

#12131

L.B. JOHNSON, NIXON, & FORD

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



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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L.B. Johnson, Nixon & Ford **Our Presidents in America's History Series**

Subject Area: Social Studies, U.S. History

Synopsis: Chronicles the presidencies of Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford. Discusses Lyndon B. Johnson's commitment to civil rights and other domestic issues; the Vietnam War; anti-war demonstrations; the Watergate scandal; and expanding relations with the Soviet Union.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the social issues in the United States during the Johnson presidency, including discrimination, cultural upheaval, and strong anti-war sentiments from many Americans.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to review the events of the Watergate Scandal, which led to Richard Nixon's resignation.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to discuss the expansion of US relations with China and the Soviet Union following the Vietnam War.

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Explore students' knowledge of the Vietnam War. Why was Vietnam at war? Why did the United States become involved?
- 2) Vocabulary: civil rights, anti-war demonstrations, upheaval, assassination, mayhem, nuclear arms, communism, Watergate, pardon, evacuate, foreign relations, bicentennial

Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) How did Lyndon B. Johnson's programs differ from John F. Kennedy's? To what domestic issues did Johnson devote his energies?
- 2) Why did the United States become involved in the Vietnam War? How many Americans were fighting in Vietnam by 1968? (1/2 million) Why were many Americans opposed to the war? How do you think television coverage of the Vietnam War affected public opinions of the war? Under what circumstances do you think the United States should become involved in conflicts in foreign countries?
- 3) What kinds of setbacks did Richard Nixon encounter on the way to the Presidency?
- 4) Explain the Watergate Affair. Why did members of Nixon's reelection team burglarize the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate building? How did Nixon first respond to the affair? Why did he eventually resign?
- 5) What challenges did Gerald Ford face when he took office? Why do you think Ford pardoned Richard Nixon? Was this a good decision?

- 6) After the Vietnam War, what steps did Gerald Ford take to improve relations with the Soviet Union?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Bring some political cartoons to class for students to see. Hold a class discussion about political cartoons and their purposes. Have students draw a political cartoon about one of the events mentioned in the program.
- 2) Divide the class into two groups. Tell the class that for the entire day, they must remain segregated from the other group. Give one group many privileges, such as standing at the front of the line, being served lunch first, etc. Afterwards, have a class discussion about segregation and students' feelings about being segregated. Lyndon B. Johnson warned that America was moving toward two societies: one Black, one White, separate but unequal. In what ways were Blacks and Whites unequal? How could the situation be rectified?

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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