*Florida Civic Literacy Support Lesson*

**LBJ and the Great Society**

Was the Great Society great? What were the pros and cons of the Great Society?

*An Activity for High School Civic Literacy Competency # 4*

***Competency #4:*** *An understanding of landmark Supreme Court Cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.*

***Benchmark and Benchmark Clarification Correlations***

SS.912.CG.2.2: *Explain the importance of political and civic participation to the success of the United States constitutional republic.*

SS.912.CG.2.3: *Explain the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state and national levels*

SS.912.CG.2.4: *Evaluate, take and defend objective, evidence-based positions on issues that cause the government to balance the interests of individuals with the public good.*

SS.912.CG.2.8: *Explain the impact of political parties, interest groups, media and individuals on determining and shaping public policy.*

SS.912.CG.2.10: *Analyze factors that contribute to voter turnout in local, state and national elections.*

SS.912.CG.2.12: *Explain how interest groups, the media and public opinion influence local, state and national decision-making related to public issues.*

***Activity Documents, Materials, and Handouts***

1. **LBJ and the Great Society PowerPoint**
2. **Great Society Student Materials handout**

***Activity Vocabulary***

| * War on Poverty: Forty programs that were intended to eliminate poverty by   improving living conditions and enabling people to lift themselves out of of poverty.   * Education: Sixty separate bills that provided for new and better-equipped   classrooms, minority scholarships, and low-interest student loans.   * Medicare and Medicaid: Guaranteed health care to every American over 65   and to low-income individuals and families.   * The environment: Introduced measures to protect clean air and water. * National Endowment for the Arts/National Endowment for the Humanities: Government funding for   artists, writers and performers.  Head Start: Program that provides early childhood education, health and nutrition to low-income children and their families |
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**Teacher Background Information**

What content does the teacher need to know to teach this lesson effectively?

On November 22, 1963, [Lyndon B. Johnson](https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/lyndon-b-johnson) was sworn in as President of the United States after the killing of [John F. Kennedy](https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/john-f-kennedy).

The [assassination of Kennedy](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/john-f-kennedy-assassinated) left American citizens reeling. They felt empathy, even sympathy for Johnson as he became president under such difficult circumstances. Johnson took advantage of this support to push through key elements of Kennedy’s legislative agenda—in particular, civil rights legislation and tax cuts.

By the time he became President, Johnson wasn’t a green politician nor a pushover. After serving stints in the U.S. House of Representative and the U.S. Senate—where he was the youngest Senate minority leader and then Senate majority leader—he’d earned a reputation as a powerful leader who knew how to get things done.

He became Kennedy’s running mate in 1960 and was sworn in as Vice President of the United States in January 1961. By the time Kennedy was killed, the public knew Johnson could get things done and was prepared to back him. (Excerpt: Great Society, History Channel, Original Published Date: November 17, 2017) <https://www.history.com/topics/1960s/great-society>

Possible extension activity: Compare and contrast the New Deal with the Great Society.

**Sources**

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