



PRESIDENTIAL MARCH MADNESS!

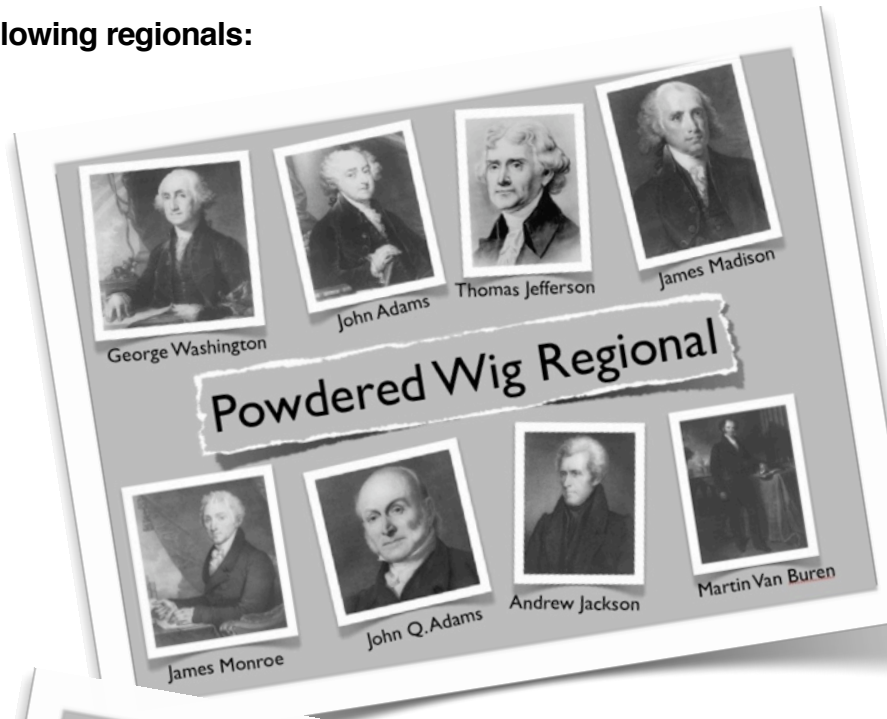
32 PRESIDENTS · 4 CLASSES · 1 WINNER

Throughout the month of March Mr. Altena's U.S. History classes will be competing against each other in order to determine America's greatest president. Each class will be assigned a regional, and groups of students will take a president as far as his legacy will allow. Along the way we'll have fun, learn a great deal, and appreciate the uniqueness of the office of the presidency.

The presidents have been divided into the following regionals:

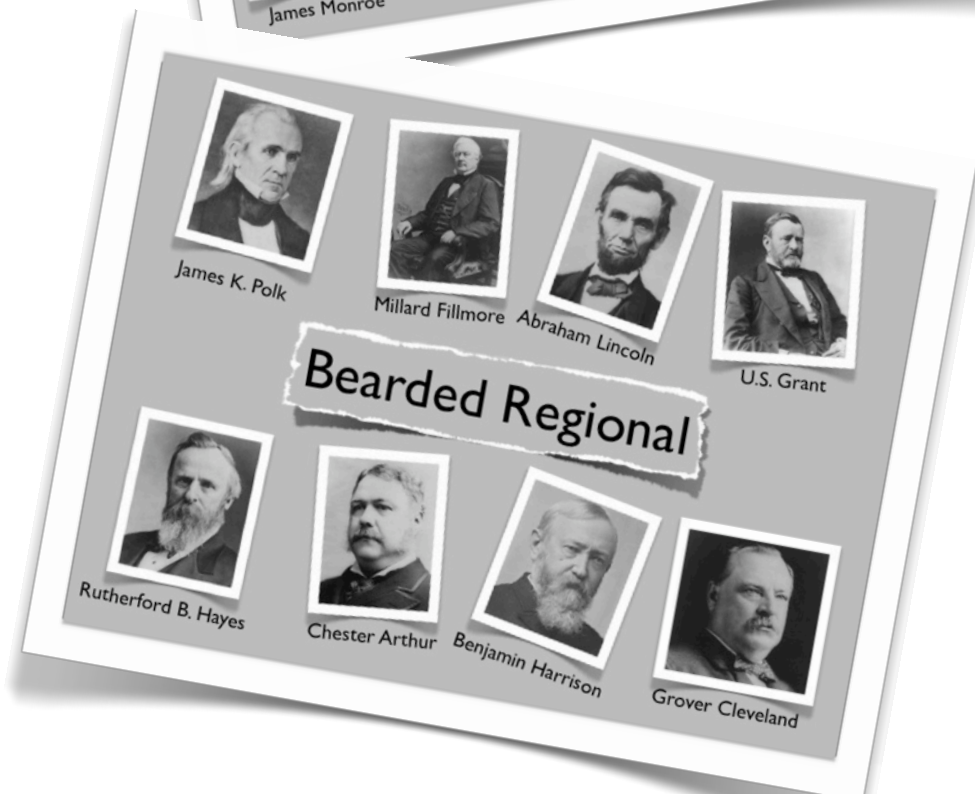
Powdered Wig

These presidents laid the foundation of a bold new experiment in governance that was being closely watched by both the citizens of the United States and the world. While Washington's unanimous election sought to make a clear distinction between this new "democratic" office and that of a king, Jackson's presidency tested and pushed against the constitutional limits of the role of the president.



