

Graphic Organizer Answer Key

Presidential Proclamations and Gratitude

Directions: After reading the proclamations, fill out the graphic organizer and answer the comprehension questions below.

President	Historical Context of Proclamation	Why should Americans feel gratitude according to the president?
Washington	<i>The United States had recently gained independence and created the new Constitution.</i>	<i>President Washington lists the care God showed in watching the colonists before the war, the success of the Revolution, and the creation of the Constitution and its protections of liberty.</i>

Lincoln	<i>The United States was in the midst of the Civil War, and Union forces had recently won some major battles.</i>	<i>President Lincoln lists the peace that existed within the Union outside of the Civil War as well as between the United States and foreign countries, the population growth, and bountiful resources like food, mining, and industry.</i>
Roosevelt	<i>The United States was nearing victory in World War II.</i>	<i>President Roosevelt lists the victories in arms, the liberty Americans and liberated countries enjoy, for a unified country, and for a bountiful harvest</i>

Comprehension Questions

1. What similarities did you notice between the three proclamations? What differences?

Students should note that all three proclamations give thanks to God, and that all were issued either during or immediately after a time of war and great strife. Differences include the specifics of what each president lists as reasons for gratitude.

2. Why does each President think it important to set aside time to give thanks?

Each believe that showing thanks is important to give glory to God and to also show gratitude. Doing so, they believe, will help bring about greater benefits to their community like tranquility, harmony, and prosperity.

3. Why do you think it is important to show gratitude in a community?

Answers may vary.

4. What things are you grateful for this Thanksgiving?

Answers may vary.