

# Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Educational Resource

This resource complements the TR VR 360 virtual tour of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site ([trsite.org](http://trsite.org)) in Buffalo, NY. [Click here](#) for access to all of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site educational resources.



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## Lesson

**Guiding** Who was Theodore Roosevelt?

### Questions:

## Lesson

### Objectives:

- **Describe** who Theodore Roosevelt was, what he thought, and what he did.

## NYS

### Standards:

4.6 WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: New York State played an important role in the growth of the United States. During the 1800s, people traveled west looking for opportunities. Economic activities in New York State are varied and have changed over time, with improvements in transportation and technology.  
(Standards: 1, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, ECO, TECH)

## Editable Images

The following images appear in this lesson and are presented here in an editable form for modification. After making a copy of this document, double-click on the image to modify it.



## Works Cited

The citations refer to images, videos, and text in this lesson. Source information that is not relevant to the lesson objective has been moved here to limit extraneous information.

- [president](#) by Luis Prado from the Noun Project

- Theodore Roosevelt at 11 Years Old. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
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- Roosevelt in hunting suit. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Roosevelt and Rough Riders. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
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- Roosevelt on Safari. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Mount Rushmore. [Image](#) is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) license.
- Close up of Roosevelt on Mount Rushmore. [Image](#) is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic](#) license.
- Roosevelt giving a speech in 1912. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Vocabulary

The following words and phrases appear in this lesson and may be a challenge for students to define.

| Word or Phrase | Definition |
|----------------|------------|
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## Instructional Suggestions

Make this lesson your own. This resource is meant to be modified for your use considering your students' needs, your style as an educator, and the context in which you teach. The suggestions below are only suggestions.

### Independent Video Viewing and Sharing

Ask students to watch the video independently and fill in as much of the graphic organizer as they can about Theodore Roosevelt, then ask students to introduce Teddy to their classmates, gathering more information from what their classmates gathered.

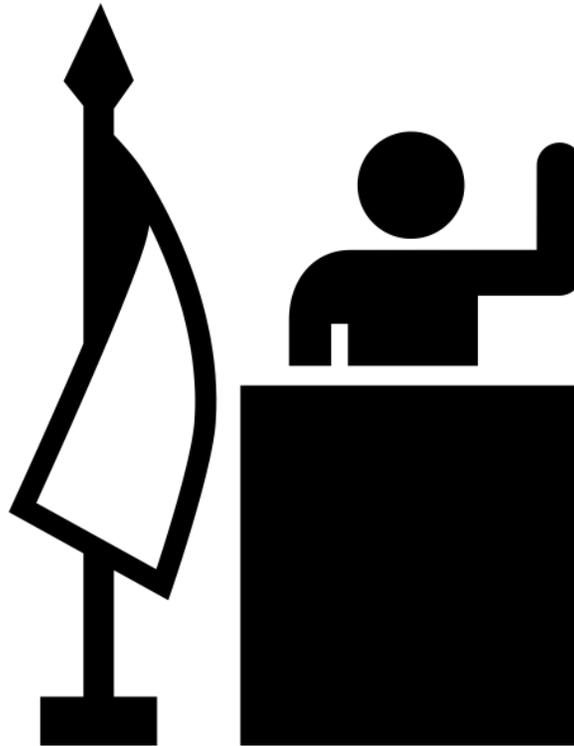
## Who was Theodore Roosevelt?

Objective:

- Describe who Theodore Roosevelt was, what he thought, and what he did.