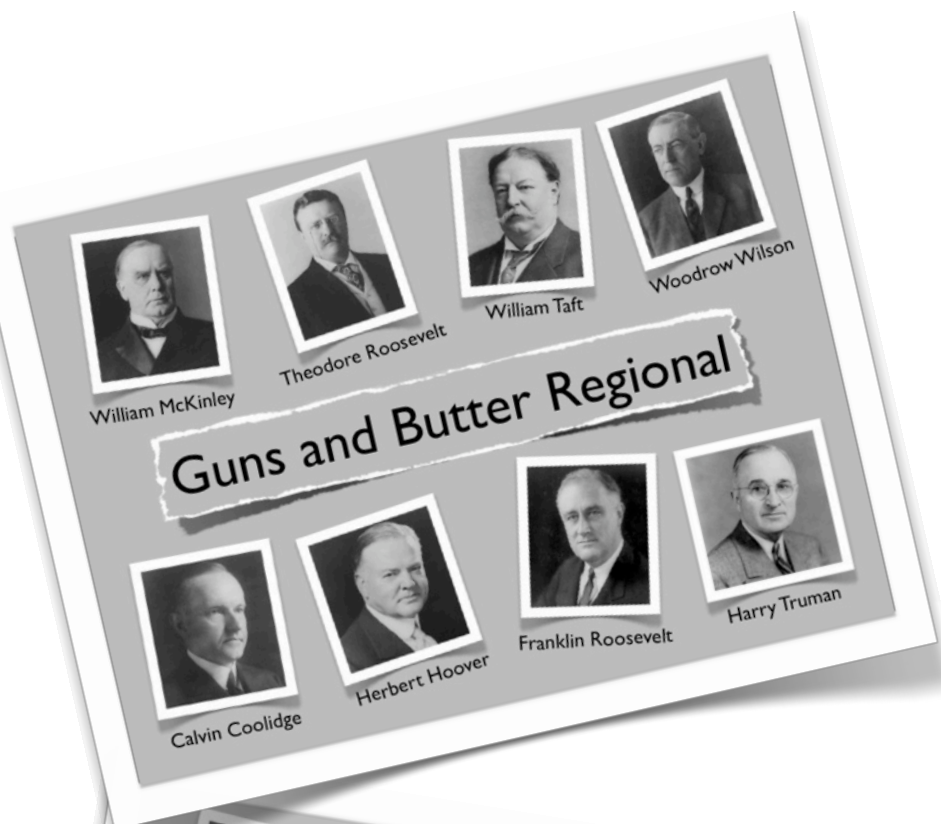
Bearded

Sometimes called the "forgettable" presidents, these men held the office during a time of growing social, economic, and technological change within the United States. While some of these men choose to assume something of a "caretaker" role while in office, others attempted to use the influence and power of the presidency to expand and preserve the union.



