

Pearl Buck: The Woman, The World and Two Good Fathers

Synopsis

Pearl Buck first saw Green Hills, the Pennsylvania farm she bought and filled with beauty and love, in a photograph no larger than a postage stamp. Green Hills grew with Buck's family of nine adopted children. Buck shaped additions to the 1832 farmhouse to the likeness of a traditional Chinese home. It has private rooms for family members, each with access to a central courtyard where the family could gather.

The house itself is full of rare and beautiful art works representing Pearl Buck's years in China. The rooms, the views – each window looks out on water – and the furnishings all stimulate recollections of Pearl Buck's life in China and America, her marriage to her publisher, and her philanthropy: She founded and supported a nonprofit organization to assist orphan Amerasian children.

This filmed tour of Green Hills – conducted by television personality Hugh Downs – is also a visit to the world of a distinctive and distinguished woman. Pearl Buck was a Nobel Prize winner, a recipient of thirteen honorary doctorates, author of ninety books, a sculptor, a pianist, and an organist. And, incredibly and delightful to ponder, she viewed her abilities in art and music – which were substantial, as the film indicates – as "mere distractions" from writing and housekeeping.

Green Hills is, like Pearl Buck herself, a bridge between

the ordinary and the extraordinary – a bridge, too, between East and West

Questions to ask before viewing

1. What do you know about Pearl Buck?
2. For what do you think she is famous?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Hugh Downs recalls Rudyard Kipling's observation that "East is east, and west is west, and never the twain shall meet." What do you think Kipling meant by that?
2. Downs also speaks of Pearl Buck's believing that humans are not made up of "we" and "them", "but of" all of us." What do you think that means?
3. Where is Pearl Buck's home, and what is it called? How did she first learn about the place? When was the original structure built?
4. How many books did Pearl Buck write? What honors did she receive in her lifetime?
5. In addition to being a fine and prolific writer, what other artistic talents did Pearl Buck possess?
6. Name some of the elements that Hugh Downs describes as part of Pearl Buck's "Chinese legacy."
7. Describe the arrangement of rooms and views at Green Hills? Describe some of the furniture and other objects at Green Hills. Recall any anecdotes associated with them. Do you think you'd like to live at Green Hills? Why?
8. What is the name of Pearl Buck's best-known book?
9. Recall details of Pearl Buck's two marriages.
10. How many children were in her family?
11. What is the work of the Pearl Buck Foundation?

Length

24 Minutes

Subject areas

U.S. History, American Literature

Audience levels

High School, College, Adult

Catalog number

9747-EN-VID-NR

Discussion Guide

Pearl Buck: The Woman, The World and Two Good Earths

Objectives

- To provide a context for the examination of the achievements of Pearl Buck.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished American.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism, productivity, and creativity.



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American Lifestyle Series

Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee America

Objectives

- To provide a context for the examination of the achievements of Booker T. Washington.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished American.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism, productivity and creativity.

Synopsis

Among the great Americans whose lives are chronicled in American Lifestyle, none has more humble roots nor grew so far to flower. The foundation of Booker T. Washington's life are seen, literally, to be rows of stones that formed the foundation of the dirt-floored and windowless cook shack where he was born a slave. Mr. Hugh Downs, leads us from there to grander vistas in Washington's life.

And the "home" he left behind for us to visit and wonder at is perhaps the grandest and most noble of all the edifices defined in the series. It is the Tuskegee Institute, which twenty-two-year-old Washington launched with a \$2,000-a year grant from the state of Alabama. He began with no buildings, no students. The Institute now has a student body of 3,500, 7,000 alumni, 5,000 acres valued at \$30 million, and a \$14 million endowment.

The film touches on the controversy stimulated by latter-day historians: Was Book T. Washington the ultimate Uncle Tom, or was he a man for his season? The film's vision is one of a wise, thoughtful, strong man devoted to progress for all, and especially dedicated to improvement of life for blacks.

Booker T. Washington advised Presidents, dined at the White House, had tea with Queen Victoria. He fostered pride. He is said to have been the foremost educator of his time, white or black. And the edifice which perhaps represents him best in this film is education itself.

