

Grades: 9-12

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, "Pt 1 Get Action"

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.

In part one, a frail, asthmatic young Theodore Roosevelt transforms himself into a vigorous champion of the strenuous life, loses one great love and finds another, leads men into battle and then rises like a rocket to become the youngest president in American history at 42. Meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, brought up as the pampered only child of adoring parents, follows his older cousin's career with worshipful fascination and begins to think he might one day follow in his footsteps.

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

Question Box 1

- What is the central idea? How is the central idea developed?
- Cite evidence from the TV Show to support your determination of the central idea.
- Provide an objective summary of the program.
- What interaction influenced future events? Provide evidence.
- Who are the three great Roosevelts addressed in this program? What were their accomplishments?
- Why are these Roosevelts seen as icons?
- What were each of their influences on 20th Century American history?
- What role did wars, revolutions, depressions, and movements play in each of their three lives?
- Why was the 20th century called "America's Century"?
- How is young Theodore Roosevelt portrayed in the program? How did his frail youth play a role in his leadership as an adult?
- Describe the events that lead to Theodore Roosevelt's ascension into America's highest office.

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- What impact did Theodore Roosevelt's career have on his younger cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

Question Box 2

- What's the most important thing you learned from the TV show? Why do you think so?
- What do you want to learn more about this topic, and why?
- What in the program made you curious? Explain.
- What did you learn from the program?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Teddy Roosevelt was the youngest president and also considered one of the five most influential presidents: Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt and Teddy Roosevelt. Is there a correlation between age and accomplishments? Use mathematics in your reasoning about direct correlation.
- In 1902, while out hunting, Teddy refused to shoot a bear cub, and stuffed bears called, "Teddy's Bear" were created. Describe using mathematics, what the "teddy bear" has done for the toy industry.
- Create a Double Bubble map comparing and contrasting any two of the three Roosevelts in this program (Theodore, Eleanor and Franklin).

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Look at Teddy Roosevelt's rise to political office. Compare it with Barack Obama's, Donald Trumps or another president of your choosing. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Look at Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, then look at the coalition of Democrats that FDR puts together to win the presidency. How are these groups similar and different? And how do each of the Roosevelt's find a way to weave connections among seemingly disparate groups of people? What qualities does it take, and how might you continue to develop those qualities in yourself?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Reflect on this episode and consider Teddy Roosevelt's accomplishments. Select one or two and describe how they still impact modern day Americans. If this is difficult, perhaps imagine if he had not accomplished the one or two you selected and how life would be different for modern day Americans.
- Despite suffering with health issues, Teddy Roosevelt persevered and was a strong leader. He often had to make very difficult decisions. Write in your journal about a time you persevered through a difficult situation. What were the skills you used in order to persevere? How do you use problem-solving skills to work through difficult situations?