

Maltese Cross Cabin

Subjects: History, Social Studies

Location: Inside; Classroom or Homework

Duration: 30 minutes

Vocabulary: conservation; legacy

ND State Curriculum Standards: SS.4.2.5; SS.5.2.4;
W.4-5.7-8; SL.4-5.2; L.4-5.1-6



Objectives: Students will answer questions based on the educational video about the Maltese Cross Cabin, entitled “Finding Roosevelt: A Journey Over Land and Through Time.” The teacher and students will be able to assess what they learned from the video, and draw conclusions about the influences between Theodore Roosevelt and North Dakota.

Materials:

- Cabin video - “Finding Roosevelt”
- Writing supplies
- Internet access

Background: The Maltese Cross Cabin was built between September 1883 and April 1884 by the ranch partners of Theodore Roosevelt. It served as a base of operations for Roosevelt’s ranching business for several years, and today sits behind the South Unit Visitor Center at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The restored building represents a time when a young man came to experience a vanishing frontier, and expose himself to what he would fondly call “the strenuous life.”

Procedures:

Have your students watch the video “Finding Roosevelt: A Journey Over Land and Through Time,” found on the Theodore Roosevelt National Park website. You can also find more information on the cabin and Roosevelt’s time in the Badlands under the “History & Culture” section of the park’s website. After your students have watched the video, use this activity as an assessment of what they learned.

Use the answer key provided, and/or your own research, to help students understand the importance of Theodore Roosevelt’s time in North Dakota. Student answers do not need to be as thorough as the answer key; if their responses include some of the information in the key, that shows they have been able to draw the intended conclusions. Feel free to augment or change the questions based on your students or your learning goals. Below, there is an extra or alternative activity you may do with your students to help them learn about the terms and ideas discussed in the video.

Extension:

Theodore Roosevelt was a very well-read man, and he employs a very large vocabulary. He also uses some words differently than we might commonly use today. Have your students watch the video with a list of words or phrases they may not know, and try to develop a definition based on how the word is used. Afterwards, they can look up the actual definitions and those of words they still do not know. Use the following list to get you started:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| • legislated | • bully | • sanctuary |
| • conservation | • game | • domestically |
| • endeavors | • butte | • significance |
| • legacy | • badlands | • decimated |
| • propagated | • noble | • contradiction |

Finding Roosevelt:

A Journey Over Land and Through Time

How was the Maltese Cross Cabin different from other frontier cabins of that time?

Based on what was found in the cabin, name at least two interests of Theodore Roosevelt.

How does North Dakota today differ from the Dakota Territory of Theodore Roosevelt's time?

For what reason did Theodore Roosevelt first come to Dakota in 1883? Why did he return?

In what ways did Theodore Roosevelt's time in North Dakota influence his life and career?

Research the two terms below, and define them within the context of the video (don't simply write the dictionary's definition - find out what the word means, then explain its importance based on how it is used in the video).

Conservation:

Legacy:

Roosevelt mentions that he formed a club called "Boone and Crockett." Research the club, and then explain what it is, and how it helps with wildlife conservation.

Finding Roosevelt:

A Journey Over Land and Through Time

Answer Key

How was the Maltese Cross Cabin different from other frontier cabins of that time?

It was slightly larger and had multiple rooms. There were wooden floors and white-washed walls. Although some furniture was common, there were items not always found in a typical ranch cabin, such as the books and the bedroom items.

Based on what was found in the cabin, name at least two interests of Theodore Roosevelt.

Hunting; reading; writing; nature/natural history

How does North Dakota today differ from the Dakota Territory of Theodore Roosevelt's time?

Much more development (roads, cities and towns, industry, etc.); open/free-range cattle industry no longer exists.

For what reason did Theodore Roosevelt first come to Dakota in 1883? Why did he return?

He came to hunt bison; he returned to be a cattle rancher

In what ways did Theodore Roosevelt's time in North Dakota influence his life and career?

During his ranching experiences, Roosevelt saw a need for conservation of habitat and wildlife. He later established hundreds of national forests and preserves as president. Although not discussed in the video, he also credits his time with the people as providing him with valuable life lessons and experiences which helped him identify with everyday Americans.

Research the two terms below, and define them *within the context of the video* (don't simply write the dictionary's definition - find out what the word means, then explain its importance based on how it is used in the video).

Conservation: Roosevelt is talking about protecting the wildlife and places they depend upon. He wants to conserve our resources so they can still be used by future generations.

Legacy: Roosevelt left the people protected lands which are supposed to last for future generations to use and enjoy. It is like a gift for our future children.

Roosevelt mentions that he formed a club called "Boone and Crockett." Research the club, and then explain what it is, and how it helps with wildlife conservation.

Boone & Crockett Club was founded in 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell and several other prominent eastern sportsmen. It was created as a fair hunting organization, and established many rules and guidelines by which it felt hunters should operate, to ensure species survival. They were one of the first to acknowledge the importance of protecting habitat for the purpose of wildlife conservation, and helped to lobby for legislation which protected land and animals.