

# Unit 11

Born 1917

Died 1963

Came from a  
very large,  
powerful family

Was  
assassinated  
in Dallas in  
November

Was involved in  
Space Race,  
Vietnam War, Bay  
of Pigs and Cuban  
Missile Crisis

Elected 35<sup>th</sup>  
President –  
youngest  
ever (43)

Encouraged  
people to serve  
their country  
and help others

Married to  
Jackie Kennedy  
and had two  
children

Very active in  
the Civil Rights  
movement



## **Big things happening at this time:**

### **SPACE RACE:**

- October, 1957 – Soviet Union launched the Sputnik I (satellite).
- November, 1957 – Soviet Union launched Sputnik II and a dog!
- January 1958 – United States launched the Explorer.
- July 1958 – United States passed the “Space Act” and created NASA
- JFK started the Apollo Project – put the first man on the moon!

### **BAY OF PIGS (April 1961):**

- Cuba (90 miles south of the US)
- There were many problems in Cuba
- A new leader, Fidel Castro, took power – he was a **communist dictator**
- The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) was training Cuban citizens to overthrow Castro
- The US invaded Cuba, but the citizens did not help – it was a mess.
- The Soviet Union stepped in and decided to protect Castro – by putting nuclear weapons in Cuba!

### **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS (October 1961):**

- Cuba was afraid that the US might attack again
- The Soviets were afraid that they would not be seen as a world super power or that the US would attack Russia
- SO, in April 1962, the Soviet Union sent the nuclear bombs to Cuba – those bombs were pointed directly at the United States
  - In October 1962, Kennedy gathered very smart people to discuss this problem; they agreed to set up a naval quarantine around Cuba
  - The US flew spy missions over Cuba to keep an eye on the bomb
  - On October 26, The US got a letter from Khrushchev offering to take the missiles out of Cuba if the US promised not to attack Cuba
  - On October 27, he demanded the US remove its nuclear bombs from Turkey (in the middle east); a U2 spy plane was shot down in Cuba
- The United States and the Soviet Union came very close to using those bombs against each other in a war
  - On October 28, the Soviet Union agreed to remove the bombs from Cuba and the US and Soviet Union came to an agreement – averting World War III

### KENNEDY VISITS THE BERLIN WALL (June 1963):

- The Berlin Wall is a wall that separated West Germany from East Germany and was the point between Western Europe and the Soviet Union
- It was the most important symbol of the Cold War, it stood from 1961 - 1989
- On one side was capitalism and freedom; on the other was communism and dictatorship
- John F Kennedy visited the western side of the Berlin Wall in 1963.

Born  
1/15/1929  
Died 4/4/68

Was shot and  
killed in  
Memphis, TN in  
April, 1968

Was a Baptist  
minister from  
Georgia

He believed in  
non-violent  
protesting

Married to  
Coretta Scott  
King and had  
four children

Lead the March on  
Washington where  
he gave the "I  
Have A Dream"  
speech

Led the  
Montgomery AL  
bus boycott

During the March on  
Birmingham, King  
was arrested and put  
in jail



## **Big things happening at this time:**

### **CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:**

- The Civil Rights Movement – the push to end racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans. This started in the South.
- People who fought for civil rights were beaten, and even killed, for what they believed in
- The message was strong – there were many rallies, protests and TV coverage
- Civil rights groups like the Black Panthers, NAACP, and the SCLC were formed to help deliver the message

### **MARCH ON BIRMINGHAM -**

- May, 1963
- 1000 students marched from Selma, Alabama to Birmingham, Alabama
- More than 100 students were arrested
- The next day, the crowd gathered again, they were attacked by dogs, water hoses and beaten by police
- Martin Luther King Jr. came to Birmingham to help with the demonstrations, and he was thrown in jail. He wrote a famous letter while in jail about why African Americans were protesting.

### **IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS**

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
  - They stood up against the government to help get laws passed in Congress to help African Americans
- Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC)
  - Started by MLK, it appealed to black churchgoers; wanted peaceful protest of unfair treatment of African Americans
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
  - Organized young people to march, protest, and demonstrate in nonviolent ways, like sit-ins.
  - A sit-in is where a group of people sit in one place and refuse to leave until they have their demands heard/met
  - People who participated in sit-ins were often beaten, made fun of or bullied

### **MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

- August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people gathered on the mall in Washington DC
- Both black people and white people came to march and listen to Dr. Martin Luther King give a speech (I Have a Dream)

- Kennedy's NEW FRONTIER: The president spoke to the American people of a "New Frontier" that would go beyond FDR's New Deal. Kennedy had legislation that he wanted passed: civil rights bills, tax-cut bills, and health-care bills. There were also bills on equal pay for women, aid to the cities, aid to poor rural areas, manpower training, and a minimum wage. At first, the president was frustrated. Some people called his ideas "socialist." Fear of change, especially in the field of civil rights, caused his popularity to drop.

