

Mourning a President

EXHIBIT LESSON IDEAS

Below are several lesson ideas and resources about the flag, first ladies, empathy and other topics that you might incorporate into your curriculum before, during or after a visit to the *Mourning a President* special exhibit at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, on view November 17, 2017 through February 19, 2018.

The History of Flag Day Lesson (from the Constitution Center)

constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/lesson-plans/the-history-of-flag-day

The Role of the First Ladies Lesson (from Edsitement.neh.gov)

edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/remember-ladies-first-ladies

Official information about the U.S. Flag

gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-108hdoc97/pdf/CDOC-108hdoc97.pdf This briefly describes the history of the American flag, and sets forth the practices and observances appropriate to its display.

Questions for Reflection

The closing section of the special exhibit is set up for conversation and reflection, including questions designed to help visitors process what they have seen and heard in the exhibit. These questions would also be wonderful for post-visit discussion to gauge students learning in the exhibit.

- What does the U.S. flag mean to you?
- When have you been moved by seeing your nation's flag on display?
- What emotions does the Kennedy funeral evoke for you?
- The shared experience of watching an historical event unfold on television can be powerful. What experiences like this have you had? How did they make you feel?

Vocabulary

There are many ways to incorporate the vocabulary list provided [here](#) into your curriculum. Here are some approaches to get you started:

- Find the origins of unfamiliar words and when they were most frequently used.
- Younger students can match the definition with the object in a photograph from the exhibit.

Iconic Images

Using the image of [John F. Kennedy, Jr. saluting his father's caisson](#) as a starting point, consider what other major events of the 20th century are associated with an iconic image? Examples might include: the moon landing, V-E Day, the Berlin Wall going up or coming down, Iwo Jima, 9/11, etc. Create a hexagon activity or timeline using these iconic images. [Information about making and using hexagons in the classroom can be found [here](#) and [here](#).]

Lesson Ideas About Empathy

- Write a letter to Mrs. Kennedy or one of the Kennedy family members expressing how learning about President Kennedy's death and funeral made you feel and your hopes for them after the funeral.
- Place yourself in a photograph:
 - Choose a photograph that shows the crowds around Washington, D.C. from November 23 through 25, 1963. This can be done in the exhibit or using the images from the Mourning a President exhibit found in the Online Collections Highlights, available at emuseum.jfk.org.
 - Choose one person in it and imagine what they were doing one hour before the photograph was taken. Note those ideas.
 - Imagine how they are feeling at the moment the photograph is taken. Note those ideas.
 - Imagine what they are doing an hour after the photograph was taken. Note those ideas.
 - Now write a narrative story from that person's perspective about the day the photograph was taken.
 - Pair up and share your stories with another student who chose a different person in the photograph. What were the similarities and differences in the experiences you imagine for your two people?
 - Ask someone in your family or community about their memories of watching President Kennedy's funeral. What similarities and differences do they have with the stories you and your classmates wrote?

There are full lesson plans available on the [Teacher Resources page](#) of the Museum's website, jfk.org/education. Please contact Ani Simmons at education@jfk.org for questions or information about booking an education program.