

Northwest History Consortium

Johnson Impeachment

Lisa Kudrna
6th Grade

National Standard

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861) / Standard 3A

Standard 3A: The student understands the changing character of American political life in "the age of the common man."

BACKGROUND

When Andrew Johnson became president after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, some of the Republicans in Congress most opposed -- to what they saw as the too-lenient policies of Lincoln toward reconstruction -- saw Johnson's ascension as a hopeful sign.

One of the radical Republicans of the Senate, Benjamin Wade, expressed his support: "Johnson, we have faith in you. By the gods, there will be no more trouble in running the government." Less than three years later, Wade would cast a vote to convict Johnson in the impeachment trial that nearly made him the next president of the United States.

SCENARIO

It is March 30, 1868. President Andrew Johnson has been impeached by the House of Representatives. The Senate now prepares to hear evidence. You are part of the Senate that will find out how the whole impeachment process began. You must take notes in your Senator's journal to support your final vote. It is important for you to get both points of view before you cast your vote. You will be asked to defend how you have voted and must give supporting evidence. This is a very big responsibility because YOUR vote will be the most critical vote cast.

TASKS

You must take notes in your Senator's journal to support your final vote. It is important for you to get both points of view before you cast your vote. You will be asked to defend how you have voted and must give supporting evidence. This is a very big responsibility because YOUR vote will be the most critical vote cast.

- Students will learn the electoral process and the election system in the Constitution, including the 12th Amendment.
- Students will learn the importance of voting and citizen participation.
- Students will discuss the impact of sectionalism.
- Students will identify the discriminatory voting processes of the time.

Was Andrew Johnson's Impeachment Fair?

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RESOURCES

Internet

“Andrew Jackson.” 3 June 2010. Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. 2001 – 2010. San Francisco, CA. 7 June 2010 <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Jackson>.

“Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and The Presidency.” ©2007 Red Hill Productions and Community Television of Southern California. PBS.Org (KCET). ©1995 – 2010 Public Broadcasting System. Arlington, VA. 7 June 2010 <<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/>>.

Martin, Kelly. “Andrew Jackson – 7th President of the United States.” About.Com (American History). ©2010 About.Com (The New York Times Company). New York, NY. 7 June 2010 <<http://americanhistory.about.com/od/andrewjackson/p/pjackson.htm>>.

Miscellaneous

- Provide students with information on the electoral process and the election system in the Constitution, including the 12th Amendment.
- Provide students with information on the importance of voting and citizen participation.
- Provide students with information on the impeachment process.

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 7 June 2010 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards6>>.

Kudrna, Lisa. “Johnson Impeachment.” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 7 June 2010 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.3A_JohnsonImpeachment.Kudrna.6.pdf>.