riders on the battlefields were first told. I survived the worst of the war but was afflicted with Cuban Fever that I lived with it for the rest of my life.

When I returned home, I was hailed as a national hero and was convinced that I should run for public office and I easily won the election for Governor of New York. Once again, I found myself in a position to make some positive changes and this time, my focus was on getting children out of the dangerous coal mines and factory work.

Not long after being elected Governor, I ran for Vice President on the Republican ticket with William McKinley, and he was elected President in 1901. McKinley was shot and killed by an angry mill worker, and I unexpectedly became the 26th President of the United States at age 42 and was the youngest person in history to serve as President of the United States.

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Theodore Roosevelt

I believe one of my greatest strengths as President was my ability to get along with people. I was just as comfortable riding with the cowboys in the west as I was dining with wealthy families in New York. I like to think people enjoyed having a young president who was happy with life. I wanted to do what was best for the American people so I kept an eye on big business and was involved in settling several labor strikes. I even orchestrated the building of the Panama Canal. I was reelected for another term in 1904 and was the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating peace between Russia and Japan.

Although the demands of the presidency were many, I spent a lot of time with my family in the White House. The kids had the usual pets like cats and dogs and rabbits. But we also had unusual pets like chickens and pigs and a bear named Jonathan Edwards. One of the boys even brought his pet horse into the house to ride in our new elevator.

As my Presidency came to an end, I was ready for a change, so after leaving office, my son, Kermit, and I left to go on an African safari. It was one of the greatest adventures of my life and was widely publicized around the world. When we returned home, I had the distinct honor of being the first president to fly in an airplane. I like to think this complemented my previous distinction of being the first president to ride in a car!

I went on to live several more years but died at the age of 60. I believe my legacy is one of an effective and fun-loving public servant whose accomplishments are widely regarded in history as exceptional. Many of the changes I made in public policy are still in place today, having enhanced the quality of the lives of Americans. I was always concerned with honesty and integrity and am quoted for saying "I care not for what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do."

I earned the nickname "Bull Moose" because I was physically strong and always determined to do things my way. In 1939, I was immortalized in stone on Mt. Rushmore with three other great presidents. I hope that someday you might have an opportunity to see it.

Legends of Conservation

Theodore Roosevelt

One of the things I am the proudest of during my presidency was my work in protecting the environment. I had already been successful with the Boone and Crockett Club in guiding the government toward enacting laws that regulated hunting. We ultimately saved many wild game animals from extinction.

As president, I had the opportunity to do so much for conservation in our country. As you tour the Galleries here in the Museum, you can see an exhibit on the many national parks, forests and monuments I helped to create while I was in office. I was able to set aside more public land than any other president in the history of the United States. Among the lands preserved were Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon. And like John James Audubon, I loved to study birds since my childhood. I wanted to help protect endangered species, so I created 53 bird sanctuaries across the United States.

The hallmark of my presidency was setting aside 320 million acres of land to save the first piece of America and all the animals that live there for everyone who visits there today.

When you visit these parks and sanctuaries that I love, know that my spirit is there with you. Come and visit my favorite places; I will be waiting.

Johnny Morris

WONDERS OF WILDLIFE

NATIONAL MUSEUM & AQUARIUM

Legends in Conservation: Theodore Roosevelt

Subject Area: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

Essential Question:

- In what ways did Theodore Roosevelt work to protect land and animals while holding office as the President?

Overview:

- Students use the internet to learn more about the life and accomplishments of Theodore Roosevelt. Students explore ideas about the role of government in conservation and what steps can be done to continue those efforts.

Themes:

- Conservation: Conservation helps protect habitats and wildlife by preventing wasteful use of resources.
- Legacy: While President, Theodore Roosevelt created the precedent that all presidents should care for and protect the environment.

Introduction:

In this lesson, students listen to a historical actor tell the story of Theodore Roosevelt's life, from his New York roots to his journey west to his presidency. In the first activity, students are challenged to use the internet during a scavenger hunt to discover more about Theodore Roosevelt's life. This activity is best when completed in teams of three students. Have the students compete to see which group can find the answers the fastest.

