

Grades: 9-12

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, “Part 3: The Fire of Life”

The lives of the three great Roosevelts -- Teddy, Franklin and Eleanor -- are captured in this series. Ken Burns and producer, Paul Barnes describe the lives and times of these three American icons who influenced 20th century American history more than perhaps any other family. Through wars, revolutions, depressions, movements, the three led the country through what was called America's century. At times they had little in common but for one thing they always had in common . . . their ability, desire and conviction to lead.

In part three Theodore Roosevelt leads a Progressive crusade that splits his own party, undertakes a deadly expedition into the South American jungle, campaigns for American entry into World War I - and pays a terrible personal price. Franklin masters wartime Washington as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, while Eleanor finds personal salvation in war work. Her discovery of Franklin's romance with another woman transforms their marriage into a largely political partnership. TR's death at 60 is almost universally mourned but provides Franklin with a golden opportunity.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What are the program's supporting claims that support the central message?
- What is the author trying to say through the TV program? What from the show makes you believe this?
- What evidence does the TV show director give to support his or her central idea?
- What is this program "saying"? Cite evidence to support your analysis.
- Theodore Roosevelt leads a Progressive crusade that splits his own party. What were the concerns that split the party?
- Why did Theodore undertake the deadly expedition into the South American jungle?
- What were the campaigns for American entry into World War I?
- How does Franklin Roosevelt master wartime Washington?
- How does Eleanor Roosevelt find "personal salvation" in her war work?
- What event transforms Franklin and Eleanor's marriage into a largely political partnership?
- TR's death at 60 is almost universally mourned. How did his death provide Franklin with a golden opportunity?

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Question Box 2

- What would you change about this program?
- What would you like to research for extra credit? Why?
- What might you want next year's teacher to know about this program?
- Now that it's over, what are my first thoughts about this program? Are they mostly positive or negative? Explain?
- What is the most important thing I learned personally?
- How did the reign of the Roosevelts transform America?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Teddy Roosevelt ran for a third term under the Progressive Party. He was unsuccessful in his bid. Woodrow Wilson (Democrat) received 435 Electoral votes, Taft (Republican and current president) received 8 Electoral votes while Roosevelt (Progressive) received 88 Electoral votes. The Progressive Party was a faction of the Republican Party. What do the numbers tell you as an observer of history? Use mathematics to justify your reasoning.
- Encouraged by his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR, appointed more women to federal positions. When the women's division of the Democratic National Committee met in Washington, D.C., both Eleanor and FDR thought 100 women would attend. 4,000 women arrived. Use mathematics in your explanation of the impact that FDR's inclusion of women to various positions in government had.
- In his first 100 days as president, FDR declared a four-day bank holiday to stop people from withdrawing their money from unstable banks. Use mathematics to explain why this was important to reestablish the strengths of banks during the Great Depression.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Discover more about the Roosevelts that you might not have known.
<https://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-franklin-d-roosevelt>
- Make a list of the things addressed in this reading that were new learnings about the Roosevelts.
- Read the extraordinarily vivid and personal portrait of America's greatest political family and its enormous impact on our nation-the tie-in volume to the PBS documentary. "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History".

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Reflect on this episode and consider Theodore Roosevelt's accomplishments. Select one or two and describe how they still impact modern day Americans. If this is difficult, perhaps imagine if he had not accomplished the one or two you selected and how life would be different for modern day Americans.