### JOHN F KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED

- November 22, 1963 in Dallas Texas
- JFK was in a car during a motorcade (a car parade) on a trip to improve the people's thoughts of him. People in Texas did not like him very much
- A man named Lee Harvey Oswald shot JFK in his head and killed him.

Born  
1/27/1908  
Died 1/22/73

Married to  
Ladybird Johnson  
and had two  
children

He sent Congress  
the Voting Act of  
1965, which gave  
**EVERYONE** the  
right to vote.



Became the 36<sup>th</sup>  
president with the  
assassination of  
JFK

Signed the Civil Rights  
Act of 1964 (gave  
many rights to African  
Americans, but **not the  
right to vote.**

He wanted to build  
the "GREAT SOCIETY"  
– extended the New  
Deal and the New  
Frontier

He was very  
worried about  
the poor and  
disadvantaged

## Big things happening at this time:

### CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

- Made it against the law to discriminate against people, including African Americans, other minorities and women

### VOTING ACT OF 1965

- Gave all Americans 18 years old and over the right to vote

Born  
5/19/1925  
Died 2/21/65

Had a very rough start (poor, quit school, led a life of crime, put in jail)

Shot and killed by members of the Nation of Islam – because he no longer agreed with their views

Started the Organization of African Unity, traveled the world and spoke to many groups



Malcolm X

Knew that education gave him power and confidence

Early – he felt that violence was the only way for African Americans  
Later – he learned that his faith could help bridge the divide

SUNNI MUSLIM

Grew of the Nation of Islam – led 400,000 people in the movement

## The War in Vietnam

- We sent more than half a million Americans to do battle in a faraway land. We got deeper and deeper into the Vietnamese jungle—and then we didn't seem to know how to get out.
- First there was that little step of Truman's.
- Then Eisenhower invested more money and sent more advisers.
- And Kennedy sent much more money and lots of advisers.
- President Johnson didn't know what to do. Something happened soon after he was elected that gave him an excuse to become a warrior. An American ship was on a secret mission in the Gulf of Tonkin. It wasn't supposed to be there. A torpedo was fired at the ship. Two days later there was a second report of torpedoes. It turned out to be untrue. President Johnson said an American ship had been attacked. He got Congress to pass a resolution that let him go to war. It was called the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
- The Vietnam War went into high gear. We began bombing North Vietnam. Before we finished we dropped more bombs on that small country than we had on both Germany and Japan during all of World War II. We sent soldiers. Lots of them. Most of our soldiers were decent and many were heroic. Many helped the people of Vietnam. But imagine trying to fight in a hot jungle where you can't even see the enemy. Some soldiers became angry and violent. Many were introduced to drugs in Vietnam. Some used their weapons on innocent villagers as well as on enemy soldiers. The war became a national nightmare.

Born  
3/31/1927  
Died 4/23/93

Eventually 26 major  
farms signed  
contracts for fair  
working conditions  
with the union

Had a very rough start  
(poor, migrant family)

Honest and people  
turned to him for help



Cesar Chavez

Married to Helen  
and had 8 kids  
and a good job –  
wanted to help  
others

He promoted  
nonviolence to spread  
their message

Started the Farm  
Workers Assoc. (a  
union for migrant  
farm workers)

La Causa brought attention  
to the terrible work  
conditions life of farm  
workers: they went on  
strike, held marches,  
boycotts, and fasts to gain  
publicity



### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IS KILLED**

- MLK went to Memphis, TN for a peaceful march and sermon
- He was not afraid to go, but some of his close friends were – they thought it was too dangerous
- The night after his speech, he was on his hotel balcony when someone shot him and killed him
- This terrible event happened at the Lorraine Hotel

### **OTHER LEADERS**

#### Robert F. Kennedy (Bobby)

- John F. Kennedy's brother and the Attorney General of the United States
- He understood and care about poor and working people; he ran for president of the United States
- Many people liked him and what he stood for
- He won the primary elections in California and South Dakota
- On 6/5/1968, after a speech to thank the people for voting for him, he was shot and killed on the way to a meeting