### Introduction

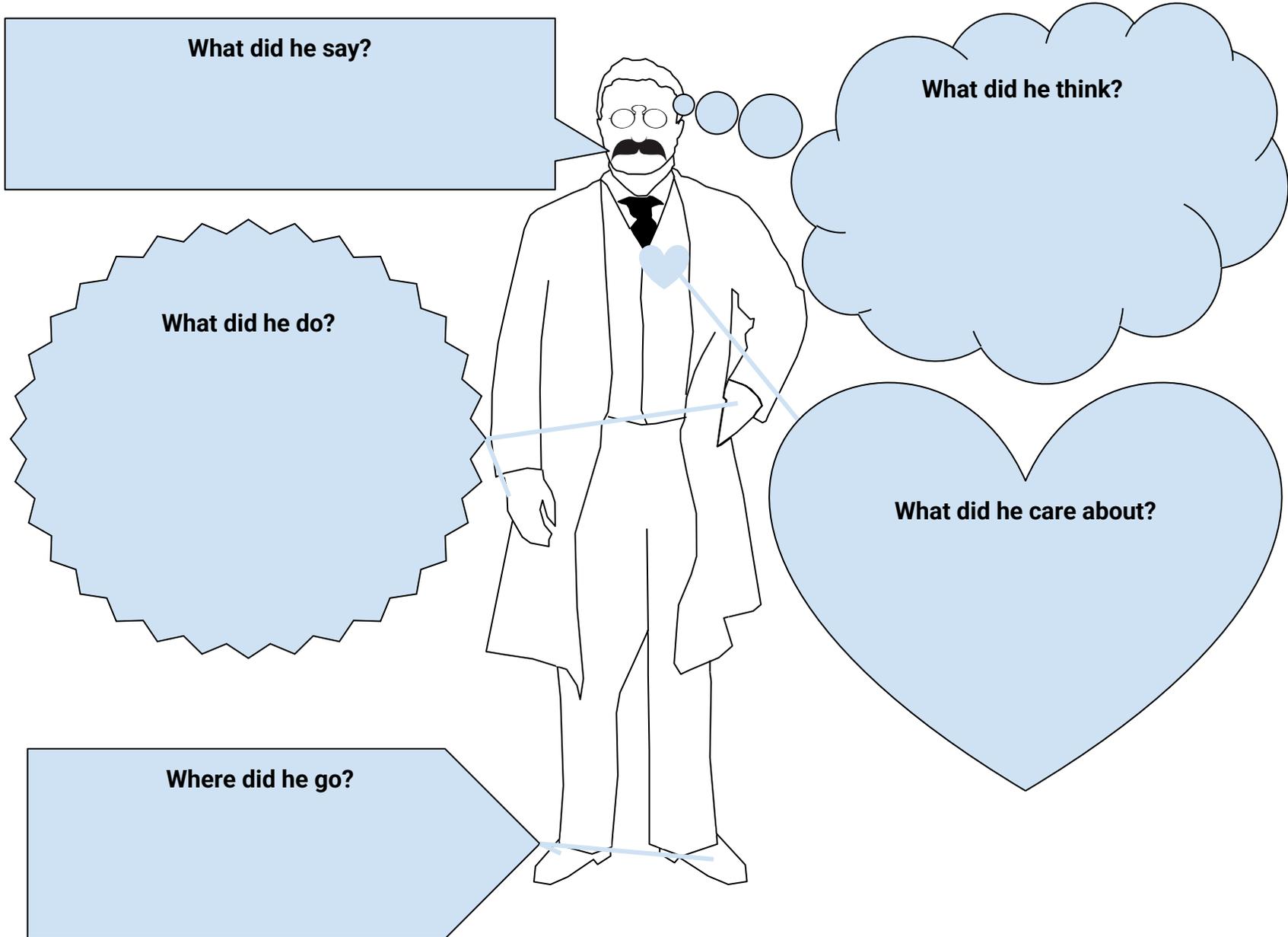
→**Directions:** Read the question below and answer it in the space provided.



What do you think are good traits for a president to have?

# Who was Theodore Roosevelt?

→**Directions:** As you watch the biography of Theodore Roosevelt, read the accompanying transcript, examine the images, and read the quotes, fill in the graphic organizer below with notable things Roosevelt did, where he went, what he saw, what he said, what he thought, and what he cared about.