Questions to ask before viewing

- What do you know about Booker T. Washington?
- For what is he famous?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. When and where was Booker T. Washington born and under what circumstances? (1856, near Roanoke, Virginia, to a slave woman. He was born in the cook shack of a small farm.)
2. What were Washington's jobs as a slave child? Of what did the slaves' diet consist? How were the slaves treated on the farm where Washington lived?
3. What was the Emancipation Proclamation? Describe Washington's recollection of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.
4. How did Washington travel to Hampton Institute, the school for blacks?
5. How did the black school in Tuskegee come to be founded?
6. Describe the "school" Washington found waiting for him when he arrived at Tuskegee as its first teacher.
7. Describe the modern Tuskegee Institute.
8. Hugh Downs say Washington believed that for his school to be a success, it was necessary "to placate the white power structure that ran America, and certainly Alabama..." What do you think that means?
9. What were Jim Crow laws? What was the "separate but equal" doctrine?
10. Why was Washington criticized for his speech at the Cotton States International Exhibition?
11. What American Presidents were among Washington's friends? What was the public reaction to Teddy Roosevelt's invitation to Washington to dine with himself and his family at the White House?
12. What would you consider to be Booker T. Washington's major contributions to American society?

Length

- 25 minutes

Subject Area

- U.S. History

Audience Levels

- Junior-Senior High, College, Adult

Catalog Number

- 9745

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Discussion Guide

American Lifestyle Series: Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee America



Benjamin Franklin: Citizen-Sage of a New Age

Hosted by Hugh Downs

Synopsis

Benjamin Franklin was the quintessential Renaissance man, and 18th century genius known for his cheerful outlook on life. His contribution to the world in the areas of science, literature, politics, and foreign diplomacy were remarkable.

Hugh Downs takes the viewer on a tour of Philadelphia-the city Franklin called home for 67 years-while providing interesting information and anecdotes about the life of this fascinating man.

Franklin was born in 1706, the son of a candlemaker. He ran away from home when he was a teenager and became a printing apprentice. He was a ravenous reader and an excellent writer. He developed his writing skills by writing articles for the newspaper for which he apprenticed.

Later, in 1732, Franklin wrote the witty and insightful Poor Richard's Almanac. At about the same time, he established the Library Company which was America's first circulating library. It became apparent that he had talents in many other areas besides writing

Benjamin Franklin was an inventor and a scientist. He invented the Franklin stove, bifocals and the lightning rod. His famous experiment with the kite precipitated his discovery of the

election theory which led to the harnessing of electricity.

Franklin was also one of America's Founding Fathers, in attendance not only for the drafting of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but also for the signing of the Constitution in 1787. He was an extraordinary and wise man loved by all. In 1790, Benjamin Franklin died at the age of 84.

Questions to ask before viewing

- Who was Benjamin Franklin?
- What does the term founding Father mean to you?
- Name something for which Franklin is famous.

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Name some of Benjamin Franklin's inventions mentioned in this program. (Franklin stove, bifocals, a primitive copying machine and the lightning rod.)
2. What was the result of Franklin's experiment with a kite in a thunder storm? (He discovered how positive and negative charges work and developed the electron theory which led to the harnessing electricity.)
3. What two significant events in American history took place in Philadelphia's Independence Hall? (The signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the

signing of the American Constitution in 1787.)

4. What is the American Philosophical Society? (It is the oldest learned society in American, founded by Ben Franklin in 1743.)
5. What is the name of Franklin's early book filled with witty sayings, advice and wisdom? (Poor Richard's Almanac.)

Additional activities

- Read some of Poor Richard's Almanac aloud in class. Discuss the familiarity and wisdom of its content (e.g. "Honesty is the best policy," "A stitch in time saves nine." Etc.)
- Read selected portions of the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution. Discuss their importance.
- Ask the class to make diagrams showing how Franklin's experiment with the key, kite and lightning led to the electron theory.
- View the film 1776, starring William Daniels and Howard Da Silva. Discuss how the film captures the essence of time.

