

Lyndon B. Johnson

Study Guide



Vocabulary

authority- the right and power to lead

campaign- the period during which people running for office try to convince voters to vote for them

civil rights- the basic rights that all citizens in a country have

diligence- the act of hard work and attention given to a subject

district- the part of a state represented by a member of the House of Representatives

poverty- a lack of money

representative- a member of a state or national legislature

segregation- the practice of keeping people of different races apart

senator- a member of the United States Senate

tolerance- respect for others' values and beliefs

Key Facts about LBJ

*Lyndon B. Johnson grew up near Stonewall, Texas in poverty. He did not have electricity or running water.

*LBJ's father was a representative in the Texas legislature. This inspired LBJ to one day work in the government. LBJ's grandfather predicted that he would one day be a Senator.

*In 1931, LBJ got his first government job and went to work for a member of Congress from Texas. He lived in Washington D.C. where he learned a lot about the government.

*In 1937, Johnson was elected as a representative of his district in Texas. He was the youngest member of Congress (only 28 years old) at that time!!

*LBJ believed education was very important and could help those in poverty.

*While a representative, LBJ voted to make roads better. He also helped to bring electricity to his hometown.

*In 1948, LBJ was elected as a senator of Texas (his grandfather was right!). As senator, he had **more power** than when he was a representative.

*Character traits of LBJ: persuasive, tolerant, diligent

*LBJ worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall to end segregation. LBJ believed that everyone had civil rights that should be respected.

*LBJ was so persuasive while he was Senator that he helped civil rights laws to be passed.

*John F. Kennedy asked LBJ to run for Vice President with him. LBJ had a big decision to make because as Vice President he would have **LESS** power than as Senator. He finally agreed because he knew he and JFK could make a difference.

*JFK was elected. 2 years later he was killed and LBJ had to take over as President. He promised to do his best.

*LBJ worked diligently to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He used his power of persuasion to convince members of Congress to pass the law. It took 83 days of debate, but it was finally passed.

*In 1964, LBJ campaigned to be reelected to another term. He created a plan to build a "Great Society".

*Johnson's "Great Society Plan":

- *Suggested laws to improve education, the environment, and medical care.

- *Suggested laws to make cars safer or support the arts and public television.

- ***Voting Rights Act**- protected African Americans from having to take a test before they could vote, or even from having to pay to vote.

- ***"War on Poverty"**- passed laws to help people get medical care and to create preschool programs

*In 1968, LBJ decided not to run for President again. He wanted to help end the Vietnam War and he felt being President would take away from his efforts to do this.

*To honor LBJ, he had many things named after him:

- *Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin, Texas

- *His old office in the United States Senate Building, the "LBJ Room", in Washington D.C.

- *The Johnson Space Center near Houston, Texas