

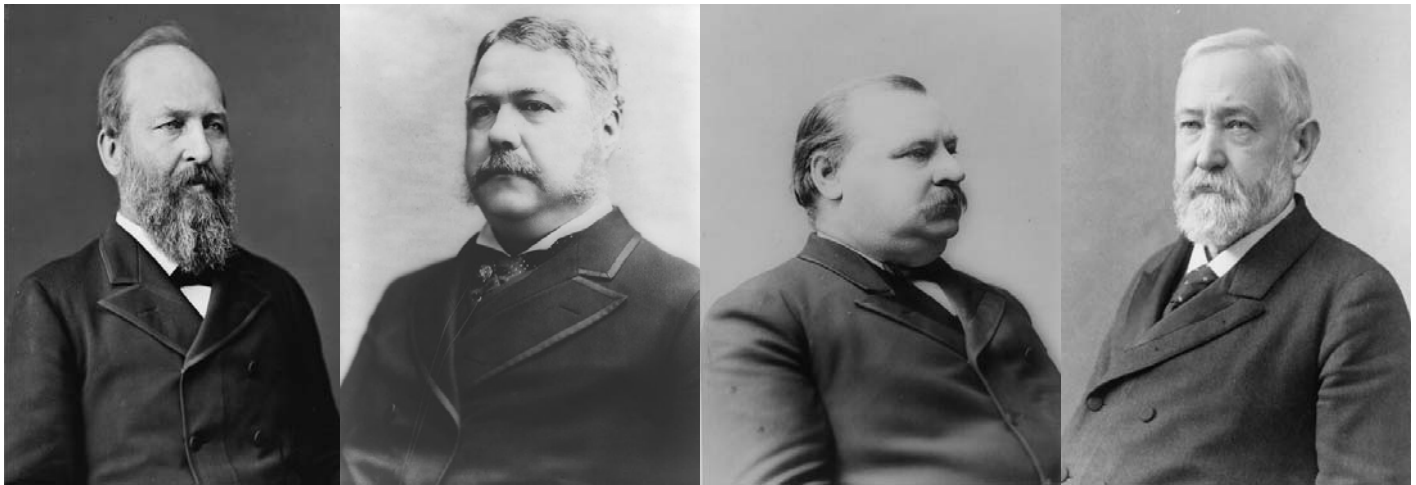
#12127

GARFIELD, ARTHUR, CLEVELAND, & B. HARRISON

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA/QUESTAR, 2003

Grade Level: 3–8

12 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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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](#)

Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland & Harrison **Our Presidents in America's History Series**

Subject Area: Social Studies, U.S. History

Synopsis: Highlights the Presidencies of James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland, and Benjamin Harrison. Discusses the assassination of James Garfield, reforms made by Chester Arthur, the social issues that dominated Grover Cleveland's term in office, and the economic and foreign relations policies of Benjamin Harrison's administration.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to review James Garfield's presidency and assassination.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to discuss reforms made by Chester Arthur, including the Pendleton Act.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to identify the social issues that dominated Grover Cleveland's presidency, including industrial expansion, immigration, and poor labor conditions.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to review Benjamin Harrison's presidency, including his activist foreign policy, the Silver Purchase Act, and the McKinley Tariff.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to describe how Native Americans were impacted by westward expansion.

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) On a map, point out lands held by Native Americans at the beginning of the Garfield Presidency. Point out which of these lands had been lost by the end of Harrison's Presidency.
- 2) Vocabulary: compromise candidate, mandate, presidential appointments, deranged, assassination, vigil, spoils system, corruption, reform, merit selection, clean government, outlandish, pilloried, industrial expansion, immigration, ghettos, electoral college, homesteaders, frontier, tariff, foreign policy, statesman

Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) What issues consumed James Garfield's time in office? Who assassinated Garfield? Why?
- 2) In what ways did Chester Arthur exceed everyone's expectations as a president? What acts of reform did he pass? Why didn't he seek a second term?
- 3) What was the Pendleton Act? How did the Pendleton Act affect the selection of government employees?

- 4) Describe the 1884 Presidential election. What personal issues were raised about the candidates? Would these issues discourage you from voting for either of these candidates?
- 5) What issues demanded Cleveland's attention while in office? What reforms did he make?
- 6) What opportunities were available to immigrants in the United States? What challenges did they face?
- 7) How did Benjamin Harrison win the Presidential election? How does the Electoral College work? Is the Electoral College necessary?
- 8) What actions did Harrison take in office? Describe his financial policies. What was Harrison's vision for the Navy? Why did he think a 2-ocean Navy was necessary?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Discuss how Native Americans' lives changed during this period in American history. Include American encroachment on Indian lands, the Sioux wars, and Wounded Knee. Have students write letters to Benjamin Harrison regarding the treatment of Native Americans.
- 2) Discuss political campaigns: why campaigns are necessary, mediums used by politicians to gain votes, tactics commonly used, etc. If possible, bring some campaign posters or television advertisements from local elections to class. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5 students each. Each group must create campaign slogans and posters for either Grover Cleveland or James G. Blaine. Display students' work and have a class discussion about effective campaign slogans and advertisements.

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