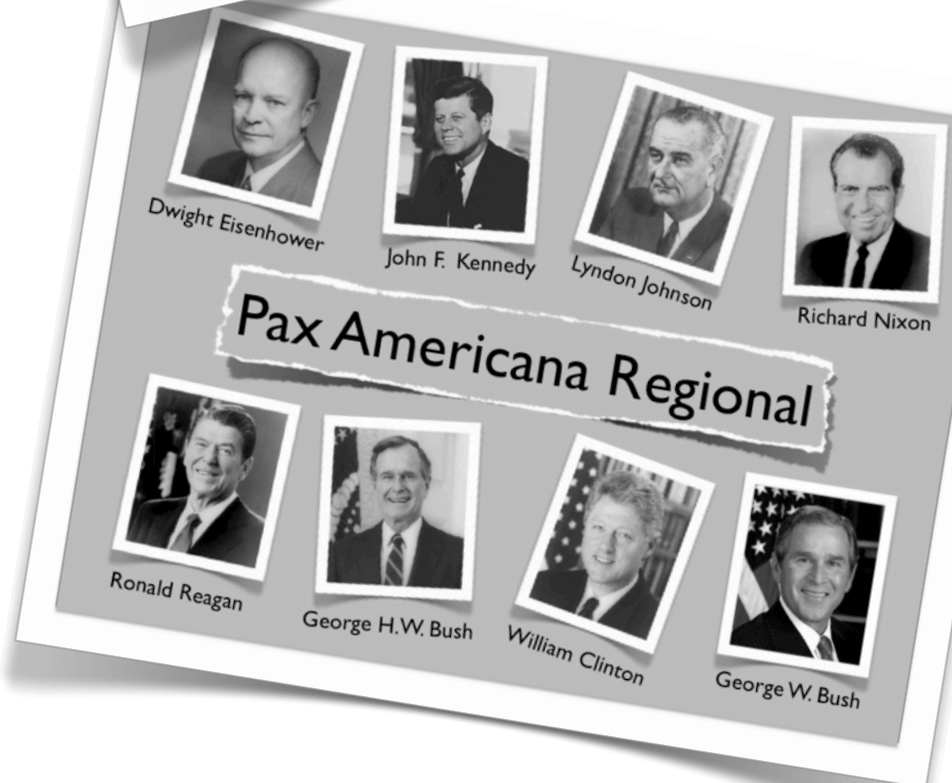
Guns and Butter

The presidents of the turn of the century to the Second World War were confronted with the twin challenges of defending democratic freedoms abroad (Guns) and providing for economic security at home (Butter). These presidents led the United States as this country debated its proper role on the international stage, and the degree to which the government had a duty to improve the lives of its citizens at home. These presidents saw the United States move from a position of isolation to one of involvement in foreign policy, and from laissez-faire to welfare on the domestic front.



Pax Americana

The term Pax Americana means "American Peace" and refers to the period of time after World War Two that has been dominated by American political, economic and cultural power. If not entirely peaceful, this period of time has seen America take the lead in promoting democratic institutions during the Cold War through to the new challenges of Islamic radicalization and the ethnic balkanization of much of the world. These presidents have also been challenged by significant changes in the nation's economy as the United States moved away from manufacturing towards a service economy.





PRESIDENTIAL MARCH MADNESS!

32 PRESIDENTS · 4 CLASSES · 1 WINNER

PRESENTATION ROUNDS

Round One: Domestic Policy

Focus: Students will highlight their president's handling of domestic issues. **Economically**, this includes things like taxes, tariffs, labor relations, and monetary policy. **Socially**, involves topics like poverty, equality, race, the environment and the rule of law. **Politically**, Students will also highlight the leadership style of their president. Was he aggressive in office? Was he able to "reach out across the aisle"? Did he surround himself with capable men and women?

Product: 1 large campaign poster/banner highlighting domestic achievements. Brief Presentation.

Evaluation

Critical Thinking

Accurately highlights candidate's position
Compares you president's record with your opponent's
Places numerical information accurately in a chart/graph

Communication

Neat and Colorful Presentation
Fully Referenced (2 websites; 1 Book)
Error Free

Content

Contains specific information for each area: Economic, Social, Political

Round Two: Foreign Policy

Focus: Students will investigate their president's handling of various foreign policy challenges such as avoiding/going to war, treaty-making, handling border disputes, and dealing with other international crises like natural disasters and political/social unrest. Students should also consider their president's leadership role on the world stage and the degree to which he promoted the "American Idea" abroad.

Product: Townhall-style debate. Moderated by Mr. Altena, with questions posed from the class.

Evaluation:

Critical Thinking

Accurately identifies president's foreign policy concerns
Offers critique of opponent's foreign policy stance

Communication

1 page, typed, double-spaced
Written in student's own words
Fully Referenced (2 websites; 1 book)

Content

Mentions specific events and/or policies

Round Three: Character Round

Focus: The class is now divided between two candidates. Each group will focus on their president's character. Of what stuff was the man made? How did the candidate approach challenges, crises, scandal, and opposition? Did the president have any personal obstacles to overcome? Has history judged the man kindly in terms of honesty, integrity, and purity of motives?

Evaluation: Students will watch brief biographical videos about each president and then fill out the Character Round Scorecard.

Final Four!

Focus: The class has chosen its representative for the Final Four. Each class will highlight the major achievements of their president, both domestically and with respect to foreign policy. They will also emphasize the character and personal temperament of their president. The goal is to promote their president as the best representative of the ideals of the United States.

Product: Video: Campaign Commercial or Campaign Music Video

Evaluation

- High production values (costumes, sets, lighting, camera angles, etc.)
- Creative, thoughtful and thought-provoking
- Avoids treating the subject flippantly
- Accurately highlights major domestic and foreign policy achievements
- Emphasizes character and leadership abilities
- All students involved: Actors, writers, storyboarders, researchers, directors, camerapersons, editors, caterers, etc.

Critical Thinking

Compares record with opponent's

Communication

All students involved

Storyboarded

1 minute in length

"High" production values

Content

Highlights specific policies and event from president's term (Political, Economic, Social, Foreign Policy)