

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENT PROMPTS

POSTER PROJECT

Ask students what they would change if they could redesign the poster. Pose questions such as: What images of Roosevelt would you choose? What programs or legislation passed during Roosevelt's administration would you represent? What images or primary sources would you choose to reflect the issues?

Divide students into teams and have each team develop a new poster on Roosevelt to be included in the *President's Vision* series. Use the class textbook, the *President's Vision* website, and other outside sources to find images and primary sources to create the new poster.

The following list contains additional issues not addressed in the poster. As an alternative assignment, you might provide the students with this list and have them construct arguments to support substituting one of them for an issue addressed on the poster.

- Critics of the New Deal on the left and the right
- Roosevelt's battle with polio
- The New Deal coalition
- Roosevelt's plan to "pack" the Supreme Court

DEBATE

Divide the class into two groups and have opposing sides develop arguments for a debate over the following statement:

"President Roosevelt's vision successfully transformed the nation and addressed the country's most pressing problems."

One side should research and argue the affirmative. The other side should research and argue the negative. In addition to the primary sources and items on the poster, students should use the class textbook, the *President's Vision* website, and other outside resources to prepare their arguments.

CURATING A MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Divide class into groups of four to five students. Have each group prepare a museum exhibition using the primary sources available on the *President's Vision* website and on the poster.

The exhibition should focus on Roosevelt's time in office. It should examine the ways in which his ideas and values influenced the nation's development. By using selected quotes from his speeches and selecting images from the *President's Vision* website, the exhibition should explain how events that occurred during Roosevelt's time in office contributed to his vision. Students should use their textbooks and other outside sources to find examples that illustrate points made in the primary sources and images.

For related educational resources, visit www.presidentsvision.org



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COMPARING AND CONTRASTING WITH OTHER POSTERS IN THE SERIES

Have students compare and contrast the Franklin D. Roosevelt poster with other posters in the *President's Vision* series. Address these questions either in discussion or as an individual or group assignment:

- Which other presidential vision do you feel most closely aligns with Roosevelt's? Explain.
- Which other presidential vision do you feel is the most different from Roosevelt's? Explain. What factors might account for the difference?
- Looking at the images on the Roosevelt poster, do you find any images with similar or contrasting themes on other posters?
- Using one Roosevelt image of your choice, identify a similar image on a different poster. Explain what the images have in common in terms of their appearance and/or message.
- Using one Roosevelt image of your choice, identify a contrasting image on a different poster. Explain what differences exist in their appearance and/or message.

ASSIGNMENT PROMPTS

- Using the images and text on the Roosevelt poster and the additional primary source documents on the *President's Vision* website, write a short essay explaining Roosevelt's presidential vision and how it sought to address the problems the nation faced when he became president. To what extent did he achieve his vision? To what extent did he fall short?
- Consider Roosevelt's personal history as well as the decades during which he grew up and established his political career. Name at least three personal and/or societal factors that shaped the development of his presidential vision. Explain your answer.
- Using your textbook or reliable print and online resources, find additional images of President Roosevelt. Compare the images you find with the images featured on the poster. What new or different information do these images reveal about Roosevelt?
- Identify an issue or an event significant to Roosevelt's presidency that you feel should have been addressed in the poster but is not. Why should this issue or event have been included on a poster addressing Roosevelt's presidential vision? Using your textbook and other reliable print and online resources, find an image that best represents this particular issue or event. Provide a brief description of the image and explain why you chose this particular image.
- Using your textbook and other reliable print and online resources, identify another quotation from Roosevelt that you feel best represents his presidential vision. Explain your choice. To what extent did President Roosevelt fundamentally change Americans' understanding of the role of the federal government?
- Read "The New Deal, Then and Now" by Alan Brinkley at http://www.historynow.org/03_2009/historian5.html. Pinpoint the reasons Brinkley identifies for the recession of 1937–38. Make a list of these reasons to use in class discussion. What political realities and assumptions hindered Roosevelt's ability to avoid these mistakes?
- Consider the role of communications technology during Roosevelt's administration. Research and write an essay on the role photography played in establishing the impact of the Depression, or the role that radio played in Roosevelt's effectiveness as a president.

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