

**Grades: 9-12**

**The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, "Part 4: The Storm"**

The lives of the three great Roosevelts -- Teddy, Franklin and Eleanor -- are captured in this series. Ken Burns and producer, Paul Barnes describe the lives and times of these three American icons who influenced 20th century American history more than perhaps any other family. Through wars, revolutions, depressions, movements, the three led the country through what was called America's century. At times they had little in common but for one thing they always had in common . . . their ability, desire and conviction to lead.

Franklin Roosevelt runs for vice president in 1920 and seems assured of a still brighter future until polio devastates him the following summer. He spends seven years struggling without success to walk again, while Eleanor builds a personal and political life of her own. FDR returns to politics in 1928 and, as governor of New York, acts with such vigor and imagination during the first years of the Great Depression that the Democrats turn to him as their presidential nominee in 1932. He survives an attempted assassination as president-elect and at his inauguration tells his frightened countrymen the only thing they have to fear is "fear itself."

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

**Question Box 1**

- Why does Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) decide to run for vice president?
- How does Franklin contract Polio?
- What effect does Polio have on Franklin?
- How does Eleanor build a personal and political life of her own?
- In what role did FDR return to politics in 1928?
- Why do Democrats turn to FDR as their presidential nominee in 1932?
- Who tries to assassinate FDR? What was the motivation?
- At his inauguration FDR tells his frightened countrymen the only thing they have to fear is "fear itself." What events inspired FDR to say these words?

**Question Box 2**

- How did FDR's disability help those who also had disabilities?

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- How can the words, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself " be applied to the nation today?
- How does one stay strong when faced with adversity?
- What is the most important thing you learned personally?
- What were some of the most interesting discoveries you made while watching this program?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- In 1920, Franklin D. Roosevelt ran on the Democratic ticket for Vice President. He and James Cox won votes only in the southern states. They were defeated by Warren Harding. This gave him exposure to help him win the presidency in 1932. Use mathematics to justify such a poor result in 1920 to presidency in 1932.
- The Temporary Emergency Relief Administration that Roosevelt enacted for the state of New York, started with \$20 million for the unemployed first in direct relief then work relief by creating jobs. There were 5,620,048 people in New York in 1920 and a 10% unemployment rate. Use mathematics to justify the need for more money in the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration.
- In 1932, Roosevelt won 57% of the popular vote and won all but 6 states in the electoral vote. Compare his results from 1920 to 1932 and use mathematics in the comparison of both campaigns and their results.
- Research the Teapot Dome Scandal. What happened? How does it compare to any of the Trump scandals?

### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Polio had stricken FDR's life and initially was misunderstood by him and his early doctors. How did FDR's and his doctors' views on Polio change over the course of his life. Compare that to your views as they've changed on COVID 19 and its impact on your life.
- FDR hid the seriousness of his condition from the public in the hopes of returning to public life. Speak with someone who's had an ongoing medical condition. How did they feel when they first learned of their condition? How did they cope? How has their view on their condition changed? How is it similar to FDR's?

### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Research with evidence how many active glaciers are left in the Continental United States.
- Would you consider a career in water? To learn more about modern day water treatment and career opportunities click this link:  
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/bhtrApJdL2l8/>