In a second activity, students will take use Kahoot to quiz themselves over Theodore Roosevelt's conservation practices. They will learn more about the President's life and how conservation practices changed the landscape and wildlife of the United States.

Objectives:

The student will...

- Understand the historical implications of the Roosevelt Presidency
- Recognize the ways conservation helps the environment
- Be introduced to oral history through the passing down of stories
- Use the internet as an investigative tool
- Explore ideas about the role of conservation in government
- Explore the impact extraordinary people have on history

Standards:

National Social Studies Themes Met:

- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Civic Ideals and Practices

Link to National Social Studies Standards:

- <https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/national-curriculum-standards-social-studies-introduction>

Vocabulary:

- Taxidermy: the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals and especially vertebrates.
- Corruption: dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
- Panama Canal: an 82-km waterway which cuts across the country of Panama and connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
- Boone and Crockett Club: America's oldest wildlife and habitat conservation organization that advocates fair chase hunting and habitat conservation.
- Mount Rushmore: a granite sculpture carved into the Black Hills of South Dakota which features the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.
- The Bull Moose Party: also known as the Progressive Party, this was a 3rd party established after Theodore Roosevelt lost the nomination for the Republican Party following his 2nd Presidential term.

Materials:

Access to the Internet

Access to Videos which support the lesson plan:

- (Theodore Roosevelt actor video)
- More information on the life of Theodore Roosevelt if needed:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yQGpC18v1U>

Activity 1: Internet Scavenger Hunt

- For each individual or group of students:
 - Computer with internet access
 - Paper and pen for note taking
 - (Link to Scavenger Hunt)

Activity 2: Kahoot Quiz

- As one large group, take a quiz on the Kahoot website
 - For each individual student:
 - Device with internet access
 - This lesson is less about what the students know and what they can learn while taking the quiz.

Classroom Activities:

Activity 1: Internet Scavenger Hunt

- Answers with Explanations:
 - Question 1: What sport did Roosevelt excel at?
 - Answer: Boxing
 - Although he was a sickly child, Roosevelt turned to physical exertions to strengthen his lungs. Boxing was one of his favorite pastimes in college at Harvard. He continued this hobby well into his time in the White House. His last bout was in 1908 while in office. His opponent landed a hit on his left eye, causing severe hemorrhaging and a detached retina, and eventually blindness. Roosevelt's doctors ordered him to stop at that point, but Roosevelt kept the news of his blindness a secret.
 - Question 2: Theodore Roosevelt finished a speech in 1912 after being what?
 - Answer: Shot.
 - In 1912, Roosevelt was running for a third term as president and campaigning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin when a saloonkeeper named John Flammang Schrank shot him. The bullet passed through his steel eyeglass case and his 50-page thick speech before lodging in his chest. Roosevelt finished his speech, saying it takes

more than a bullet to “kill a Bull Moose.” Doctors determined that it was too dangerous to remove the bullet, leaving it in Roosevelt’s body the rest of his life.

- Question 3: Theodore Roosevelt helped build a canal through this country, which connected the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean.
 - Answer: Panama
 - While France had begun construction on a canal through Panama, they quickly ran out of money and abandoned construction. President Roosevelt purchased the Panama Canal Zone, and completed the construction, creating an easier trade route from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
- Question 4: As a child, Theodore Roosevelt attended this president’s funeral procession.
 - Answer: Abraham Lincoln
 - Roosevelt was six when President Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theater following the Civil War. Lincoln’s remains passed through New York City on its way to Springfield, Illinois. From his grandfather’s mansion in Union Square, a six-year-old Roosevelt witnessed the procession.
- Question 5: How many animals did Theodore and Kermit Roosevelt harvest while in Africa?
 - Answer: 512
 - 512 animals were taken in Africa and sent back to the Smithsonian Museum for display. The purpose of the journey was to raise American awareness for African animals and thus advocate for their conservation.

