



DAVY CROCKETT CLASSROOM GUIDE

This 1-hour BIO examines the life and the legend of Davy Crockett. Today, Crockett is considered an American folk hero whose name evokes visions of the American frontier. But who was the real Crockett, and what was his contribution to U.S. history? This program traces Crockett's life from his birth in 1786 in Tennessee through his death at the Alamo. Viewers will learn that Davy Crockett's real first name was David, that he served three terms in Congress, and that his legend is full of tall tales. This program also explores Crockett's decision to fight against Mexico at the Alamo, where he was killed in battle in 1836. Teachers may want to use clips from this program for their course units and lectures on the American West.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

This program would be useful for American history and culture and social studies courses. It is appropriate for middle school and high school students.

VOCABULARY:

Ask students to define the terms below and make their own list of terms to define as they watch this program.

- countenance
- expedition
- manifest destiny
- profound
- prosperity
- prowess
- stamina

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Davy Crockett is considered an American folk hero. What is a folk hero? What qualities must someone have to achieve that status? What other Americans would fall into this category?
2. What is Manifest Destiny? How are Davy Crockett and Manifest Destiny connected?
3. Is the lure of Crockett's lifestyle the embodiment of the American desire to tame and annex the 'wild west'?
4. Why was Davy Crockett considered to be an example of the 'new American?' in his day?
5. How do you distinguish between myth and legend? At what point does a legend become a 'tall tale'?

6. While American history has viewed Davy Crockett as a hero and a martyr, how do you think Mexicans and Native Americans might view him?
7. Davy Crockett is associated with the American frontier. Why do you think he is linked to the frontier in American memory?
8. What was Crockett's contribution in Congress? What kind of leader was he?
9. Why do you think Crockett decided to fight at the Alamo?

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES:

1. On a map of the United States, trace the path of Davy Crockett's life from backwoods hunter to Alamo hero.
2. Write two eyewitness accounts of the battle of the Alamo, one as a Texian and one as a soldier in Santa Ana's forces.

WEBSITES:

Learn more about Davy Crockett on BIO.com:

<http://www.biography.com/articles/Davy-Crockett-9261693>

Watch related video and read more on History.com:

<http://www.history.com/topics/davy-crockett>

BOOKS:

Crockett, David. *Davy Crockett: His Own Story*. (Applewood Books, 1993).

Parks, Aileen Wells. *Davy Crockett: Young Rifleman*. (Aladdin, 1986).