

The Pockets of Presidents

OBJECTIVES

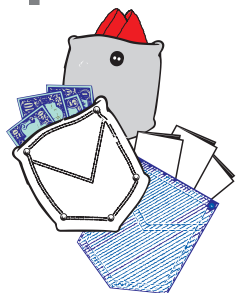
- The student will participate in a group activity accessing prior knowledge of American Presidents.
- The student will discover how an individual's possessions reveal information concerning the person's identity.
- The student will be introduced to the definition for satire.
- The student may participate in the extension activity dealing with the artifacts and possessions that might be found in other famous people's pockets.

MATERIALS

- Visual - **Informative Inventory: What the Lilliputians found in Gulliver's Pockets** (p.54)
- Visual - **Which Presidents' Pocket? Item Inventory** (p.55)
- Activity - **Informative Inventory of Presidents' Pockets** (p.56)
- Pens and pencils
- Water soluble pen
- Optional - *Gulliver's Travels* books and United States Presidents reference books.

PROCEDURE

1. Prepare the visual and worksheets ahead of class.
2. Ask the students if they have ever heard of the classic book *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. Explain that it was written many years ago as a satire. Explain that **satire** is writing that makes fun of people's faults and weaknesses. **Satire** is often used to raise questions and concerns about current fads, popular culture, or politics.
3. Display Visual - **Informative Inventory: What the Lilliputians found in Gulliver's Pockets**. Tell the students that when Gulliver found himself in the land of the little people of Lilliput they demanded to look in his pockets to see if he had anything of danger in them. Read the list with the students. Ask them to brainstorm ideas concerning Gulliver. Record and discuss these ideas on the visual. [Possible responses: *He knew how to shoot a gun. He used snuff. He was educated because he could write. He was a full-grown man because he needed a razor to shave. He was wealthy- He had a watch and money. He was able to defend himself. He must have had really big pockets! He was not bald. He might have had a cold or have been sick and needed the handkerchief. He lived long ago when powder was needed for pistols.*]





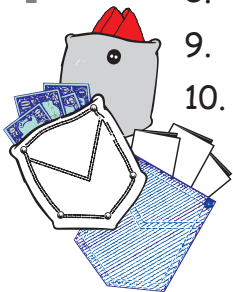
Informative Inventory

What the Lilliputians found in
Gulliver's Pockets

Comb
Copper and Silver Coins
Diary
Handkerchief
Knife
Pistols
Pouch of Powder and Bullets
Purse Holding Nine Gold Pieces
Razor
Saber
Snuff Box
Watch

What might this list tell you about Gulliver's skills, habits, personality traits, and professional occupation? Create a list of ten ideas that can be inferred from the items recorded above.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



The Pockets of Presidents



Informative Inventory Of Presidents' Pockets

Can you guess what United States President might have the following items in his pocket? Write your answer on the appropriate line.

-1-

- A Military medal - the Purple Heart
- Candy for his small daughter and son
- A brochure explaining the new Peace Core program
- A note to his wife "Jackie"
- A small notebook with questions and concerns about Cuba

President _____

-2-

- A letter to his wife at Mount Vernon
- An extra set of springs for his false teeth
- A notebook about farming
- An apple for his horse
- A small cherry tart
- A tin of powder for his white wig

President _____

-3-

- A pair of wire-rimmed eye glasses
- A small "teddy bear"
- A book about boxing
- A pair of driving gloves
- A big stick
- A note to write a letter to the Wright Brothers

President _____

-4-

- A quill pen and parchment
- A letter from Meriwether Lewis
- A key to the front door of Monticello
- Small architectural sketches for the University of Virginia
- A packet of tomato seeds
- An invitation to a violin recital

President _____