Annotation

Explored is the genius of Benjamin Franklin, one of the most important scientists, inventors, innovators and writers of his day. Also shown are the historic sites of the many institutions he founded and Independence Hall, where he helped write the Declaration of Independence

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Related titles in the AIMS collection

4033SG Thomas Edison's Glenmont
9746SG Alexander Graham Bell: The Voice Heard 'Round the World
9895SG George Eastman: One Man's Vision-Images for all

Length

➤ 24 minutes

Subject Area

➤ American History

Audience Levels

➤ Intermediate-Adult

Catalog Number

- 9890SG

AIMS

Discussion Guide

Benjamin Franklin: Citizen-Sage of a New Age

Objectives

- To show the countless facts of Benjamin Franklin's genius.
- To illustrate political and social climate that Franklin dealt with his travels domestically and abroad
- To show the influence Franklin has in founding and shaping the United States



Helen Keller: Voice and Vision In the Soul

Hosted by Hugh Downs

Synopsis

Hugh Downs hosts a tour of Ivy Green, the home where Helen Keller was born and raised. It was on this plantation in Tusculum, Alabama, that Keller was taught by Annie Sullivan.

Helen Keller was struck deaf and blind an unknown illness nineteen months after she was born in 1880. Her well-meaning parents did not know how to help their daughter. Although she developed her own primitive sign language to communicate some of her needs, Keller received no formal education or assistance for five and a half years. She became spoiled, frustrated and terrorized the household.

Keller's mother, after reading Charles Dickens' *American Notes*, was inspired to seek help from people who were dedicated to teaching the deaf. One of these people was Alexander Graham Bell. Bell led the Kellers to the Perkins School. The school sent twenty-year-old Annie Sullivan to live with and teach seven-year-old Keller.

Sullivan, an orphan and nearly blind herself, became a life-long friend and companion to Keller. Later, their friend Mark Twain would dub Sullivan "the Miracle Worker."

Keller learned rapidly and eagerly. She learned to speak, and it was a remarkable achievement when she was admitted to Radcliff and graduated summa cum laude.

Vintage film footage documents the adventures of the inseparable Keller and Sullivan. They appeared in vaudeville, made a motion picture, lectured, traveled the world, and dined with kings. Helen Keller became one of the most popular people in the world. In 1924, she joined the staff of the American Foundation for the Blind, and acted as a counselor or national and international relations, dedicated to helping those who were, in her words, "less fortunate than myself."

Helen Keller died in 1968 at the age of 87. Her ashes remain in the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., alongside those of her friend, Annie Sullivan.

Questions to ask before viewing

- What do you know about Helen Keller? Why is she famous?
- What do you imagine life is like for someone who is unable to see or hear?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Hugh Downs describes young Keller as a "wild child." Why do you think she was wild? (She had an extraordinary mind and was frustrated by her inability to express herself.)
2. How was Charles Dickens' book *American Notes* of help to Keller's mother? (It inspired her to seek people who were dedicated to teaching the deaf.)
How old were Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller when they met? (Sullivan was twenty and Keller was seven.)
3. Keller and Sullivan developed a deep mutual respect and friendship. Why do you think this happened?
Where did Keller go to college, and how did she distinguished herself? (She attended Radcliff and graduated with honors.)
4. Keller and Sullivan's vaudeville show drew mixed reactions-audiences loved it and critics found it offensive. How do you account for the different reactions?
5. In 1919, Keller worked on a project called *Deliverance*. What was it? (It was the title of the motion picture Keller made.)
6. Who was Polly Thompson? (Keller's personal secretary.) Helen Keller and Polly Thompson were together for 40 years. Keller and Annie Sullivan were together for 49 years. What do

you think accounts for these long-lasting relationships?

Additional activities

- View the film *The Miracle Worker*. Discuss how Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan embodied the concepts of caring and dedication.
- There are many organizations that work to inform the public on how to avoid the loss of hearing or sight. Invite a representative from a local organization to address the importance of caring for our senses.
- Invite a teacher of sign language to explain the technique and to teach some simple phrases.
- Have students read Mark Medoff's play *Children of a Lesser God*. They might want to rehearse and perform parts or all of the play. View the 1986 film version of the play and discuss how the characters learn to deal with deafness.

