

Grades: 9-12

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, “Part 2: In the Arena”

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 two, murder brings Theodore Roosevelt to the presidency, but in the seven years that follow, he transforms the office and makes himself perhaps the best-loved of all the men who ever lived in the White House - battling corporate greed and building the Panama Canal, preserving American wilderness, carrying the message of American might around the world. FDR courts and weds Eleanor Roosevelt, the shy orphaned daughter of Theodore's alcoholic brother, Elliott. Together, they begin a family. Franklin enters a law firm, but when he is offered a chance to run for the New York state senate, he jumps at the chance.

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

Question Box 1

- What evidence does the TV show director give to support his or her central idea?
- What is this program “saying”? Cite evidence to support your analysis.
- Which details support the key idea? Look for the who? What? When? Where? Why? How much? How many?
- What is the central message in this program? Explain?
- Like a good mystery, murder brings Theodore Roosevelt to the presidency. What events lead to Theodore's presidency?
- How did Roosevelt transform the office of the president?
- How did Theodore Roosevelt make himself perhaps “the best-loved of all the men who ever lived in the White House”?
- How did Theodore battle corporate greed?
- What significance did the building of the Panama Canal play in the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt?
- How did preserving American wilderness carry the message of American might around the world?
- What events compel Franklin Roosevelt to run for the New York state senate?

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Question Box 2

- How would you have responded to a situation from the video differently than the historical figures?
- What was one section of the video that stood out for you and why?
- What about the show stood out to you?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How different would the world have been had these three Roosevelts not influenced the American way of life?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- The land area of the contiguous 48 states is approximately 1.9 billion acres. Teddy Roosevelt set aside 200 million acres for national forests, reserves and wildlife refuges which was 5 times the amount his predecessors set aside combined. Use mathematics to justify the creation and preservation of these areas.
- Teddy Roosevelt claims that the Panama Canal was his greatest accomplishment as president. Justify or refute his claim using mathematics in your reasoning.
- Teddy Roosevelt had a reputation as a “trust buster”. How could trust, or large industrial combinations threaten trade? Use mathematics to justify your reasoning.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>

- Use the map to find a national park. Once you have selected the park you want to research use the drop down to “Learn about the Part” and “Plan your Visit”. Tell about the history of the park, and key sites to observe. Why is this someplace you would like to visit?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- How did Eleanor use personal limitations or adverse situations to achieve her personal, academic and career goals?
- Complete the following online assessments and discuss your results and with family and friends:
 1. Emotional Intelligence - <https://www.ihhp.com/free-eg-quiz/>
 2. Leadership Style - <https://eml.usc.edu/leadership-style-quiz?hsCtaTrackin=ada7da44-4cd4-4e85-bbd9-23e37e665f65%7Ca0dc2722-0ed6-499e-8c0b-5348278633c2>
 3. Personality Types - <https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test>
 4. Performing Under Pressure - <https://www.ihhp.com/free-performing-under-pressure-quiz>
- How do you think Eleanor would have scored on these quizzes?
- Despite being shy, Eleanor Roosevelt achieved many personal and professional goals. Having a growth mindset can help you have confidence in your abilities to succeed. How can you develop a growth mindset? List in your journal all the positive ways you can encourage yourself to be confident in the things you do and try to do.

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