



Presidents' Day

Using the News



The following activities correlate to the Florida Standards for grades high school students. Social Studies: SS.3.A.1.1; SS.3.A.1.2; SS.3.C.3.1; SS.5.A.1.1; SS.5.A.1.2; SS.6.W.1.3; SS.7.C.2.13; SS.7.C.4.1; SS.8.A.1.1; SS.8.A.1.2; SS.8.A.1.3; SS.8.A.1.4; SS.8.A.1.5; SS.8.A.1.6; SS.8.A.3.12; SS.8.A.3.3; SS.8.A.4.8; SS.8.A.5.3; SS.912.A.1.2; SS.912.A.1.3; SS.912.A.1.4; SS.912.A.1.5; SS.912.A.1.6; SS.912.A.7.3; SS.912.A.7.4
Language Arts: LAFS.35.RI.1.1; LAFS.35.RI.1.2; LAFS.35.RI.1.3; LAFS.35.RI.2.4; LAFS.35.RI.2.5; LAFS.35.RI.2.6; LAFS.35.RI.3.7; LAFS.35.SL.1.1; LAFS.35.SL.1.2; LAFS.35.SL.1.3; LAFS.35.SL.2.4; LAFS.35.SL.2.5; LAFS.35.SL.2.6; LAFS.35.W.1.1; LAFS.35.W.1.2; LAFS.35.W.1.3; LAFS.35.W.2.4; LAFS.35.W.2.5; LAFS.35.W.2.6; LAFS.35.W.3.7; LAFS.35.W.3.8; LAFS.68.RI.1.1; LAFS.68.RI.1.2; LAFS.68.RI.1.3; LAFS.68.RI.2.4; LAFS.68.RI.2.5; LAFS.68.RI.2.6; LAFS.68.RI.3.7; LAFS.68.SL.1.1; LAFS.68.SL.1.2; LAFS.68.SL.1.3; LAFS.68.SL.2.4; LAFS.68.SL.2.5; LAFS.68.SL.2.6; LAFS.68.W.1.1; LAFS.68.W.1.2; LAFS.68.W.1.3; LAFS.68.W.2.4; LAFS.68.W.2.5; LAFS.68.W.2.6; LAFS.68.W.3.7; LAFS.68.W.3.8; LAFS.912.RI.1.1; LAFS.912.RI.1.2; LAFS.912.RI.1.3; LAFS.912.RI.2.4; LAFS.912.RI.2.5; LAFS.912.RI.2.6; LAFS.912.RI.3.7; LAFS.912.SL.1.1; LAFS.912.SL.1.2; LAFS.912.SL.1.3; LAFS.912.SL.2.4; LAFS.912.SL.2.5; LAFS.912.SL.2.6; LAFS.912.W.1.1; LAFS.912.W.1.2; LAFS.912.W.1.3; LAFS.912.W.2.4; LAFS.912.W.2.5; LAFS.912.W.2.6; LAFS.912.W.3.7; LAFS.912.W.3.8



Although Presidents' Day officially celebrates George Washington's birthday, the day also is used to recognize and celebrate all United States presidents. According to Teach Hub.com, there are 12 top Presidents of the U.S. who have influenced the education system. Go to [teachhub.com/top-12-presidents-influence-education](https://www.teachhub.com/top-12-presidents-influence-education) and look up who these 12 leaders are. Choose one of these 12 presidents and do some research about who this person is and what he did to influence education. Using the articles in your newspaper as models, write a newspaper article about this president and what he has done for education. Be sure to cover the basic who, what, why, where and how questions. Present what you have learned to your class.



Presidents' Day is a popular holiday for sales. Select two ads from your newspaper that refer to Presidents' Day. One ad should be an example of what you think is an effective ad. The other ad should be one that you think is not so effective. Answer the following questions about each advertisement.

1. What is the ad trying to sell?
2. What type of symbols or words are used to make a connection between the product/service and Presidents' Day?
3. Explain why you think this ad is effective or ineffective.



The office of the U.S. President is the most powerful elective office in the world, partly because the President of the U.S. is the leader of the world's most productive nation, but also because he has many roles. He serves as chief executive, commander-in-chief, chief diplomat, chief lawmaker, and chief of state. Research more each of these roles. What are the many jobs of the President of the United States. Write down each role and what each role entails. Using the classified ads from your newspaper as models, write a Help Wanted display ad for President of the United States.



When Donald Trump took office in January 2017, the *New York Times* published an article focused on memorable inaugural speeches of five former United States Presidents: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. Read this article at the following [New York Times website](#). Compare the points made in these articles to the main points made in Donald Trump's inaugural speech, on the [White House website](#). Are there similarities between Trump's speech and any of the other presidents' speeches? What are the similarities and differences? Create a chart comparing the speeches. Using the editorials and columns in your newspaper as models, write an editorial comparing two or three of these speeches.



Research the history of Presidents' Day and its significance. Why do we celebrate this holiday? What is its significance? What is the purpose of the holiday? Write a news story about Presidents' Day for your school newspaper or your newspaper. Are there significant Presidents' Day events taking place? Use the articles in the newspaper as models for your article. Be sure you include all the basic information in your article: who, what, where, when, why and how. Share what you have learned with your classmates.



Although a woman has never been elected president, nothing in the U.S. Constitution prevents women from serving in this capacity. In the history of the United States, there have been women who have run for president and vice president. Write a blog post about why you think a woman has never been president. What do you think the causes of a woman not being president are? Next, search your newspaper for prominent women in America. Who do you think would make a good woman president? Write a short essay explaining your choice (s).



George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are both significant presidents of the United States because of the changes that were happening at the time of their leadership. However, every president faces challenges. Research George Washington or Abraham Lincoln's presidency. List the challenges that either man faced at the time of his presidency. Discuss what you have learned with your class.

Now that you understand what challenges these two men faced, it is your turn. Imagine that you've just been elected president. Use stories and editorials from your newspaper to understand the issues that you'll need to address as president. You may also want to search online for recent inaugural speeches. Now write your own inaugural speech detailing what the issues are and what you plan to do about them. Give your speech to your class.

Activities written by Jodi Pushkin, Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education

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