



## Teacher's Notes: John F. Kennedy

### Learning Objectives:

- The students will be able to identify JFK and Fidel Castro, missile
- The students will be able to define assassination, agreement, communist, crisis
- The students will be able to summarize the text.
- The students will be able to answer WH questions.

### Activities

1. Students do image searches related to JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis (See Technology printable).

**General Tips:** The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

**Page 1:** John F. Kennedy was a president. The F stood for his middle name, Fitzgerald. Some people called him by his initials, JFK. Have students view the following video of JFK with his family.

**Point:** JFK, tie, teeth, hair

**WH Questions:** Who was the 35<sup>th</sup> president of the United States?

**Yes/No:** Was JFK the president of Canada? Was JFK the president of the United States? Is he the president now?

**Opinion/Experiences:** What is your middle name? What are the three initials in your names? What color hair did JFK have? Do you know anyone with the same color hair as JFK?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 1, ask students, "Who was the 35<sup>th</sup> president of the United States?" The answer is the main idea card "JFK." Students will find the main idea card and read/show it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 2:** JFK had a family. He had a beautiful wife named Jackie, and two children. His daughter's name was Caroline. His son's name was also John. People called him John John or JFK junior. Junior means that you have the same name as your father. The family lived in the White House. That is where all of the presidents and their families live. Have students view the following video of JFK with his family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3dxdZeZUoU>

**Point:** White House, trees, flag, JFK, Jackie, Caroline, JFK Jr.

**WH Questions:** What was JFK's wife's name? Where did JFK and his family live?

**Yes/No:** Did JFK have a wife? Did JFK have children? Did JFK and his family live in a log cabin? Did JFK and his family live in the White House?

**Opinion/Experiences:** JFK had a wife and two children. How many people are in your family? They lived in the White House? Do you think it would be fun to live in the White House? What color is your house?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “Where did JFK and his family live?” The answer is the main idea card “White House.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk about JFK’s family.

**Page 3:** The Cuban Missile Crisis was a problem when JFK was president. It was not a good thing. It made things hard for JFK. The rest of the book will explain why the Cuban Missile Crisis was a problem.

**Point:** communist symbol

**WH Questions:** What was a problem when JFK was president?

**Yes/No:** Was the Cuban Missile Crisis a good thing? Was the Cuban Missile Crisis a problem?

**Opinion/Experiences:** The Cuban Missile Crisis was a problem. Have you ever had a problem? What kind of problem have you had?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 3, ask students, “What was a problem when JFK was president?” The answer is the main idea card “Cuban Missile Crisis.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about problems that they have had.

**Page 4:** Cuba is a small country that is very close to the United States. (Show the US and Cuba on a map) Cuba is a communist country. That means that the government owns everything and is in charge of everything. The government owns all the property. All the farms are owned by the government. Factories are owned by the government. JFK did not agree with communist countries. He did not like that a communist country was so close to the United States. Have students view a few minutes of the following video of Cuba. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4ZMYokojGw>

**Point:** communist symbol, JFK

**WH Questions:** What country is near the US? What kind of country is Cuba?

**Yes/No:** Is Cuba near the US? Is Cuba a communist country? Did JFK like having a communist country near the US?

**Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** A communist country owns the property? They are in charge of farms and factories. People in communist countries have less rights and freedoms as people in the US. Would you like to live in a communist country?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 4, ask students, “What kind of country is Cuba?” The answer is the main idea card “communist.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 5:** JFK really did not like that Cuba was a communist country. The leader of Cuba was Fidel Castro. There were some people in Cuba that did not like Castro. These people did not like that Cuba was a communist country. JFK sent the military to Cuba to help these people. They fought Castro’s arm. The battle was called the Bay of Pigs. Have the students view the following video of Castro interviews.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZYz3l8zOgl>

**Point:** Fidel Castro, beard, hair, eyebrows

**WH Questions:** What country was Fidel Castro the leader of? Who was the leader of Cuba? What was the battle between US and Cuba called? Who won the battle?