Related titles in the AIMS collection

9994 Follow My Leader

Length

- 24 minutes

Subject Area

- Social Studies

Audience Levels

- Intermediate-Adult

Catalog number

- 9891

Annotation

Due to her triumph over a severe handicap, Helen Keller remains one of the most remarkable people of the twentieth century. This program, hosted by Hugh Downs, celebrates the accomplishments of this deaf, blind and mute woman who dedicated her life and love to helping those who were, in her words, "less fortunate than myself."

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Discussion Guide

Helen Keller: Voice and Vision In the Soul

Hosted by Hugh Downs.

Objectives

- To examine the achievements of Helen Keller.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished American.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism and leadership.

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American Lifestyle Series

Alexander Graham Bell: The Voice Heard 'Round The World

Objectives

- To provide a context for the examination of the achievements of Alexander Graham Bell.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished American.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism, productivity, and creativity.

Synopsis

Bienn Breagh (pronounced Ben Vreeah) is a large dignified Victorian, proper, but crowded with objects of Alexander Graham Bell's vigorous curiosity. It's also warmly inviting. Bell-teacher of the deaf, inventor, scientist, poet/visionary-lived a full and fertile life.

Like all the films in the American Lifestyle Series, this is rich in detail that fleshes out the lives in the biographies. An example, shared by the film's host, Mr. Hugh Downs: As a teacher of the deaf, Alexander Graham Bell used a system devised by his father. Melville Bell, the father, is said to be the model on which George Bernard Shaw-a friend of the Bells-based his linguistic expert Professor Henry Higgins, of *Pygmalion*, and later of *My Fair Lady*. Eliza, the flower girl-turned sophisticate under Professor Higgins' tutelage, may have had her namesake in Alexander's mother, also named Eliza.

In this film, we see several environments where Bell's genius flourished: attic and basement workshops in Boston; the Washington, D.C., house; and the Buddeck Museum in Nova Scotia, near Bienn Breagh. The environments saw many notables who came to share Bell's company. Helen Keller was a student and friend, as was Annie Sullivan, Keller's principal tutor. Mark Twain visited. Gilbert Grosvenor married a Bell daughter, and made something of the fledgling magazine of the National Geographic Society. Glenn Curtis visited and talked aeronautical design with Bell.

Bienn Breagh is a living house, occupied by descendants of Bell. It, and the other playing fields for Bell's genius shown in the film, are proper environments for recollections of this warm and loving man.

The inscription over his final environment-his grave near Bienn Breagh-reminds the world: "Died an American citizen." And now, Bell is justifiably an American legend, revisited in this outstanding film.

Questions to ask before viewing

- What do you know about Alexander Graham Bell?
- For what do you think he is famous?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. For what invention is Alexander Graham Bell best known?
2. In what country was Bell born?
3. For what work to help certain "handicapped" people do you think Bell would also like to be well known?
4. In what year did Bell finally devise a mechanism that transmitted human voice?
How old was he at that time?
How much was Bell's assistant earning at the time of the telephone's invention?
5. What offer did Mark Twain make on Bell's behalf?
Why do you think Twain thought the inventor of the telephone might need his prayers?
6. What contribution did Alexander Graham Bell make to the development of the phonograph?
7. Name other devices or ideas that Bell worked to develop.
8. Name some of the famous individuals with whom Bell came into close contact.
9. What developments in aviation did he contribute?
10. Recall Alexander Graham Bell's epitaph. Who wrote it? Why do you think each of the three elements of the epitaph was important to Bell?

Length

- 25 minutes

Subject Area

- U.S. History, Science

Audience Levels

- High School, College, Adult

Catalog Number

- 9746

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Discussion Guide

American Lifestyle Series: Alexander Graham Bell: The Voice Heard 'Round The World



The Model T Man from Michigan, America: Henry Ford and His Horseless Carriage

Synopsis

Henry Ford's idea for the assembly line and mass production of the automobile changed the world.

