

Lesson Plan for United States Presidents and their Wars Timeline

Introduction: In this activity, students will learn when the major wars that the United States was part of took place and who was in charge when they occurred.

Standards:

16.A.3a Describe how historians use models for organizing historical interpretation (e.g., biographies, political events, issues and conflicts).

16.A.3b Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources.

16.A.3c Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation.

16.A.4a Analyze and report historical events to determine cause-and-effect relationships.

16.A.4b Compare competing historical interpretations of an event.

16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

16.B.4b (W) Identify political ideas from the early modern historical era to the present which have had worldwide impact (e.g., nationalism/Sun Yat-Sen, non-violence/Ghandi, independence/Kenyatta).

16.B.5a (US) Describe how modern political positions are affected by differences in ideologies and viewpoints that have developed over time (e.g., political parties' positions on government intervention in the economy).

16.B.5b (US) Analyze how United States political history has been influenced by the nation's economic, social and environmental history.

16.D.4b (US) Describe unintended social consequences of political events in United States history (e.g., Civil War/emancipation, National Defense Highway Act/decline of inner cities, Vietnam War/anti-government activity).

16.D.5 (US) Analyze the relationship between an issue in United States social history and the related aspects of political, economic and environmental history.

Objectives:

Learn when the major wars the United States was part of took place.

Learn who was president when those wars took place.

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In the classroom:

Provide the students with copies of the attached worksheets.

Have the students create a timeline from 1700 to Present, with every ten years marked. Above this timeline have them mark the beginning and end dates of the wars listed and below the timeline have them mark the beginning and end dates of the terms of the presidents listed on the worksheets. In addition, have the presidents be color-coded on the timeline by the party they were members of: Democrat in blue, Republican in Red, Democratic-Republican in purple.

At the library:

Have students research the wars and presidents in order to create the timeline.

Resources available at the Pritzker Military Library:

(Also available through interlibrary loan at your local library after your visit.

Additional resources are available at the Library in the E section on the 1st floor.)

Bradford, James C. *Crucible of empire : the Spanish-American War & its aftermath*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1993. Call Number: E715.C78 1993.

Borneman, Walter R., 1952-. *1812 : the war that forged a nation*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. Call Number: E354.B66 2004.

Flood, Charles Bracelen. *Grant and Sherman : the friendship that won the Civil War*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Call Number: E467 .F557 2005.

DeGregorio, William A., 1946-. *The complete book of U.S. presidents*. New York: Dembner Books, 1984. Call Number: E176.1 .D43 1984.

Lengel, Edward G. *General George Washington: a military life*. New York: Random House, 2005. Call Number: E312 .L46 2005.

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United States Presidents and Their Wars Timeline

Name _____

Date _____

Create a timeline from 1700 to Present, with every ten years marked. Research the date that each of these listed wars began and ended. Mark those dates below the timeline. Then find who the president(s) was/were at the time of each war and place the dates they began and ended their terms above the timeline. Also, place the dates the first President of the United States began and ended his term above the timeline. Last, have the presidents be color-coded on the timeline by the party they were members of: Democrat in blue, Republican in Red, Democratic-Republican in purple. Our first President had no political party.

After you have finished the timeline, answer these questions:
Which president was involved in the most wars from this list?
Which party had the most presidents involved in wars from this list?
Who was the first president involved in a United States war?
What is the war from this list lasted the longest?

- *American Civil War
- *American Revolutionary War
- *Boxer Rebellion
- *First Barbary War (also known as the Barbary Coast War or the Tripolitan War)
- *Global War on Terror (Iraq War II and Afghanistan)
- *Gulf War (Iraq War I)
- *Korean War
- *Mexican-American War
- *Philippine-American War
- *Second Barbary War (also known as the Algerine or Algerian War)
- *Spanish-American War
- *Vietnam War
- *War of 1812
- *World War I
- *World War II

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United States Presidents and Their Wars Timeline Answers

Key: War = Beginning date to End Date + President during the event

- *American Civil War = 1861 to 1865 + Abraham Lincoln
- *American Revolutionary War = 1775 to 1783 + George Washington was not president during the war, but he was Commander in Chief.
- *Boxer Rebellion = 1899 to 1901 + William McKinley
- *First Barbary War (also known as the Barbary Coast War or the Tripolitan War) = 1801 to 1805 + Thomas Jefferson
- *Global War on Terror (Iraq War II and Afghanistan) = 2003 to Present + George W. Bush
- *Gulf War (Iraq War I) = 1990 to 1991 + George H. W. Bush
- *Korean War = 1950 to 1953 + Harry S. Truman
- *Mexican-American War = 1846 to 1848 + James Knox Polk
- *Philippine-American War = 1899 to 1913 + William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft
- *Second Barbary War (also known as the Algerine or Algerian War) = 1815 to 1815 + James Madison
- *Spanish-American War = 1898 to 1898 + William McKinley
- *Vietnam War = 1951 to 1975 + Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford
- *War of 1812 = 1812 to 1815 + James Madison
- *World War I = 1914 to 1918 + Woodrow Wilson
- *World War II = 1939 to 1945 + Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Key: President = Began term to End of term = Political Party

Abraham Lincoln = 1861 to 1865 = Republican
Dwight D. Eisenhower = 1953 to 1961 = Republican
Franklin Delano Roosevelt = 1933 to 1945 = Democrat
George H. W. Bush = 1989 to 1993 = Republican
George W. Bush = 2001 to Present = Republican
George Washington = 1789-1797 = none
Gerald Ford = 1974 to 1977 = Republican
Harry S. Truman = 1945 to 1953 = Democrat
James Knox Polk = 1845 to 1849 = Democrat
James Madison = 1809 to 1817 = Democratic-Republican
John F. Kennedy = 1961 to 1963 = Democrat
Lyndon B. Johnson = 1963 to 1969 = Democrat
Richard Nixon = 1969 to 1974 = Republican
Theodore Roosevelt = 1901 to 1909 = Republican
Thomas Jefferson = 1801 to 1809 = Democratic-Republican
William Howard Taft = 1909 to 1912 = Republican
William McKinley = 1897 to 1901 = Republican

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Woodrow Wilson = 1913 to 1921 = Democrat

Which president was involved in the most wars from this list?

Answer: William McKinley

Which party had the most presidents involved in wars from this list?

Answer: Republican

Who was the first president involved in a United States war?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson. George Washington was not President at the time he was involved in the Revolutionary War.

What is the longest war on this list?

Answer: Vietnam War

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