

“Creative Conservation:” The Environmental Legacy of Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson 1963-1969

THE following curriculum guide explores President Johnson’s environmental legacy through his service during the Roosevelt administration, his time as both a congressman and senator from Texas, and finally as the nation’s 36th president. The First Lady, Claudia Taylor Johnson, lovingly nicknamed Lady Bird as a child, was instrumental in leading the administration in both conservation and beautification efforts. Together, the Johnsons persevered during one of our nation’s most tumultuous periods, always with a “can do” attitude. Their love of both home and country was apparent in their advocacy for both nature and quality of life.



“President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson Walking Through a Field of Flowers”

Photography by Frank Wolfe, 1968

<http://www.lbjlibrary.net/collections/photo-archive.html>

President Johnson’s focus on the environment is often overlooked as part of the Great Society domestic plan which included expanding civil rights, immigration and education reform, and much more. Environmental issues are still of concern today evidenced by the vibrant environmental movement led by young activists. Students are encouraged to make connections to contemporary issues by thinking through similar issues of the past such as environmental injustice, air and water pollution, conservation of natural resources, and accessibility to the natural environment. LBJ knew the federal government could not do the work alone. The role of government, in his opinion, was to offer support to localities as they strived to tackle their own environmental issues.

This guide is divided into eight sections containing appropriate materials for grades 5th – 12th, that may be amended as needed. Possible TEKS are included to aid in the educator’s lesson planning. Included in this guide are classroom Activity, video links, vocabulary lists, primary source analysis worksheets, and weblinks for additional resources.

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Educator Resources:

Document Analysis Worksheets from National Archives:

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets>

- Analyze a Video
- Analyze a Photograph
- Analyze a Sound Recording
- Analyze a Written Document