E.G. Marshall explores the life of this brilliant inventor and entrepreneur. He also tours Greenfield Village-the museum Ford established to preserve various facets of American History. In addition, the film shows the modest homes Ford lived in as a boy and young married man, and finally, Fairlane, the home that reflected his success as an industrialist.

As a young boy in Michigan, Ford was interested in every mechanical thing he could get his hands on. In 1876, when he was thirteen, he saw something that would forever determine the events of his life. He saw a self-propelled, horseless vehicle.

Later a young man, Ford moved to Detroit and got a job at the Edison Illuminating Company. At the time, he was experimenting in a workshop behind his house with one-and two-cylinder engines. On June 4, 1896, he took his first ride in a Ford automobile.

By 1903, Ford had found investors to put up the capital for the Ford Motor Company. They made over a hundred cars a month that first year with an annual net profit of \$100,000

Five years later, the company produced the legendary Model T that continued to be produced until 1927.

Ford was determined to make it possible for everyone to afford a Ford. He wanted to provide a reliable, quality machine at the lowest possible price; this was the philosophical cornerstone that led Ford to the revolutionary idea of the assembly line in order to mass-produce the automobile.

By 1914, he was producing two thousand Model Ts a day, and the market was insatiable. At that time, the Ford manufacturing plant was the most advanced efficient industrial complex in the history of the world.

The film shows that Ford treated his employees well. He paid his workers high wages, set up schools for employees and their families, introduced workers' compensation, and offered them low-cost housing.

The film also explores, however, a less favorable side to Ford, a side marred by anti-Semitic beliefs and the oppressive treatment of his son, Edsel.

Henry Ford died in 1947 at the age of 83, but his famous automobile company continues to flourish.

Questions to ask before showing the film

1. What do you think of when you hear the name Henry Ford?
2. Did Henry Ford invent the automobile?

3. Name any cars, past and present, produced by the Ford Motor Company.

Questions to ask after showing the film

1. What was Ford's concept behind the assembly line? (Bring the work to the man instead of the man to the work.) How does the assembly line operate? (A continuously moving belt carries various connected parts of a product to a line of workers who each attach a part to assemble a completed product.)
2. What was the Model T? (It was Ford's first popular car, produced between 1908 and 1927.) What was the "Tin Lizzie"? (The nickname for the Model T.)
3. Ford was different from other employers of the time since he shared his profits with his employees. In what ways did he do this? (He paid his employees well and reduced the workday from ten to eight hours. He even set up schools for immigrant employees and their families.)
4. How does Henry Ford's Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan, reflect Ford's enthusiasm for preserving historical landmarks? (It's a collection of buildings, each of which were transferred from their original locations to Greenfield Village, where they are maintained for public viewing.) Name some of the buildings in Greenfield Village mentioned in this film? (The homes of Stephen Foster, Luther Burbank, Noah Webster, and Robert Frost; the Wright Brothers' bicycle shop; the Illinois courtroom where Lincoln practiced law.)

Additional activities

- Discuss the impact of the automobile on people's lives in the early 1900s and today. Discuss what the world might be like if there were no cars.
- Bring in pictures of Ford products of the past and present.
- Research the evolution of the assembly line. Visit a plant that uses an assembly line.
- Find out more about the Ford Foundation. What kind of grants does it provide?

Catalog number

9883SG

Length

- 24 Minutes

Audience Levels

- Intermediate-Adult

Subject areas

- Social Studies, American History

AIMS
Discussion Guide

The Model T Man from Michigan, America: Henry Ford and His Horseless Carriage

Hosted and narrated by E.G. Marshall.

Objectives

- To reveal how Henry Ford built his automotive empire.
- To show how mass production of the automobile revolutionized the lifestyle of America and the world
- To supply information about the Ford homes and Greenfield Village-the historical preservation museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

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American Lifestyle Series

Carl Sandburg's Connemara Farm

Synopsis

Born of illiterate but hardworking immigrants, Carl Sandburg grew to be nearly the ultimate in American literacy. Along the way, we are told by Host Hugh Downs, he rode the rails, went to the Spanish-American War, and wrote for various newspapers and journals. He met and married Paula Steichen-sister of photographer Edward Steichen. He was a socialist who believed passionately in democracy and the innate wisdom of the people. (Much of his poetry celebrates the nobility of the common citizen). He loved the people, who loved him back.

