

# #12126

## FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA/QUESTAR, 2003  
Grade Level: 3–8  
10 Minutes



### CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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- [#12120 ABRAHAM LINCOLN](#)
- [#12121 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: MAKING A DIFFERENCE](#)
- [#12122 CARTER, REAGAN, & G.H. BUSH](#)
- [#12123 CLEVELAND, MCKINLEY, & THEODORE ROOSEVELT](#)
- [#12124 CLINTON & G.W. BUSH](#)
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- [#12127 GARFIELD, ARTHUR, CLEVELAND, & B. HARRISON](#)
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- [#12131 L.B. JOHNSON, NIXON, & FORD](#)
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- [#12133 TAFT, WILSON, HARDING, COOLIDGE, & HOOVER](#)
- [#12134 THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S PRESIDENCY](#)
- [#12135 TRUMAN, EISENHOWER, & KENNEDY](#)
- [#12136 W. H. HARRISON, TYLER, POLK, & TAYLOR](#)

## **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

### **Our Presidents in America's History Series**

**Subject Area:** Social Studies, US History

**Synopsis:** Contrasting his famous speeches against fear with the crises of the Great Depression and his own crippling polio, we experience how this great President's character, and that of his wife Eleanor, affected his era through WWII. Moving documentary footage, crisply edited, creates an experience of history both sweeping and personal.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Objective 1)** Students should be able to discuss the Great Depression and the steps taken by Roosevelt to remedy it during the first 100 days of his presidency.
- Objective 2)** Students should be able to analyze the method used by President Roosevelt to keep the American public informed, as well its impact on the American people.
- Objective 3)** Students should be able to detail America's role in World War II before and after Pearl Harbor.
- Objective 4)** Students should be able to compare the responsibilities of women in America before and during World War II.
- Objective 5)** Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of Eleanor Roosevelt's impact as First Lady, and discuss the roles of other first ladies.

**Pre-viewing Discussion or Activities:**

- 1) Define invalid, Prohibition, parched, privileged, stricken, and destitute.
- 2) Locate Europe, England, Russia, Japan, Italy, and Germany, northern Africa and Pearl Harbor on a map. Point out the countries that were the Allies and those that were the Axis.
- 3) Discuss the Great Depression, polio then and now, the power of public speaking, and the concept of appeals or "rallying calls." Have students brainstorm and give examples of "rallying calls" throughout history as well as the meaning and reason for each. Instruct students to listen for Roosevelt's memorable rallying calls and stirring words.

**Post-Viewing Discussion:**

- 1) During the first 100 days of his term, President Roosevelt took bold and creative measures to change the depressed economic situation in the United States. What were some of these daring acts? How did these changes help to improve the economy? How did they affect the American spirit? What were the stirring words used by FDR to give courage to Americans and restore their faith in America?

- 2) President Roosevelt felt strongly about speaking “personally” and on a regular basis directly to the American people in order to keep them well informed. How did he accomplish this? Why do you think this was so important to FDR as well as the American people? How does our current president keep the public informed?
- 3) How did the United States first respond to the war in Europe? What act of aggression caused President Roosevelt to declare war on Japan and bring America into World War II? What were the famous words he spoke telling the American people that we were entering the War?
- 4) How did the traditional role of women change during World War II?
- 5) Why was Eleanor Roosevelt’s role as First Lady so important to FDR? What impact did she have on the American people? How did her actions affect the role of women in America, especially during World War II? In what ways have other first ladies been influential? What role does our current First Lady play in the American political scene?

**Additional Activities:**

- 1) In 1921, Franklin Roosevelt became ill with infantile paralysis (polio). He was never able to walk again. Cast yourself in the role of FDR. You want to run for president, but you know that the American people are unlikely to elect a disabled person to the highest office in the land. Would you—as Roosevelt did—attempt to hide your disability, never allowing yourself to be photographed in a wheelchair? Or would you be open about your paralyzed condition, hoping to teach the American people that your inability to walk won’t stop you from becoming a great president?

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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