



Researching the Presidents

An Executive View on History

TN History Day Virtual Workshop

May 7, 2020

But my topic isn't about a President!

--We remember historical events by who was president: John F. Kennedy's Space Race; Abraham Lincoln's Civil War; Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal

--Presidents are well-documented! (Even William Henry Harrison)

--Presidential actions reflect the feelings and ambitions of the nation.

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Where would I find primary sources?

1. Presidential Library, Museum, or Historic Site
2. National Repositories
3. Public and School Libraries

What about secondary sources?

1. Reading for Accuracy
2. Reading for Bias
3. Synthesizing all your sources

Where could I find some help?

1. Contact staff members at presidential libraries, museums, and sites.
2. Look up the authors of secondary sources you're using.
3. Look at your community resources: lawyers, historians, government leaders, business leaders, educators, specialists
- 4.

Do you have any tried-and-true resources?

1. National Archives and Records Administration
2. Library of Congress
3. [Miller Center for Presidential History](#), University of Virginia
4. [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#)
5. Foreign Museums and Libraries: [the British Library](#), the Louvre, American Battlefields and Monuments Commission, Vietnam National Archives

A few inside tips...

1. Herbert Hoover was the first President to have a Presidential Library. Before Hoover, presidential documents are in several places!
2. Find out what jobs the President held before or after his administration.
3. Pay attention to major decision makers around each President.
4. View the actions of a President from at least two directions: the President's and the People's.

The Jackson Purchase

1818--Andrew Jackson and Isaac Shelby negotiate the purchase of West TN and southwest KY, between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. This land purchase benefits settlers eager to expand into these territories. Who else benefits? Who suffers?

James Monroe is President: Can his goals shed some light on the relevance or success of the Jackson Purchase?

--The Monroe Doctrine

--Views on Native Americans after War of 1812

--Manifest Destiny

--Admission of states to the Union

--Personal relationship between Jackson and Monroe

Working with Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

1. For Students: THD/NHD mentoring, Ask an Expert, Research assistance
2. For Teachers: Virtual Field Trips, Curriculum Planning, Teacher Development

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