He spent the last third of his life at a Connemara Farm in North Carolina's Great Smokies. It is a peaceful place. Its beauties are almost entirely natural. Connemara's artworks-unlike those shown in some of the American Lifestyle Series-were unpretentious. Sandberg simply ripped out of magazines what he liked and stuck it up on the walls of his bedroom and writing room.

Sandberg was the earthy poet who saw Chicago as hog butcher for the world, toolmaker, and stacker of wheat: and he saw the fog come little cat feet.

Few poets knew us better; few had a better vision of people enduring.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. What do you know about Carl Sandburg?
2. For what do you think he is most famous?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. What was the name of Carl Sandburg's home and where was it located? (Connemara Farm, near Flat Rock, North Carolina.)
2. Where and when was Sandburg born and what were his family's economic circumstances? (Galesburg, Illinois; 1878; one of seven children; family was poor; father was illiterate.)
3. At what age and grade in school did Sandburg have to go to work full time (Age 15, in the eighth grade.)
4. What did he do at age 19? Describe those circumstances.
5. How do you think these experiences might have influenced his later writing?
6. How did Sandburg "catch up" on his formal education?
7. What is "The American Songbag"?
8. Hugh Downs says Sandburg's later travels made him a "radical." What do you think that means? What in Sandburg's travels do you think made him a radical?
9. For how long were Sandburg and Paula Steichen married? Recall details in Paula Steichen's education and educational achievements.
10. What poem first drew wide public attention to Sandburg? (it will be useful to have a copy of Chicago to read aloud to the class.)
11. Describe Sandburg's taste in dress and "office décor."
12. How many books are on Connemara's shelves?
13. Recall the "Lincoln on Lake Michigan" anecdote. How does the story relate to Sandburg's writing?

14. Hugh Downs says that Sandburg knew America "was an idea-one to keep working on." What do you think that means?

Length

- 23 minutes

Subject Areas

- U.S. History, American Literature

Audience levels

- Junior, Sr. High School, College, Adult

Catalog Number

- 9748

Discussion Guide

American Lifestyle Series

Carl Sandburg's

Connemara Farm

Objectives

- To provide a context for the examination of the achievements of Carl Sandburg.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished American.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism, productivity, and creativity.

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The Common People's Uncommon Man: William Jennings Bryan

Hosted and narrated by
E.G. Marshall

Synopsis

William Jennings Bryan is singular in American history because of his vision of innocence, steadfast morality and talent to genuinely inspire the masses with his eloquent oratory style. When Bryan built his Victorian home called Fairview in Lincoln, Nebraska, the 20th Century was but three years old. At the time, Bryan had a firm foothold in American politics. He had already been the Democratic candidate for President two times.

E.G. Marshall tours Bryan's home and shows how it mirrors the fervent fundamentalist beliefs of this Midwestern statesman.

Fairview was built in open farmland. Bryan believed that farmers represented all that was good in the world and that Wall Street, the city and the corporate system encompassed all that was evil. His religion and unflinching belief in the principles of Thomas Jefferson, and the Protestant work ethic permeated his political

persona to such an extent that he became known as a moral gladiator.

He was also known as the Great Commoner because of his deep understanding of the dreams and needs of the common people. And although he was unsuccessful in three tries for the Presidency, his enormous energy and love of America made him well-respected by both supporters and opponents.

Bryan was an incomparable orator, a "silver voice that spoke to the multitudes." In his thirty-year career, he dazzled more than five thousand audiences.