Activity 2: Kahoot Quiz

- Link to Quiz: <https://create.kahoot.it/details/431a7481-f83f-4941-a3c6-97d03566fbd4>
- Answers with Explanations:
 - Question 1: Theodore Roosevelt was born in which state in 1858?
 - Answer: New York.
 - While the lasting image of Roosevelt is that of a rough riding cowboy, he was the product of a wealthy Manhattan family.
 - Question 2: President Roosevelt is the youngest person to assume the presidency. True or False?
 - Answer: True.
 - Theodore Roosevelt assumed the presidency after William McKinley was shot and killed in Buffalo, NY. He was 42 years of age. John F. Kennedy is the youngest man to be elected president, also 42 years old.
 - Question 3: Which two political parties did Roosevelt run for president under?
 - Answer: Republican Party and Bull Moose Party.

- Roosevelt ran under the Republican party for his two presidential terms. After leaving office, he decided to run against his former Vice President, now-President, Howard Taft. After Taft secured the Republican Party nomination, Roosevelt ran under a third party called the Progressive Party. After commenting that he felt as “strong as a bull moose,” the Progressive Party became better known as the Bull Moose Party. The Bull Moose Party did not last very long after Roosevelt failed to secure a 3rd Presidential term.
- Question 4: How many acres of land did Roosevelt help preserve while in office?
 - Answer: 320 million.
 - Roosevelt used several executive orders to preserve lands across the United States. In total, he preserved 320 million acres of land, which included 53 bird sanctuaries. Thanks to these efforts, several animal species were protected.
- Question 5: Which national monument features Theodore Roosevelt’s face?
 - Answer: Mount Rushmore
 - Located near Keystone, South Dakota, this monument was constructed between 1927 and 1941 by Gutzon Borglum and his son Lincoln. It features the faces of the first President George Washington, the 3rd President Thomas Jefferson, the 16th President Abraham Lincoln, and the 26th President Theodore Roosevelt.
- Question 6: In which war did President Roosevelt fight in?
 - Answer: The Spanish-American War
 - Before the war, Roosevelt was acting as the Secretary of the Navy. He promptly resigned his position upon the declaration of war and led a Calvary group called the Rough Riders though Spanish-held Cuba.
- Question 7: Roosevelt took a famous trip through which continent to gather animals for the Smithsonian Museum?
 - Answer: Africa
 - The Smithsonian-Roosevelt expedition was conducted after Roosevelt left office. The purpose of the trip was to take animals and present their taxidermy in the Smithsonian Museum. This caused Americans’ awareness and fondness for African animals to increase, promoting conservation of those animals.
- Question 8: Roosevelt won a Nobel Peace Prize for bringing peace to which two warring countries?
 - Answer: Japan & Russia
 - The Russo-Japanese War started in 1904 over disagreements in northern China. Both empires wanted to extend their influence over the area. While Russia was a much more powerful nation, Japanese soldiers fought harder, leading to their victory. Peace talks were mediated by President Roosevelt. Both Japanese

officials and Russian officials met in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and signed the Treaty of Portsmouth in 1905. President Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation efforts in 1906.

- Question 9: Which conservation club did Roosevelt found in 1887?
 - Answer: Boone & Crockett Club
 - Before the founding of the Boone & Crockett Club, there was an overwhelming amount of wasteful hunting in the United States. The club promoted fair hunting practices in support of habitat conservation. Boone & Crockett also created a scoring and data collection system by which native North American big game animals are measured and tracked. Roosevelt, along with other conservationists, founded the club in 1887 and still exists today.
- Question 10: Thanks to conservationists like Roosevelt, which animal species made a comeback from the brink of extinction?
 - Answer: All of the above
 - Thanks to conservation efforts, the American bison, bighorn sheep, and white-tailed deer populations have recovered from the brink of extinction. Before conservation efforts of the late 19th and 20th centuries, all three animal species were close to extermination on the North American continent. Due to better hunting practices and government regulations, their populations have rebounded. Bison have gone from 300 individuals in the late 19th Century to around 500,000 in public and private herds. Bighorn sheep populations dwindled to under 8,000 individuals in the early 20th century. Conservation efforts led by President Roosevelt helped revive the species and they are now listed as “Least Concern.” White-tailed deer made a tremendous come back in the United States after states tightened their hunting laws in the late 19th Century.

Additional Resources for Further Reading:

On Theodore Roosevelt:

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/theodore-roosevelt/>
- <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1906/roosevelt/biographical/>