



9621

BARBARA JORDAN

FILM IDEAS, INC., 2002

Grade Levels: 10-13+

22 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Examines the early years, education, political life and influence of Barbara Jordan, the first African American woman in the Texas Senate and in the United States House of Representatives.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Civics - What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

- ★ Standard: Understands how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities
 - Benchmark: Knows public character traits that contribute to the health of American democracy such as civility, respect for the rights of other individuals, respect for the law, open mindedness, critical mindedness, negotiation and compromise, civic mindedness, and patriotism (See Instructional Goal #2.)

Subject Area: United States History Era 10 – Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

- ★ Standard: Understands developments in foreign policy and domestic politics between the Nixon and Clinton presidencies
 - Benchmark: Understands the events and legacy of the Watergate break-in (e.g., the constitutional issues raised by the affair and the effects of Watergate on public opinion; the involvement of the Nixon administration in the cover-up; how Presidents Ford and Carter addressed the concept of the "imperial presidency" after Watergate and attempted to restore credibility to the presidency) (See Instructional Goal #3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To examine the life of Barbara Jordan.
2. To illustrate the character traits and beliefs that led to Barbara Jordan's numerous political breakthroughs and achievements.
3. To depict Barbara Jordan's role in the Watergate impeachment trials of President Nixon.

VOCABULARY

1. bar exam
2. debate
3. oratory
4. magna cum laude
5. multiple sclerosis
6. perseverance
7. racism
8. poverty
9. discrimination
10. landslide



BEFORE SHOWING

1. List the rights guaranteed to citizens in the United State's Constitution.
2. Review the history of the civil rights and women's rights movements in America. Discuss discrimination experienced by women of color.

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss Barbara Jordan's early life.
 - a. How did Jordan's high school extracurricular activities contribute to her later success?
 - b. How was John Ed Patten an influence in Jordan's life?
 - c. How did Jordan distinguish herself as a student?
2. Discuss Jordan's early political life.
 - a. How did Jordan become interested in politics?
 - b. What role did Jordan have in the Kennedy-Johnson campaign? How did this launch her political career?
 - c. What were her early successes and defeats in politics?
3. Discuss Congresswoman Jordan.
4. What was the relationship between Jordan and Lyndon Baines Johnson?
5. Discuss Watergate.
 - a. What was Watergate?
 - b. What was Jordan's role in the impeachment proceedings? How did this role influence her career?
 - c. What did Jordan do after retiring from politics?
6. Discuss the end of Jordan's stellar career.
 - a. What were some of Jordan's most notable "Firsts"?
 - b. What cut short Jordan's chairing of Hope for Families?
 - c. How did her funeral honor her accomplishments?

► Applications and Activities

1. Invite a politician, lawyer or judge to discuss the framework of the Constitution and the contributions of Barbara Jordan.
2. Investigate other individuals with awards and contributions similar to Barbara Jordan. Consider Medal of Freedom winners, civil rights advocates, and orators.

3. Write a personal or creative narrative describing a person who had to overcome adversity or difficulty to achieve a desired goal.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [Bessie Smith #2552](#)
- [Guts, Gumption, and Go-Ahead #3474](#)
- [Rosa Parks: The Path to Freedom #3654](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- **A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JORDAN**

<http://www.elf.net/bjordan/>

Primarily a page of links to primary sources regarding Jordan including news stories and speeches given by and about Jordan.

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- **GREAT AMERICAN SPEECHES: 80 YEARS OF POLITICAL ORATORY**

<http://www.pbs.org/greatspeeches/popup/index.html>

Includes a speech archive, American history challenge, pop-up trivia, and ideas for teachers.



GREAT AMERICAN SPEECHES 
80 Years of Political Oratory