

# Lessons on American Presidents.com

### **WOODROW WILSON**

http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/woodrow\_wilson.html

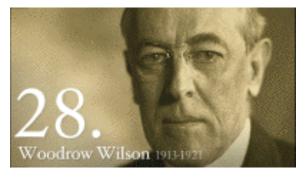


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#### THE READING / LISTENING TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/woodrow\_wilson.html

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was the 28th President of the United States. He served two terms in office from 1913 to 1921. He was born in Virginia in 1856. Wilson suffered from dyslexia and didn't learn to read until he was ten years old. He graduated from Princeton in 1879. He also studied law at the University of Virginia and in 1883 gained a PhD in history and political science from John Hopkins University.

Wilson advanced rapidly as a conservative young professor of political science and became president of Princeton in 1902. His growing national reputation led some Democrats to consider him Presidential material. He was nominated for President at the 1912 Democratic Convention. He won only 42 percent of the popular vote but got an overwhelming electoral vote to become President.

Wilson passed bills for lower tariffs, a graduated income tax, the prohibition of child labor, 8-hour days for railroad workers, and more. These and his promise to keep the USA out of World War I meant he narrowly won re-election in 1916. However, after the election Wilson said America could not remain neutral when German submarines were attacking US ships. Wilson declared war on Germany in April 1917.

Wilson stated WWI was the "war to end all war". Massive American effort helped the Allies win the War and Germany surrendered in November 1918. Wilson helped create the League of Nations in Paris, but the Versailles Treaty failed in the Senate by seven votes. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. He died in 1924, leaving his legacy for the USA to fight for democracy around the world.

Text adapted from www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/woodrowwilson



#### **★ LISTENING GAP FILL**

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#### **CORRECT THE SPELLING**

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#### **UNJUMBLE THE WORDS**

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## **★ DISCUSSION** (Write your own questions)

#### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS** (Do not show these to student B)

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DISCUSSION ( ENT B's QUESTIONS		

#### **STUDENT WOODROW WILSON SURVEY**

From: http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/woodrow\_wilson.html

Write five GOOD questions about Woodrow Wilson in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.





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Write about Woodrow Wilson for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.							

#### **HOMEWORK**

- **1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- **2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about Woodrow Wilson. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.
- **3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Woodrow Wilson. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.
- **4. WOODROW WILSON POSTER** Make a poster about Woodrow Wilson. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.
- **5. MY WOODROW WILSON LESSON:** Make your own English lesson on Woodrow Wilson. Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Teach the class / another group when you have finished.
- **6. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter stream, Del-icio-us / StumbleUpon account, or any other social media tool to get opinions on Woodrow Wilson. Share your findings with the class.