

Segment One Run Time: 18:17

Overview

Despite being both the youngest president at the time he was elected, and the youngest to die in office, John F. Kennedy had a vision for America that has, in a number of important ways, survived to this day. During his three years in office, JFK worked hard for equal rights within his own country. In addition, he sought to extend and share America's strengths with countries across the world, through legislation such as the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps. During the 1960s there were political struggles with Cuba, the assassination of JFK, and media outlets were becoming more



advanced. Color television became available to the public, with the first sets selling for \$448, more than the average American could afford.

Spotlight: John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy, who went on to become the 35th President of the United States of America, was born on May 29, 1917 in the small town of Brookline, Massachusetts. After graduating from Harvard University in 1940, Kennedy entered the U.S. Navy and went on to serve a number of distinguished years. Upon his return from the war, JFK ultimately reached the Senate as a

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Discussion/Questions

1. When did WLVT-39 start?
2. Why do you think the documentary refers to JFK's presidency as Camelot?
3. Does religion still have an impact on presidential elections? If so, why do you think that is? Do you think that it should? Why or why not? What role did it play in this past year's election?

Activities

1. Go home and talk to your parents: where were they when JFK was shot?
2. Had JFK not been shot, many people think history would have been significantly different. What do you think? Rewrite the rest of the decade as you see it progressing had he been alive.

Spotlight: John F. Kennedy (cont'd)

representative of Boston in 1953. In that same year, Kennedy married the now-renowned Jacqueline Bouvier.

After narrowly missing out on the vice-presidential nomination in 1956, Kennedy received a spot on the first ballot in 1960 and responded by beating out his Republican counterpart, Richard Nixon, for the presidency. He was the first Roman Catholic president to be elected, and another has yet to follow in his footsteps. As president, Kennedy was known for leading America on its largest attempt at expansion since the Second World War.

Before his assassination, he also laid the groundwork necessary to do away with privation and poverty that were so prevalent at the time. Kennedy also was a strong advocate of both civil rights and human rights; he established the Peace Corps in 1960, as well as the Alliance for Progress, which worked to counteract the radical communist politics of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. Unfortunately, America's attempt to overthrow the Castro regime – by supporting a group of Cuban refugees – was a failure.

On November 22, 1963, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas, cutting his presidency short and breaking the hearts of millions of Americans. But despite the fact that he was unable to serve his entire four year term, there is no question that Kennedy played a vital role in shaping the 1960's, as well as the decades that followed.

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More Information

John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library and Museum
Columbia Point – Boston, Massachusetts, 02125.
Toll-Free: 1-866-JFK-1960; Fax: 617 - 514 - 1652
www.jfklibrary.org

Academic Standards

Living History: The 1960s is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.3 United States History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.3.12: A. Identify and evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to United States history from 1890 to Present C. Identify and evaluate conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations in United States history from 1890 to the Present