**Yes/No:** Was JFK the leader of Cuba? Was Fidel Castro the leader of Cuba? Did the US win the Bay of Pigs? Did Cuba win the Bay of Pigs?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Fidel Castro had a beard? Who do you know who has a beard like Castro's?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 5, ask students, "What was the battle between the US and Cuba called?" The answer is the main idea card "Bay of Pigs." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 6:** The Soviet Union used to be a communist country. They were a VERY big and powerful communist country. The Soviet Union did not get along with the US. Their leader was Nikita Khrushchev.

**Point:** US, Cuba, Soviet Union, communist symbol, Nikita Khrushchev

**WH Questions:** What country was Nikita Khrushchev the leader of? Who was the leader of the Soviet Union?

**Yes/No:** Was the Soviet Union a communist country? Was Nikita Khrushchev the leader of Cuba? Was Nikita Khrushchev the leader of the Soviet Union?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro were both leaders of communist countries? Do you think that they liked each other? Do you think they like JFK?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 6, ask students, "What other country was communist?" The answer is the main idea card "Soviet Union." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 7:** Cuba and the Soviet Union were both communist countries. They helped each other. The Soviet Union and Cuba did not like the United States. The Soviet Union was very big and powerful. They had a lot of nuclear missiles. Nuclear missiles are a type of weapon that you shoot up in the air. It can travel far and when it lands, it is like a bomb. A nuclear missile can destroy buildings and kill people. The Soviet Union put nuclear missiles in Cuba. Now there were missiles very close to the United States! JFK did not like this. He told Nikita Khrushchev to get the missiles out of Cuba. Have students view a few minutes of the following video of missiles being tested.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v71eF8HdZb8>

**Point:** missiles, explosion from a missile

**WH Questions:** What did the Soviet Union put in Cuba?

**Yes/No:** Did the Soviet Union put missiles in Cuba? Did JFK like that there were missiles in Cuba? Did he tell Nikita Khrushchev to move the missiles?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Do you think it is good to have missiles so close to the US?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, "What did the Soviet Union put in Cuba?" The answer is the main idea card "missiles." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to their partner about missiles.

**Page 8:** JFK told Khrushchev to move the nuclear missiles. Khrushchev told JFK to not attack and fight Cuba. JFK and Khrushchev both said yes. They shook hands. They made an agreement. People will shake hands when they make an agreement. Have students view the following video of one of JFK and Khrushchev's meetings. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV1e8H2J2pE>

**Point:** JFK, Khrushchev, shaking hands

**WH Questions:** What happened between JFK and Khrushchev?

**Yes/No:** Did JFK agree to not attack Cuba? Did Kristoff agree to move the missiles? Did JFK and Kristoff have an agreement? Was the Cuban Missile Crisis over?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Are Kristoff and JFK smiling while they are shaking hands? Do you think they are happy about their agreement? Do you think JFK is happy that the Cuban Missile Crisis is over.

Sometimes we also shake hands when we meet someone. Have you ever shook someone's hands?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 8, ask students, "What did Khrushchev and JFK make?" The answer is the main idea card "an agreement." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 9:** There was one very sad day in 1963. JFK was assassinated. He was killed. A man named Lee Harvey Oswald shot JFK. Many Americans loved their president. They were sad that their president was assassinated. Have students view a few minutes of JFK's funeral.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuJjaOKITn4>

**Point:** men standing, man sitting.

**WH Questions:** What happened to JFK in 1963? Who did Lee Harvey Oswald assassinate? What does assassinate mean?

**Yes/No:** Does assassinated mean killed? Did JFK get assassinated? Were Americans happy? Were Americans sad?

**Opinion/Experiences:** JFK had a family. How do you think they felt when he was assassinated? How would you feel if someone got assassinated?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 9, ask students, "What happened to JFK in 1963?" The answer is the main idea card "assassinated." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.