Still Bryan is probably best remembered for his role as a prosecutor of John Scopes, who was defended by the flamboyant Clarence Darrow in the famous "Monkey" trial in the 1920's.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. What do you know about William Jennings Bryan?
2. What famous trial comes to mind when you think of Bryan?
3. What does the term "Common Man" mean to you?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. When did Bryan first run for the Presidency? (1896.) For which Party? (Democratic.)
2. Why was Bryan nicknamed "The Great Commoner?" (For his deep understanding and belief in the basic goodness of "common" people.)
3. The educational movement known as the Chautauqua circuit began in Lake Chautauqua, New York, in 1874. It was a network of traveling tent shows established as a way to bring lectures, dramatics, concerts, and educational programs to towns across America. Why was the Chautauqua circuit important to William Jennings Bryan? (He did a considerable part of his public speaking at Chautauqua gatherings.)
4. What was the name of Bryan's home and where is it located? (Fairview in Lincoln, Nebraska.)
5. Discuss how Bryan's strong religious beliefs affected his political life.
6. Who was Clarence Darrow? (Bryan's legal opponent in the John Scopes trial.) What great issue was argued during the Scopes trial? (The theory of evolution.)

Additional activities

- ◆ Read about the Scopes trial and report what you learn to the class

Length

- 24 minutes

Subject Area

- Social Studies, History

Audience Levels

- Junior-Senior High

Catalog number

- 9882

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Discussion Guide

The Common People's Uncommon Man: William Jennings Bryan

**Hosted and narrated by
E.G. Marshall.**

Objectives:

- To present a clear picture of William Jennings Bryan as a political figure and a family man.
- To show how Bryan's Fairview home reflects his religious beliefs and strong sense of community
- To reveal how Bryan reflected the times in which he lived



American Lifestyle Series Woodrow Wilson: Peace and The Professor President

Objectives

- To provide a context for the examination of the achievements of Woodrow Wilson.
- To recreate the life and times of this distinguished.
- To provide examples of the American spirit at its best.
- To instill pride in the American virtues and values of individualism and leadership.

SYNOPSIS

Woodrow Wilson enjoyed a distinguished and inspiring career as intellectual and political leader. He was, in a sense, also the spiritual leader of the American people, to the extent that freedom and peace are central to that national spirit.

Most of the mementos of that leadership-and of the times-are gathered in two Wilson homes: the Presbyterian Manse in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, and the S Street house in Washington, D.C. Here, guided by Hugh Downs, we see evidence and reminders of Wilson's happy and loving family life, his deeply-felt convictions against "predatory wealth" and for the public good, and the gratitude of nations for his work toward permanent peace.

Woodrow Wilson was the only man to come to the presidency with a PhD. He was a scholar of history and politics. He brought high intellectual and moral purpose to the presidency. Although he ended ill, defeated in his efforts to bring America and Europe to the peace table in a spirit of good will, and embittered by that failure, he had led the country back to democracy's first principals.

The Wilson loves stories-treated with dignity in the film-are a touching and humanizing element in the story of a man who most often is seen as distant, formal in a Hoburg, and unrevealing of his deep feelings about people.

Motivation: Questions to ask before showing the film

- What do you know about Woodrow Wilson?
- For what do you think he is famous?

Reinforcement: Questions to ask after showing the film

1. In what way was Woodrow Wilson's professional background and training different from those of other American Presidents.?
2. Why do you think it might be a good idea to elect a President who is an expert and a scholar on government and U.S. history?
3. What do you think is the meaning of Wilson's statement, "I believe in principles, not men"?
4. What first brought Woodrow Wilson to the attention of political leaders? In what state did that happen?
5. What do you think about these two statements by Ellen Axson Wilson: "A Woman's place is to keep one little spot in the world quiet (for her husband)," and "I dare not become blue: he immediately becomes blue-black."

6. How many times did the Democrats vote at their National Convention before they nominated Woodrow Wilson their candidate for President? In what year was Wilson first elected President?
7. What two events "blotted out the bright sun of Wilson's presidency"?
8. Why was Wilson called "the second Prince of Peace"? Who was the first "Prince of Peace"?
9. After his trip to Europe for the signing of the peace treaty, Wilson toured the U.S. Why did he do so?
10. What happened to him on that trip?
11. According to the film (and many other history sources), who was, in fact, the "President" of the United States for the next eighteen months of Wilson's term?
12. The film concludes with references to "gin in the bathtub" and "Hitler brooding in Munich." What two historical events do these references forecast?

Length

- 23 minutes

Subject areas

- U.S. History

Audience Level

- High School, College, Adult

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Woodrow Wilson:
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