## Who was Theodore Roosevelt?



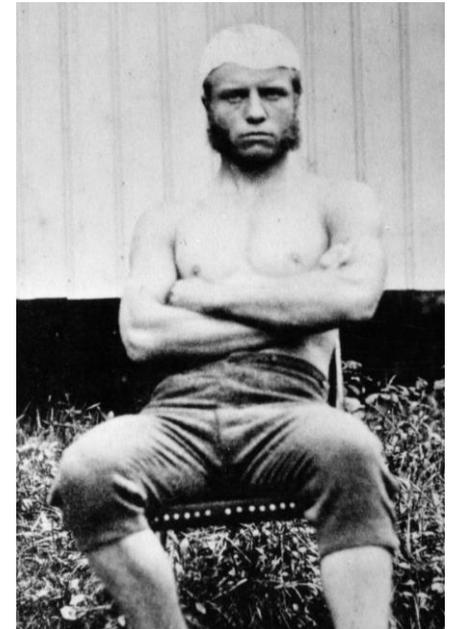
Watch [this video about Theodore Roosevelt from FreeSchool](#) and follow the transcript below to fill out your Theodore Roosevelt Historical Body.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, was born on October 27th, 1858 in New York City. He had asthma as a child, which sometimes made it hard for him to breathe at night. He was too weak and sick to attend school, so he was home schooled. It was at this time that his interest in nature began, and among other things Roosevelt studied animals, taxidermy, and insects. Teddy Roosevelt's father was determined to help his son overcome his physical weakness, and built him a gym where he practiced weight lifting and boxing, and by the time he became a teenager Roosevelt was a strong and athletic young man.



Theodore Roosevelt at 11 years old.

In 1876, he was admitted into Harvard, and in 1880 he married Alice Hathaway Lee. In 1881, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, and in 1884 his first daughter was born. Sadly, his wife Alice died two days later and his mother died the same day. Roosevelt was devastated. He got out of politics and moved to the Badlands of Dakota where he learned to ride [a horse] western style, rope and hunt, as well as becoming a deputy sheriff.



Roosevelt, pictured here while at Harvard University, was a boxer and wrestler.

Two years later, in 1886, he returned to New York City; remarried, and ran for mayor as "The Cowboy of the Dakotas." He lost, but in 1885, he became a police commissioner. Two years later in 1897, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

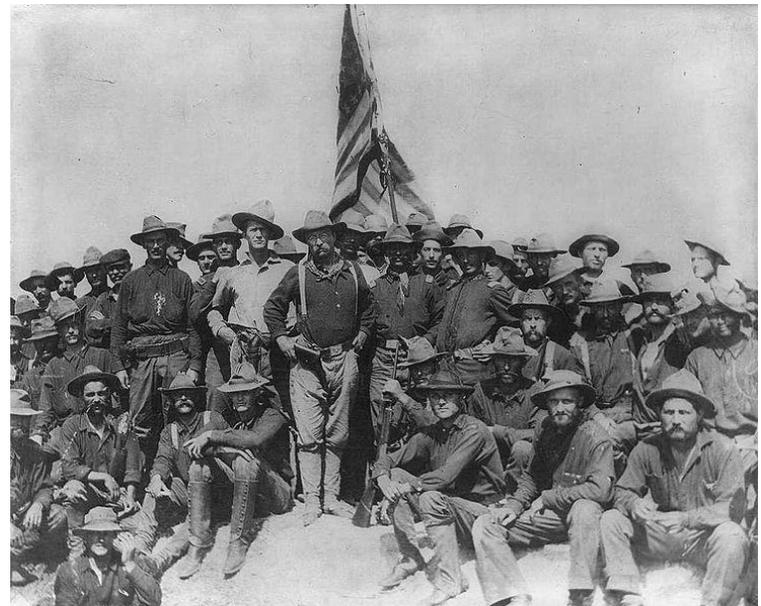
In 1898, Roosevelt left that position to serve in the Spanish-American War. He formed a volunteer cavalry unit known as the Rough Riders, a rag-tag band of cowboys, hunters, polo players, Native Americans, and college boys. In Cuba, the Rough Riders played a major part in the Battle of San Juan Hill, for which Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor - the only President to receive this award.

After the war, he returned to New York and was elected governor, and in 1901 he became the Vice President of the United States. Six months later, President McKinley was assassinated [in Buffalo, NY] and Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office on September 14, 1901. At only 42 years old, he was the youngest man ever to become President.

He was famous for the saying, "Speak softly, and carry a big stick," and under his leadership, America became a world power. He was instrumental in the construction of the Panama Canal, and negotiated peace between Russia and Japan, for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize [he was] not only the first President but also the first American to win it.



Roosevelt in 1885 dressed in his hunting suit with knife and rifle after returning to New York City from learning how to be a rancher in the west.



Roosevelt and the Rough Riders after winning the Battle of San Juan Hill in 1898.

