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Citizenship

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In the
Arena
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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Hands-On History Activity

DIARY ENTRY FROM TR'S POINT OF VIEW

Conservation



Hands-On History Activity

Write a **DIARY ENTRY** from **THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S** point of view

Theodore Roosevelt kept a diary from as young as age nine, throughout his presidency, and later in life. He wrote about family vacations to Europe and Egypt as well as his time at Harvard and hunting in the Badlands. When Roosevelt's wife and mother both passed away on February 14, 1884, he wrote, "The light has gone out of my life." As well as personal journaling, he kept records of his finances, wildlife he hunted, and White House meetings.

Your task is to write a diary entry just as Theodore Roosevelt would have done. Choose one of the events listed and write about it from Roosevelt's point of view. Pretend you are Roosevelt and you just experienced this event. Write about where you were, who you saw, and what you were thinking and feeling.

SUPPLIES & EVENTS

Supplies Needed: You will need lined paper, a pen, and access to one of the sources below to guide your entry.

Events to choose from:

Roosevelt's first visit to the Badlands (September 1883)

Pursuit of the boat thieves (March 30, 1886)

Battle of Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill (July 1, 1898)

Roosevelt becomes president (September 14, 1901)

U.S. Forest Service is established (February 1, 1905)

Roosevelt visits the Panama Canal Zone (November 1906)

Roosevelt runs for president as a progressive, or Bull Moose campaign (1912)

Roosevelt explores the River of Doubt in Brazil (December 1913 – April 1914)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Choose one of the events listed at left to write about. Read the event background information so you have details for your entry.
- 2 Write the date of the event at the top of the paper.
- 3 Write a diary entry, pretending you are Theodore Roosevelt and you just experienced the event you chose. Some questions to think about as you are writing: How old was Roosevelt at the time? What emotions do you think he was feeling? Where was he living? What was his current job (rancher, governor, president, etc.)?

TIPS



Understand the Context: Look at events on the timeline that occurred right before and right after the event you are writing about. This will help you remember what Roosevelt might have been thinking about at the time.



Add a Sketch: If you want, you can also sketch something to go along with your entry. For example, you could draw wildlife that Roosevelt might have seen during a hunting trip.