

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.*]