At home he was known for the "Square Deal," a series of policies designed to give all Americans an equal opportunity to be successful. He was also one of the first Presidents to emphasize conservation of natural resources. During his presidency he created five national parks, eighteen National Monuments, and 150 National Forests, protecting more than 230 million acres of land.

On a hunting trip in 1902 he refused to shoot a black bear that was tied up, saying it was unsportsmanlike. The story became famous and toymakers began making stuffed bears that they named after him, Teddy bears.

By 1909, he had served two full terms as President and announced that he would not run for a third. He went on safari to Africa and killed and collected thousands of animals, everything from insects to elephants, and sent them back to Washington to be displayed in the Smithsonian [Museum] as well as other museums.

When he returned from Africa, Roosevelt didn't much like the way that the next President, William Howard Taft, was running things, and so he decided to run for President again. He couldn't get a nomination from the Republican or Democratic parties, so he formed his own political party known as the "Bull Moose Party." One day while he was campaigning, Roosevelt was shot. Instead of going to a hospital, he stood up and gave a speech that took an hour and a half, saying, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose." He lost the election [and] went on to mount an expedition to South America.



Roosevelt's official White House portrait.



Roosevelt on Safari in Africa.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to fly in an airplane, go underwater in a submarine, own a car, and have a telephone in his home. He wrote at least thirty-five books and hundreds of magazine articles. He was a hunter and an adventurer, and he was very active with the Boy Scouts of America.

On Jan 6, 1919, Theodore Roosevelt died in his sleep at age 60. It was said that "Death had to take Roosevelt sleeping, for if he had been awake, there would have been a fight."

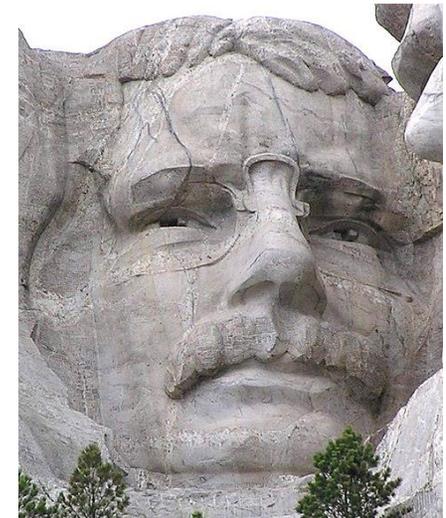
Theodore Roosevelt was one of the most remarkable American Presidents. A hunter, a fighter, an activist, and a conservationist. He had a lasting impact. Today, he is memorialized on Mount Rushmore alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.



The Roosevelt family in 1903. From left to right: Quentin, Theodore Sr., Theodore Jr., Archie, Alice, Kermit, Edith, and Ethel.



Mount Rushmore, South Dakota.



Close up of Roosevelt's face on Mount Rushmore.

## Notable Quotes from Theodore Roosevelt



Roosevelt giving a speech in 1912

*"There are good men and bad men of all nationalities, creeds and colors; and if this world of ours is ever to become what we hope some day it may become, it must be by the general recognition that the man's heart and soul, the man's worth and actions, determine his standing."*

*Letter, Oyster Bay, NY, September 1, 1903*

*"There are two things that I want you to make up your minds to: first, that you are going to have a good time as long as you live – I have no use for the sour-faced man – and next, that you are going to do something worthwhile, that you are going to work hard and do the things you set out to do."*

*Talk to schoolchildren in Oyster Bay, Christmastime, 1898*

*"The one thing I want to leave my children is an honorable name." "It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."*

*Chicago, IL, April 10, 1899*

*"Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground."*

*The Groton School, Groton, MA, May 24, 1904*

*"Women should have free access to every field of labor [jobs] which they care to enter, and when their work is as valuable as that of a man it should be paid as highly."*

*An Autobiography, 1913*

*"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in."*

*Chicago, IL, June 17, 1912*

*"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country."*

*Confession of Faith Speech, Progressive National Convention, Chicago, August 6, 1912*

*"There were all kinds of things I was afraid of at first, ranging from grizzly bears to 'mean' horses and gun-fighters; but by acting as if I was not afraid I gradually ceased to be afraid."*

*An Autobiography, 1913*

*"It is true of the Nation, as of the individual, that the greatest doer must also be a great dreamer."*

*Berkeley, CA, 1911*

