TEACHER’S MANUAL
GRADES 4-12

A Glorious Burden
THE American Presidency

Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Behring Center

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
WHERE THE PAST COMES ALIVE
Dear Teacher:

The History Channel is delighted to work with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History on its newest permanent exhibition, The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden. What a terrific topic! Along with producing videos integral to the exhibition itself, together with the Museum, we have developed this manual for grades four through twelve as part of our commitment to history education.

The American presidency is an important and fascinating part of the curriculum in a broad range of grade levels. Whether you are teaching advanced placement United States history to eleventh graders, or social studies to fifth graders, we hope that this manual will bring the study of presidential history alive in your classroom.

This Teacher’s Manual provides creative guidelines, useful resources, and vibrant ideas for you and your students. Inside you will find primary sources, suggestions for interdisciplinary activities, and portfolio projects—as well as a colorful time line, similar to one that is showcased in the exhibition.

We invite you to visit us online at www.historychannel.com/classroom, where your students can access safe, interactive resources and you can find free educational materials for your school. We always appreciate your input, so take a minute to let us know how you are using this manual. You can e-mail us at savehistory@aetn.com or leave us a message at 1-877-87LEARN (toll free).

Best Regards,

Abbe Raven Libby O’Connell, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President Historian-in-Residence and General Manager The History Channel

Dear Teacher:

We are pleased to provide you with the Teacher’s Manual designed to accompany the National Museum of American History’s newest permanent exhibition, The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden. This manual was created through a partnership between the Museum and The History Channel, the media sponsor of the exhibition, and results from the dedicated efforts of educators and historians in both organizations.

The Smithsonian’s vast presidential collections and national treasures—from campaign memorabilia to the desk on which Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence—attest to our fascination with the presidency and provide us with tangible connections to our leaders and to our past. They commemorate the joyous occasions, as well as the challenging times and tragic events our country has experienced in its relatively short history.

We hope you will find, in this manual, a variety of creative and engaging strategies to help students think about the office of the presidency, its many occupants, and its importance in American and world history. We look forward to your visit, either in person or on the web (www.americanhistory.si.edu/presidency), where you will find our virtual exhibit, plus additional resources and activities for studying the presidency.

The National Museum of American History has a longstanding interest in helping teachers find the information and tools they need for teaching American history. Please keep in touch with us, either through the web or by writing to the Office of Education and Visitor Services, MRC603, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, and let us know how you are using this manual in your classroom. Thanks.

Nancy McCoy
Director of Education and Visitor Services
National Museum of American History
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SECTION FOUR: RESOURCES

I. Books

Grades Four Through Six

Grades Seven Through Twelve

II. Web Sites

National Museum of American History Exhibition Site – americanhistory.si.edu/presidency
The History Channel Classroom – www.historychannel.com/classroom
A&E’s Public Speaking and Résumé Writing Tips – www.aande.com/class/bioexpert.html
Grolier’s Online Encyclopedia – gl.grolier.com/president/ea/ea_toc.html
Inaugural Addresses – bartleby.com/124/index
Internet Public Library Presidents Site – www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS
Presidential Campaigns – scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/americavotes and www.newseum.org/everyfouryears
Presidential Libraries Sites – www.nara.gov/nara/president/address.html
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