The Roosevelts

Episode #1 – Get Action (1858-1901)

A frail, asthmatic young Theodore Roosevelt transforms himself into a vigorous champion of the strenuous life, survives the loss of one great love and finds another, leads men into battle and then rises like a rocket to become the youngest president in American history at 42. Meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, brought up as the pampered only child of adoring parents, follows his older cousin’s career with worshipful fascination and begins to think he might one day follow his footsteps.

1. What is meant by “altruism?”
2. Which Roosevelt appears on Mount Rushmore?
3. For how many years did Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt occupy the White House?
4. Why does George Will believe that the Roosevelt’s viewed the Constitution as a “nuisance?”
5. Who was considered the living link between Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt?
6. What is meant by the statement that, “The Roosevelt’s were patricians.”?
7. Who was born on October 27, 1858?
8. What type of health problems plagued Theodore Roosevelt as a young child?
9. Who was Theodore Roosevelt’s hero? Why?
10. Who was “Mittie?”
11. What question about his father was Theodore Roosevelt never able to resolve?
12. Why were family maids reluctant to enter Theodore’s room?
13. How did Theodore attempt to “make” his body?
14. Where did the Roosevelt’s travel to in 1873?
15. What was the condition of the American economy in 1874?
16. Why do many historians believe that Theodore Roosevelt’s pictures often show him clenching his fist?
17. Where did Theodore complete his college studies?
18. What happened on February 9, 1878?
19. Why was Theodore Roosevelt encouraged by his physician, “to be as sedentary as possible?”
20. Who was Alice Lee?
21. How did James Roosevelt make most of his money?
22. Who was Sara Delano?
23. How old was Theodore Roosevelt when he dropped out of Columbia Law School and entered politics?
24. Why did Theodore Roosevelt write that, “The light has gone out of my life?”
25. Why didn’t Roosevelt seek a fourth assembly term?
26. According to David McCulloch, why did Roosevelt go west?
27. What did cowboys call Theodore Roosevelt behind his back?
28. How did Roosevelt’s time in the west remake him?
29. In what ways was Franklin Roosevelt “pampered?”
30. How could it be said that FDR’s mother loved him too much?
31. What were some of FDR’s childhood hobbies?
32. Why didn’t FDR fit in at the Groton School?
33. Why did Theodore Roosevelt keep his relationship with Edith Carow secret?
34. What new name did Theodore Roosevelt give to the Lee House?
35. How did Roosevelt attempt to supplement some of his lost inheritance?
36. What news about Elliott Roosevelt was brought to light by the Chicago Tribune on August 17, 1891?
37. What was “Eleanor” Roosevelt’s first name?
38. How old was Elliott Roosevelt at the time of his death?
39. Why were German workingmen angry that Theodore Roosevelt was enforcing the Sunday closing law?
40. Who was elected president in 1896?
41. What is an “imperialist?”
42. What happened on February 15, 1898?
43. Who did Theodore Roosevelt blame for the sinking of the battleship Maine?
44. Why did some of Theodore Roosevelt’s friends think that he was stark raving mad?
45. Who were the Roughriders?
46. Why might Roosevelt have been so highly motivated to fight in the Spanish-American War?
47. What honor did Roosevelt seek for his efforts while fighting in Cuba?
48. On whose party ticket did Theodore Roosevelt run for the office of New York’s governor?
49. Why didn’t Theodore Roosevelt want to be the vice president?
50. According to David McCulloch, how far did Theodore Roosevelt travel, while campaigning to be the Vice President?
51. How old was Sara Roosevelt when her husband James died?
52. What was the cause of William McKinley’s death?
53. How old was Theodore Roosevelt when he became the president?
54. What aspects of Theodore Roosevelt’s personality most impress you?
55. What aspects of Theodore Roosevelt’s personality most bother you?