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● **Lesson Plans Library** 6-12 > U.S. History

Presidential Speeches

Grade Level	6-8, 9-12
Subject Area	U.S. history
Curriculum Focus	civics, language arts, art
Duration	1 hour each
Objective	

Students will listen to and analyze a presidential speech in order to understand the principles held by the president and the historical context in which the speech was made; prepare and hold a campaign and reelection simulation involving the featured presidents to compare leadership qualities; research and collect historical information surrounding each featured president and play a trivia game based on this information.

Motivation

Step back in time and hear some of the most memorable presidential speeches of the postwar era. The six Presidential Media Pages below provide links to the past.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)
[John F. Kennedy](#)
[Lyndon B. Johnson](#)
[Ronald Reagan](#)
[Richard M. Nixon](#)
[Jimmy Carter](#)

These audio files can be experienced by downloading an .aiff file (slowest method) or using RealAudio or RealPlayer plug-ins (both featuring streamed audio for real time playback). The RealPlayer plug-in is free to download. They can be


<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/activities/presidentialspeeches/>

★ *Related Materials*

What is a Living Thing? DVD

Product Type: DVD
Price: 69.95

Learn all about the characteristics that scientists employ to group all plants and animals.





found at [RealPlayer](#).

For your convenience, the download times are provided for each speech. After listening to these speeches, try some of the related activities.

Procedure

Try the following activities:

1. [A Few Choice Words](#)
Discover the meaning behind the words of the presidents by taking a closer look at these speeches.
2. [Reelection Simulation](#)
How different would things be if we reelected one of our past presidents? Judge for yourself.
3. [Presidential Scavenger Hunt](#)
Uncover some interesting facts about the presidents and the times in which they lived.

Image Credit:

[Special Collections Library](#)

Duke University

Developing an understanding of human experience and culture requires access to historical documentation in many forms and subject areas. The Special Collections Library at Duke University preserves such documentation and promotes its use. While the library's holdings are developed in relation to instructional and research interests in the University, they are available for use by visiting scholars and the general public as well as Duke faculty and students.

Credits

Jay Lamb and Sandy Lamb, Secondary history and social studies teachers at Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, VA.

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