

Lesson 2

HIS STORY - MY STORY

A Lesson in Time

Day 1

In this lesson, students will examine the time line of Dwight David Eisenhower's life. As they read and discuss **His Story** with the teacher, students should begin to identify events in Ike's life that would help build good character traits, or times that Ike displayed good character or leadership traits. The poster naming Character Traits should be displayed in the front of the room. Traits should be explained and discussed **BEFORE** doing this lesson.

One such event would be the command of Camp Colt in Gettysburg. Eisenhower needed to be **responsible and trustworthy** to lead this new command. Another example would be when General Eisenhower had to make the decision to invade France on June 6, 1944. He had to be **responsible and accountable** for the decision he finally made.

After several events are discussed in class, the students will be assigned **My Story**, the timeline that will show events in the student's life and the lives of one or more family members that have helped them build good character.

For example, under the year 1978 the student might list: My grandmother became a mother for the first time and was now **responsible** for raising a family. Or under the 2008 – 2009 space: I was **trustworthy** when my brother asked me to keep his Pokemon Cards in a safe place while he went to camp.

The time line, **My Story**, should be completed at home. The letter explaining the assignment and goal of the unit should accompany the timeline. The letter and timeline follow this page. Teacher discretion should be used on the time needed for students to complete this assignment.

Day 2

Children will bring in their own timelines and present their stories to the rest of the class. This could be done in a cooperative group environment or as a whole class project. Timelines will then be displayed in the classroom during the rest of the unit.

Note: Please refer to the introduction background information on President Eisenhower to aid you in discussion.

Suggestion for a follow up assignment: Write a set of rules that your family has designed to help you develop into a responsible citizen. You may present your rules as a poem, a drawing, a mobile or with photographs.

Dear Parent,

Your child will be participating in a unit of study on the development of good character traits. As a model of good character, each child will be reading about and discussing President Dwight David Eisenhower. Our former President and five-star general was a “Man of Many Hats” and over his lifetime, he developed positive character traits that helped him become a great leader.

Dwight David Eisenhower’s story is truly an all-American tale. Born into a mid-western family, with strong and traditional values, he studied and worked hard. A graduate of West Point, he prepared for the day when he might have to fight to defend the United States against a foreign enemy. He eventually became Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, President of Columbia University, Commander of NATO forces and President of the United States for eight years.

This great American decided to make his retirement home in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The home and farm is now a National Historic Site maintained and interpreted by the United States National Park Service.

As an important part of this unit, the class will be visiting the Eisenhower National Historic Site to participate in a student education program. Prior to this visit, your child will be involved in pre-visit lessons on character development conducted by the classroom teacher. The entire project will be more meaningful for your student if you help them complete the assignment titled “My Story.” The children are being asked to fill in events during their life and the lives of other family members that have helped them develop positive character traits. For example, for 1991 your child might write “My father was a good citizen when he served in the army during the Gulf War,” or in 1985 “My parents demonstrated responsibility when they bought a house.” Please consider the contributions of grandparents as well. The timeline that accompanies this letter has the character traits we are focusing on listed to help the family complete the assignment.

On behalf of all that are involved in this project, we thank you for your assistance.

KANSAS BOY TO PRESIDENT



HIS STORY



Gettysburg, Pa. experiences its worst days when a 3-day battle is fought between the North and South.

July 1863

Dwight D. Eisenhower is born October 14, 1890 in Denison, TX. The family then moves to Abilene, KS.

1890-1891

Dwight D. Eisenhower plays high school football and baseball. He is an outstanding athlete at Abilene High.

1907

Dwight graduates from high school but doesn't have enough money to go to college.

1909

Dwight wins an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

1911-1915

While stationed in Texas, Lt. Eisenhower meets, and then marries, Mamie Geneva Doud.

1916

Capt. Eisenhower becomes commander of Camp Colt, an army tank training camp in Gettysburg, PA.

1918

As part of General Douglas MacArthur's staff, Eisenhower is assigned to the Philippines to help their government build an army.

1935

During WWII, General Marshall assigns General Eisenhower to lead a group planning an invasion of Europe.

1942

General Eisenhower meets with President Roosevelt. He is given command of Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe.

1943

"OK, let's go," said General Eisenhower on the morning of June 5, 1944, the day before the D-Day invasion.

1944

General Eisenhower receives a hero's welcome in Europe and the USA.

1945



Dwight David Eisenhower



General Eisenhower becomes president of Columbia University and writes a book about World War II.

1948

President Truman appoints General Eisenhower Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

1950

General Eisenhower becomes the 34th President of the United States of America.

1953

President Eisenhower passes the Interstate Highway Act. Indian Prime Minister Nehru visits the President's Gettysburg farm.

1956

President Eisenhower makes many important decisions for citizens of the United States. One of these was to sign the Civil Rights Act.

1957

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is formed (NASA).

1958

President Eisenhower welcomes Nikita Khrushchev, Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1959

President Eisenhower turns over the Presidency to John F. Kennedy and retires to Gettysburg, PA.

1961

President (General) Eisenhower enjoys retirement at his farm in Gettysburg, PA. During this time he writes his two-volume Presidential memoirs.

1961-1969

President Eisenhower dies at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC.

Mar. 28, 1969



MY STORY

by

Events that have helped my family and me build good character.

Trustworthy
Respectful
Responsible
Accountable
Caring
Citizenship

1992

1994

1996

1998

2000

2002

2004

2006

2008

2010

2012

2014

2016