

Fidel Castro

Object:

I want students to walk away from class having felt that they've learned something new about Cuba and its leader. I have presented this topic in a non-biased format as to allow students to think for themselves.

Lesson:

Have students take turns reading the different passages on each slide. Have students participate as much as possible.

Slide 1: title of topic

Slide 2 & 3: Vocabulary that will be introduced in the literature

Slide 4: Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz was born Aug. 13, 1926 to Angel Castro and Lina Ruz. Fidel's father came to Cuba from Galicia, Spain as a soldier. His father worked as a sugar cane grower. Fidel grew up in Birán, Cuba (there is a slide showing a map of Birán, Cuba)

Slide 5: Fidel and his brothers and sisters grew up in the rustic environment that was typical of a prosperous farmer. From the very beginning, Fidel was sent to the best schools. They were religious schools in Santiago and Havana.

Slide 6: He was not very happy at these schools. He had a very rebellious attitude and did not take well to academic and religious discipline.

Slide 7: Fidel likes sports especially basketball and baseball. While he was at school he grew to be six feet tall. They say that a scout from the big leagues of the U.S. came to watch him pitch.

Slide 8: Fidel's influences or people he looked up to were Hitler, Mussolini, and José Antonio Primo de Rivera. Hitler was the dictator of Germany. Mussolini was the dictator of Italy. Rivera was the king of Spain. All these men had the same political ideals. They were Fascists.

Slide 9: Fidel took part in a military coup to overthrow the dictator, Batista, in March 1952. Things did not go well for Fidel's group; however, because of the coup Fidel was bound to have power. In the morning of July 26, 1953 a group of armed men attacked more than a thousand soldiers at the Moncada barracks. The attacks were a complete failure. More than half of the men in Fidel's group died; however this made Fidel even more popular amongst the people of Cuba.

Slide 10: Fidel was put in jail. He was his own legal counsel and gave a speech, which came to be known as "History Will Absolve Me." He was in prison for 22 months and then released. He was exiled to Mexico where he plotted out, more detailed, his next attack.

Slide 11: Fidel and 82 other men left Mexico and disembarked on the coast of Cuba. Once again it was a failure, as troops knew they were coming. Only 16 of them survived and they headed to the mountains of Sierra Maestra

Slide 12: On January 8, 1959 entered the government and took over. The people were very happy. They put of posters in their homes that said: "This is your house, Fidel." From this point on Fidel Castro has been the leader of Cuba.

Slide 13: This is their homework:

Write a dialog that you might have with a Cuban about Fidel Castro, 10 lines per person.

Note:

If there should be any time left, have them start their dialogs.