

Resources for Further Exploration

Library of Congress and National Archives

- [Thomas Jefferson's Library](#)—Library of Congress (LoC): Ongoing online exhibition of the Library of Congress's core collection, Thomas Jefferson's library.
- [Presidential Libraries](#)—National Archives and Records Administration (NARA): Links to the thirteen Presidential Libraries, which are part of the National Archives.

Historical Sources

- Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, [Address to General William Henry Harrison](#) (1810);
[President John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address](#) (1961);
[Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have A Dream" Speech](#) (1963);
[President Barack Obama, Inaugural Address](#) (2009)

Law: [War Powers Resolution](#) (1973)

Supreme Court: [U.S. v. Nixon](#) (1974)

General Fiction and Non-Fiction

- Abigail Adams, [Letters](#) (1762 – 1801)
Benjamin Franklin, [Autobiography](#) (1793)
Frederick Douglass, [Narrative](#) (1845)
Herman Melville, [Moby Dick](#) (1850)
Mark Twain, [The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) (1885)
Booker T. Washington, [Up From Slavery](#) (1901)
Jane Addams, [Twenty Years at Hull House](#) (1910)
James Agee and Walker Evans, [Let Us Now Praise Famous Men](#) (1941)
Arthur Miller, [The Crucible](#) (1953)
Alex Haley, [The Autobiography of Malcolm X](#) (1965)

Poetry

Phillis Wheatley, "To His Excellency General Washington" (1775)

Children's Literature

Della Rowland, [The Story of Sacajawea: Guide to Lewis and Clark](#) (1989)

Young Adult Literature

Ann Bausum, [Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement](#) (2005)

Web Resources

- ["What Made George Washington a Good Military Leader?"](#)—EDSITEment: National Endowment for the Humanities. Examines Washington's military commission and his actions as general. Grades 9-12
- [Richard M. Nixon, The Watergate Tapes](#)—University of California at Berkeley: Recordings and transcripts of selections from the Watergate tapes.

Mass Moments

Mass Moments is an online compendium of stories from Massachusetts history, including the following ones that touch on the topic of *Leadership in a Democracy*.

[Boston Swears in First Irish-born Mayor](#): On January 5, 1885, Hugh O'Brien, the first Irish immigrant elected mayor of Boston, took the oath of office.

[Frances Perkins Born in Boston](#): On April 10, 1880, Frances Perkins was the first woman to hold a cabinet position. Raised in Worcester, she attended Mt. Holyoke College and became one of the most influential American politicians in the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, serving for twelve years as Secretary of Labor.

[Henry David Thoreau Spends Night in Jail](#): On July 23, 1846, Henry David Thoreau left his cabin at Walden Pond and ended up in the Concord jail for refusing to pay his poll tax in protest against slavery. The experience forms the kernel of his essay, "Civil Disobedience."

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Picturing America

IV. LEADERSHIP IN A DEMOCRACY



Clockwise from top:

Emanuel Leutze, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, 1851 ([4-A](#))

George Catlin, *Catlin Painting the Portrait of Mah-to-toh-pa-Mandan*, 1861/1869 ([6-B](#))

Ohio State Capitol, 1838 – 1861 ([7-A](#))

Alexander Gardner, *Abraham Lincoln*, February 5, 1865 ([9-B](#))

Augustus Saint-Gaudens, *Robert Shaw Memorial*, 1884 – 1897 ([10-A](#))

William Van Alen, *Chrysler Building*, 1926 – 1930 ([15-B](#))

James Karales, *Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights in 1965, 1965* ([19-B](#))

Martin Puryear, *Ladder for Booker T. Washington*, 1996 ([20-B](#))

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IV. LEADERSHIP IN A DEMOCRACY

What is leadership? Leadership in a democracy? Given the tradition in many cultures of visually representing monarchs as larger than life in stone, bronze, or oil, how does an artist portray leadership in a tribe, colony, or democratic republic? What qualities are necessary? What accomplishments are required? How are vision, power, and strength portrayed? Art can both offer answers to these questions and suggest new ways of answering them. The collection of images here simultaneously introduces some traditional ways of picturing leadership and suggests some alternative ways to lead—and to understand leadership.

Taking Inventory

Who is presented as a leader in these images? What styles of leadership are portrayed? Is there more than one? How do artists alert us to the presence of a “leader”? Do any images show more than one leader?

There is an apparent contradiction in the concept of leadership in a country whose Declaration of Independence starts with the words, “We the People.”

1. Taking this set of images as a whole, are there certain demographic characteristics of leaders in the U.S.? Consider gender, race, ethnicity, economic status etc. Do you see anyone who looks like you in these images?
2. You can’t have a leader without followers. How have the artists here rendered that relationship?

Compare *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* and *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. At first glance they seem to mirror each other: a military leader depicted higher than the men he commands. But consider the way each work depicts the central figure and those he

leads. How large are the “leaders” in relation to the “followers”? How much can we see of each group?

Compare *Washington Crossing the Delaware* and *Selma-to-Montgomery*. In each, the figures form a triangular shape, which draws the viewer’s eye to, arguably, the leader. Who is at the pinnacle of the Washington triangle? Who is at the broad, front end of the Selma-to-Montgomery triangle? Who is the “leader” in this latter image?

What does the Catlin painting of Mah-to-toh-pa suggest about the prominence of leader figures? In what ways is this image of a leader similar to or different from Leutze’s image of Washington?

Consider what these images say about the role of thought vs. action as leadership qualities. How have the artists made these differences clear?

A Closer Look

Metaphor and Representation

- If “reaching the top” is one way to describe leadership, would you want to be at the top of the ladder in Puryear’s *A Ladder for Booker T. Washington*? Why or why not? What might it feel like to be there? How has the artist created this feeling?
- Consider the photos of the Ohio State Capital and the Chrysler building. Do the buildings convey a sense of leadership? How/what kind of leadership? Which feels more “real” to you?
- Does a leader have to be one person? Or a person at all?

Children’s Activity

Step 1: Read the list of words below. Circle the two that you think best describe a leader. (You can also write your own words, if you want.)

Brave Fair Woman Intelligent Loud Adult Generous Man Humble Quiet
Average Successful Rich Kind Cooperative Poor Child Bossy

Your words: _____

Step 2: Now look closely at the images in this set. There are many people pictured. Choose a person who fits your description in Step 1.

Explain to a friend or grownup why you chose this person.

What is it about their picture that matches your words?

If you were this person how would you act? Act it out.