

Relevance in Stone

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter

Grades Nine through Twelve



OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze how the accomplishments of Washington, Jefferson Lincoln and Roosevelt led to their inclusion on Mount Rushmore and relate to contemporary issues.



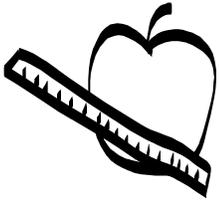
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Language Arts
- Social Studies



SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the “Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter” page. Locate this site on a class map. Note its position in relation to your school’s location. Explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. When the program ends in 2021, there will be 56 designs. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory and the District of Columbia.
2. Have a class or small group discussion about the design and discuss Mount Rushmore National Memorial in general. Have the students name the four presidents represented; Washington, Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln.
3. Have the students research one accomplishment of each president and explain how those accomplishments may have led to their inclusion on Mount Rushmore.
4. Have the students partner as randomly as possible so they can work with classmates who are not their usual choice. For example, have them form two concentric circles and walk in opposite directions until they get a signal to stop. Have the pairs share their accomplishment for Washington and fill in the classmate’s Washington box on their “Accomplishments” worksheet. Repeat the random selection and sharing process for each of the four presidents. As a class, discuss the accomplishments discovered and which ones actually apply (see the worksheet answer key).
5. Have the students pick a contemporary issue for a letter to the editor of a fictional newspaper. Allow time for them to research these four presidents’ stated views (quotes) and acts that support the student’s opinion. Review the “Letter to the Editor Rubric” with them. Then have them write to the editor giving their opinion and drawing on one or more of these presidents’ relevant quotes or actions to support their position.



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ASSESSMENTS

- Use the rubric to evaluate the student’s letter to assess whether they have met the lesson objective.
- Evaluate the “Accomplishments Worksheet” for completeness and accuracy.



RESOURCES

- Worksheets:
 - “Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter”
 - “Accomplishments”
 - “Accomplishments Key”
 - “Letter to the Editor Rubric ”
- Age-appropriate, relevant Web sites, such as:
 - Mount Rushmore National Memorial site: www.nps.gov/moru/forteachers/upload/MORU-Student-Guide-2011.pdf
 - Library of Congress: lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/SD/200003524.html
 - America’s Library: Mount Rushmore National Memorial, A Local Legacy: www.americaslibrary.gov/es/sd/es_sd_mount_1.html
 - America the Beautiful Quarters® Program: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/
 - Information about the Presidents of the United States: www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents
 - Information about the Presidents of the United States: www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/presidents.php
 - Information about the Presidents of the United States: bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp



Name _____

Accomplishments

Directions: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt were sculpted on Mount Rushmore because of their accomplishments. What accomplishments may have led to their being included on this monument? Find one accomplishment for each of these presidents and list them in the boxes below.



EXAMPLE

PRESIDENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Thomas Jefferson	Reduced the national debt by 1/3. (Do not use this answer.)

YOUR LIST

PRESIDENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
George Washington	
Thomas Jefferson	
Abraham Lincoln	
Teddy Roosevelt	

When you have finished writing your set of accomplishments, share your first answer with a classmate. Then write below the accomplishment they found for the same president. Use a different partner for each of the four presidents.

CLASSMATES LIST

PRESIDENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
George Washington	
Thomas Jefferson	
Abraham Lincoln	
Teddy Roosevelt	



Name _____

Accomplishments Key

Directions: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt were sculpted on Mount Rushmore because of their accomplishments. What accomplishments may have led to their being included on this monument? Find one accomplishment for each of these presidents and list them in the boxes below.



EXAMPLE

PRESIDENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Thomas Jefferson	Reduced the national debt by 1/3.

These answers are according to the National Park Service web site at www.nps.gov/moru/historyculture/why-these-four.htm.

YOUR LIST

PRESIDENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
George Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led the colonists in the American Revolutionary War to win independence from Great Britain. Was the father of the new country and laid the foundation of American democracy.
Thomas Jefferson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authored the Declaration of Independence, which inspires democracies around the world. Purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803, which doubled the country's size, adding all or part of fifteen present-day states.
Abraham Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held the nation together during its greatest trial, the Civil War, believing his most sacred duty was the preservation of the union. Acted to abolish slavery.
Teddy Roosevelt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided leadership during America's rapid economic growth as it entered the 20th Century. Was instrumental in negotiating the construction of the Panama Canal, linking east and west. Was known as "trust buster" for helping to end corporate monopolies and ensure workers' rights.

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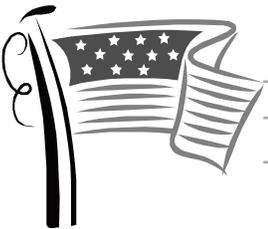
Name _____

Letter to the Editor

Rubric

Directions: Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper giving your opinion about a contemporary issue and drawing on one or more of these four presidents' quotes or actions to support your position.

Criteria	4	3	2	1	Self	Teacher
Relevance	Quotes or acts clearly relate to topic.	Quotes or acts relate to topic.	Quotes or acts relate somewhat to topic.	Quotes or acts relate little to topic.		
Tone	Respectful and persuasive.	Mostly respectful and persuasive.	Somewhat respectful and persuasive.	Seems off-handed, shallow or vague.		
Accuracy	All details are accurate.	Most details are accurate.	Some details are accurate.	Details are few or inaccurate.		
Spelling, Grammar	No errors.	1 or 2 errors.	3 or 4 errors.	5 or more errors.		
Totals						



Name _____

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Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter



The United States of America

