

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

48 HOURS TO LIVE

CLASSROOM GUIDE

Vocabulary

Define the terms below used in this program before or after watching. You can also write down a list of terms to define while watching this documentary.

Alias

Apprehended

Arraigned

Ballistic

Circumstantial

Conspiracy

Depository

Eyewitness

Forensic

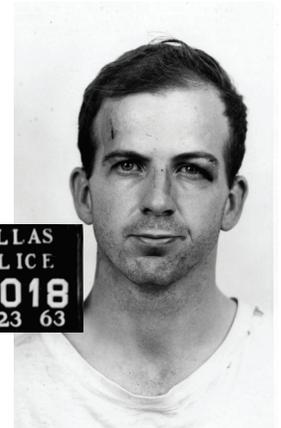
Grandstanding

Interrogation

Patsy

Introduction

Was Lee Harvey Oswald solely responsible for the assassination of JFK? HISTORY® targets the mystery behind why the investigation raised more questions than it answered as the FBI and police detectives interrogated Oswald. In a minute-by-minute account of the intense, final two days of Oswald's life, this 2-hour special traces his story from the moment he pulled the trigger, including the intense interrogation of Oswald after his arrest.



How did detectives piece together information about Oswald's possible motive?

Shot in original locations, and the first documentary to film inside the Dallas Municipal Building, *Lee Harvey Oswald: 48 Hours to Live* probes even deeper into the cryptic actions of the infamous lone gunman. This special presentation gives students an opportunity to think critically about this important case and the methods used to determine the real story behind the Kennedy assassination.

Historian Steve Gillon, featured in this program, has written a companion book to the documentary, also entitled *Lee Harvey Oswald: 48 Hours to Live*. Teachers and students can read this book or passages from it to learn more about the case against Oswald.

Curriculum Links

This program would be useful for History, Politics and Media courses. It is appropriate for mature high school students and college students.



Discussion Questions

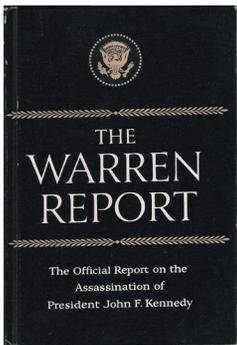
These discussion questions can help students gain additional insights into this documentary and further explore some of the issues and questions it raises.

1. What are some of the mysteries that remain about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?
2. What is the difference between circumstantial and physical evidence? What are some examples of the physical and circumstantial evidence pinning Oswald to the assassination of the president?
3. Why was the FBI tracking Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination? What were the potential implications of his ties to Russia and Cuba?
4. What was Detective Fritz's approach to questioning Oswald? Do you think his methods were effective?
5. What do you think might have been Oswald's motive in killing J.D. Tippit? What about his motive in killing the president?
6. If Oswald had lived, do you think he would have been found guilty of assassinating President Kennedy? Discuss.



Activities

- 1. Interrogating Oswald.** Imagine you were charged with interrogating Lee Harvey Oswald after his arrest for the murder of J.D. Tippit. He is also under suspicion of having assassinated President Kennedy. What questions would you ask him? Make a list of questions and write a short paper about why you do or do not think he is guilty of both crimes. Remember to only use information that would have been available to detectives at the time.



- 2. Warren Commission.** The Warren Commission, chaired by U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, was the official effort established to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy. The commission looked at many angles, interviewed many witnesses and considered extensive evidence before delivering an official report on September 24, 1964. Research this report and write a short conclusion of its findings. Do you agree or disagree with its overall conclusions? Discuss your opinion in your essay or report. You can also choose to read one section of the report and summarize its findings.

- 3. Examining the Evidence.** This program presents much of the physical and circumstantial evidence pinning Lee Harvey Oswald to the assassination of the president. From what you learned from this program, what were the key pieces of evidence? How might the ability to gather evidence differ if the crime were committed today? Write a short paper or create a presentation about the evidence in this case and advancements in forensic science that have transformed crime analysis.



- 4. JFK: 50 Years Later.** This documentary gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of President Kennedy's contributions to history. Visit www.History.com/topics/john-f-kennedy and watch one of the short videos about JFK. What topic does the clip cover and what does the clip reveal about JFK's presidency? How would you describe his leadership style?

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Books

Gillon, Steven M. *Lee Harvey Oswald: 48 Hours to Live*. (Sterling, 2013). (Available on iTunes, in stores and online)

Myers, Dale K. *With Malice: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Murder of Officer J.D. Tippit*. (Oak Cliff Press, 1998).

Websites

Learn more about President John F. Kennedy:

www.History.com/topics/john-f-kennedy

www.History.com/shows/jfk-specials/videos

The Sixth Floor Museum:

www.jfk.org

Warren Commission Report:

www.archives.gov/research/jfk/warren-commission-report

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-WARRENCOMMISSIONREPORT/pdf/GPO-WARRENCOMMISSIONREPORT.pdf