

Recordings from the Redwoods

Parent Guide, page 1 of 2

Read the “Directions” sheets for step-by-step instructions.

SUMMARY

In this activity, children will carefully watch and then explore two videos about Lady Bird Johnson’s conservation of the Redwood National Park in northern California.

WHY

By watching archived video, children will gain content knowledge about Lady Bird Johnson and conservation. Children will also build their skills in producing digital photographs and slideshows.

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

This activity will work best for children in 2nd through 4th grade.

TIME

- 35 minutes

CHALLENGE WORDS

- **anguish:** deep pain or sadness
- **conservation:** careful protection of natural resources
- **crusade:** a plan to correct something
- **ravaged:** destroyed or ruined
- **redwood or sequoia:** trees that grow in California. They can grow to over 300 feet tall.
- **revere:** to honor
- **scraggly:** rough and strangely shaped
- **timber harvest:** cutting down trees for use in building

GET READY

- Read *Miss Lady Bird’s Wildflowers* together. *Miss Lady Bird’s Wildflowers* is a biography of Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. For tips on reading this book together, check out the [Guided Reading Activity](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/firstlady/firstlady_reading.pdf) (http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/firstlady/firstlady_reading.pdf).
- Read the *Step Back in Time* sheets.

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>

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- The slide show creation tools were not developed by the National Museum of American history. You may want to preview both tools before using them with your children. The tools are downloadable *Picasa from Google* (<http://picasa.google.com/>) and the web application *Slide.com* (<http://www.slide.com/>).

YOU NEED

- Directions sheets (*attached*)
- Step Back in Time sheets (*attached*)
- *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* book (*optional*)
- Computer with Internet connection
- Digital camera

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>



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For more information, visit the National Museum of American History Web site <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>.

Part of a woman's traditional role in America has been to care for her family and help the needy in her community. Similarly, a wife of a U.S. president (called "the first lady") often supports charities and other social causes. Recent first ladies have supported and brought attention to literacy, health care, prevention of drug abuse, volunteer work, and taking care of historic places. Their examples have encouraged women to take action at many levels, and have provided role models for women and girls.



Illustration of Lady Bird Johnson and her daughters in their garden.

Illustration from *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers*



Lady Bird Johnson in her inaugural gown, 1965. Courtesy of Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum

Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson, the wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was first lady from 1963 to 1969. She took her job as first lady seriously. She carefully chose and announced the project she would work on while her husband was president. In a 1994 interview, she told the *Washington Post*, "Once you are [first lady] and you want to serve whatever your husband's efforts are on behalf of the country, you choose those which make your heart sing."

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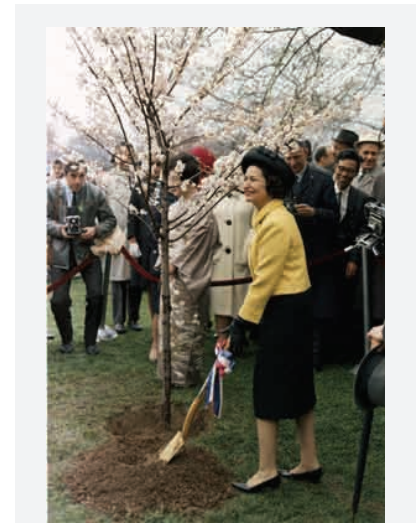
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Because Lady Bird Johnson loved nature and the environment, she turned her interest into projects to support her husband's efforts to improve living conditions for all Americans. She called it **beautification**. Lady Bird Johnson worked hard to get Congress to pass laws that protected the **environment**. She encouraged Americans to plant gardens and clean up neighborhoods and parks.

After leaving the White House, she continued to work on **beautification** and helped to start the National Wildflower Center, now called the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center* (www.wildflower.org/).

For more information on Lady Bird Johnson and other first ladies, visit the online exhibition *The First Ladies at the Smithsonian* (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/firstladies/>).



Lady Bird Johnson planting a cherry tree. [LBJ Library Photo by unknown]

beautification: to fight against ugliness and improve the looks of a place or thing

environment: the conditions that surround someone or something; for people, this includes the weather, earth, air, water, plants, animals, and more

Illustrations from *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

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For adults and kids to follow together.

1. Read through the **Step Back in Time** sheets or *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers*. What was one of Lady Bird Johnson's main projects as first lady?

2. Although *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* focuses on growing wildflowers, Lady Bird Johnson's project included a lot more than just making things pretty. Her beautification project also included protecting nature, as when she and President Johnson worked to create Redwood National Park in California.

3. Find Redwood National Park on a map.

Tip For more information and pictures, visit the National Park Service's Web site on the Park (<http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>).

4. Two videos (online at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/v/redwoods.html>) tell part of the story of how President and Lady Bird Johnson established Redwood National Park. Watch both videos and decide which one comes first. One video explains a problem and the other one shows the solution.

Tip Some of the words in the videos might be new. Use the "Challenge Words" section of the Parent Guide to learn new words as you listen to the video.

5. Talk about the videos together:

- What was the problem in that Lady Bird Johnson wanted to end?
- From what you know about Lady Bird, how do you think she felt about the problem?

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- What pictures or scenes from the video stood out in your mind?
- According to Lady Bird, what kinds of people were in the audience?
- How did President and Lady Bird Johnson solve the problem of the trees being cut down?

Tip For more information on the Redwood forests in California, check out the articles, pictures and videos from Thinkfinity partner National Geographic at <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/explorer/3823/Overview#tab-Overview>.

6. Now find out about your town. Is there protected nature area? Can you think of a nature area that should be protected?
 - If you've found an area that is protected, visit the area and take digital photographs of the area. Then compose a slide show with the images, using either the downloadable *Picasa from Google* (<http://picasa.google.com/>) or the web application *Slide.com* (<http://www.slide.com/>). Finally, send this slide show to friends, family, or people in your local government, so everyone knows about this area and why it is special.
 - If you've found an area that you think should be protected, visit the area and take digital photographs of it. Then compose a slide show with the images, using either the downloadable *Picasa from Google* (<http://picasa.google.com/>) or the web application *Slide.com* (<http://www.slide.com/>). Through your video, try to convince others to protect the nature area. Finally, send this slide show to friends, family, or people in your local government, and suggest that others try to protect the area, too.

For more activities and information about *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* and Lady Bird Johnson, visit (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>).

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Teacher Guide, page 1 of 1

Read the “Directions” and “Parent Guide” sheets for step-by-step instructions.

OBJECTIVES

The students will be better able to:

- Identify the temporal order of two pieces of a story.
- Describe Lady Bird Johnson and her beautification project.
- Create digital photographs and organize into a slide show.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Identifies the contributions of President and Lady Bird Johnson to the environment.
- Collects and evaluates information through listening and watching.
- Takes and integrates appropriate photographs.

STANDARDS

NCHS History Standards

K-4 Historical Thinking Standards

1B: Establish the temporal structure of a historical narrative or story.

K-4 Historical Content Standards

4C. The student understands historic figures who have exemplified values and principles of American democracy.

21st-Century Skills

Learning and Innovation Skills

- Creativity and Innovation

Information, Media, and Technology Skills

- Media Literacy

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>