



TR: AN AMERICAN LION

In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States and helped to usher in the American political and economic dominance that defined the twentieth century. Brash, brilliant and egotistical, Roosevelt was larger than life, and just the person to lead the upstart U.S., a young country that would soon become one of the greatest world powers in history. He was the youngest president to serve in office, and his face is carved on Mount Rushmore next to the giants of American political history. But who was this man? What made Roosevelt a legend? Why, a century later, is Roosevelt one of the American presidents who defined an era? And what was his influence and impact on American history? This four-hour documentary explores the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt and seeks to answer these questions.

1. Theodore Roosevelt's image appears on Mount Rushmore next to the likenesses of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. Why is he grouped with such important figures in American history?
2. Roosevelt's era is often associated with his personality. When did Roosevelt live? How did he define his times?

3. Roosevelt was larger than life. What were some of his weaknesses? What were some of his strengths?
4. Roosevelt is often associated with war. What was his attitude toward war?
5. Roosevelt was born into a world in transition. Discuss this world, especially the impact of the new technology of railroads.
6. Roosevelt was born and raised in New York City. Describe the New York City of his youth.
7. Roosevelt came from a prominent family. Discuss his family and background.
8. Describe Roosevelt's parents. How did they influence Teddy, especially his father?
9. Roosevelt was quite sickly when he was a young boy. How did his illness affect his personality?
10. Roosevelt suffered from asthma. What is asthma? What are the symptoms of this disease?
11. Roosevelt began his political career in the New York political system. Describe politics in New York during the 19th century.
12. How did he challenge the New York political system?
13. Roosevelt's young wife Alice died shortly after giving birth to their daughter. How did Alice's death affect Roosevelt?
14. After Alice's death, Roosevelt headed west. How did his time in the West change his life?
15. Roosevelt started a cattle business in the West but soon lost interest. Why?

16. Roosevelt headed the New York City police force. How did he shape and reform the NYPD?
17. Teddy Roosevelt was known as a great orator. Discuss the importance of political speeches and oration before the invention of other forms of entertainment such as television.
18. Theodore Roosevelt was anxious for the United States to go to war with Spain. Why did TR desire war with Spain?
19. What caused the Spanish-American War?
20. Although TR was anxious to go to war with Spain, President McKinley was not. Why was the president reluctant to go to war?
21. Why was it so important to TR that he serves in the army?
22. TR led the Rough Riders in their historic charge up San Juan Hill. How did the Rough Riders get their name?
23. What was the Rough Riders' objective?
24. TR is the only president to ever receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. When did he receive the medal?
25. Why did TR receive the medal?
26. TR served as governor of New York. How and why did he become the governor?
27. What was the "amen corner?"
28. Discuss some of TR's New York reforms.
29. How did TR become vice president?
30. How did TR become president?