

PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

President Tic-Tac-Toe Board

Essential Question:

What can I learn about the presidents by completing research assignments?

Context:

This is meant to be a differentiated activity aimed at middle school students. Students complete three assignments from the grid. For the traditional activity completion, the three assignments must form a tic-tac-toe on the grid. The nine assignment choices align to historical reading and writing Common Core State Standards.

To differentiate the activity, assignments can be modified by the teacher. For example, teachers may shorten an assignment, require only two assignments, or allow students to choose any three from the grid. Also, teachers may allow students to complete additional assignments for extra credit.

Lesson Ideas:

Below you find ideas to differentiate this activity:

Idea #1: Traditional

Students select three assignments from the grid that form a tic-tac-toe.

Idea #2: Fewer Assignments

To differentiate the activity, students select only two assignments from the grid.

Idea #3: Modified Assignments

To differentiate the activity, students complete a teacher-amended assignment, e.g. create an illustrated dictionary with ten terms instead of twenty.

Idea #4: No Tic-Tac-Toe

To differentiate the activity, students complete any three of the assignments from the grid.

Idea #5: Tic-Tac-Toe Plus One

To differentiate the activity, students complete a tic-tac-toe and an additional assignment(s) for extra credit.

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President Tic-Tac-Toe Board

Directions:

In this activity, choose three activities from the board that make a “tic-tac-toe.”

<p>President Report: In a well-developed report explain the historical significance of one of the presidents.</p> <p>In other words, in your report you should answer the question: Why does your president matter in U.S. history?</p>	<p>Tech Presentation Create a digital presentation, such as a movie or a PowerPoint on one of the presidents.</p> <p>Your presentation could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a campaign ad. • a biography. • a reenactment of a major event. • about a presidential memorial or historic site. • another topic approved by your teacher. 	<p>Presidential Home Research a president's home. Create a tour brochure for the president's home.</p> <p>In the brochure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an image of the home. • an image of the president. • a short history of the home. • a map of the grounds/area. • interesting facts. • other attractions around the home.
<p>Illustrated Dictionary Create an illustrated dictionary on a president that includes 20 terms from his life, historical time period, presidency, etc.</p> <p>For each entry include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word • Definition or explanation • Image <p>Your illustrated dictionary may be created by hand or on the computer.</p>	<p>Historical Source Search Research a president. Find four sources that represent a president. In a report that includes images of these sources, explain why these sources are important in understanding his presidency.</p> <p>Historical sources can include such things as photographs, paintings, documents, speeches, political cartoons, quotations, historical sites, statues, campaign ads, videos, songs, etc.</p>	<p>Historical Time Period Choose one of the historical time periods from the Periodic Table of the Presidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Founders (1789-1825) • Early Nationhood (1825-1869) • The Gilded Age (1869-1901) • Early 20th Century (1901-1953) • Global Power (1953-present) <p>Research ten historical events from the time period. Create a time period display (either digital or print) that shows each event in a logical order. For each event include a title, year(s), and description.</p>
<p>Historical Fiction Writing Write a short story, play, or children's book about a president.</p> <p>Your written work should be about one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A president's life • A key event during his presidency • Family life including wife, kids, pets, or other interesting topics • A president's personal struggle • A president's death • Another topic approved by your teacher 	<p>Rank-A-President Research these six presidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Jefferson • Andrew Jackson • James K. Polk • Theodore Roosevelt • Woodrow Wilson • Dwight D. Eisenhower <p>Rank these presidents from best to worst. Then, write a report that explains your reasoning behind the ranking.</p>	<p>Research a Political Party Research one of the president's political parties. In a report, explain how the party began and how it changed over time. Your report should include an example of a president that best represents his party.</p>