

Name _____

Calvin Coolidge: The Silent and Steady Leader

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Calvin Coolidge's early life was characterized by his upbringing in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, a small rural town. He was born on July 4, 1872. Coolidge's educational background included studying law at Amherst College in Massachusetts. These experiences influenced his leadership style as President, as they instilled in him a sense of practicality, resilience, and an appreciation for limited government intervention. Growing up in a quiet, rural environment likely contributed to his reserved and calm demeanor as a leader.
2. Calvin Coolidge's approach to limited government intervention in the economy during his presidency had a significant impact. He believed in minimal government interference in business affairs and advocated for fiscal responsibility. Coolidge's policies contributed to economic growth, reduced unemployment, and a decrease in government debt. His belief in self-reliance and individual responsibility guided his economic philosophy, and his presidency is often associated with the "Roaring Twenties," a period of prosperity.
3. The Teapot Dome scandal during Calvin Coolidge's presidency was a significant event. It involved corrupt practices in the leasing of federal oil reserves to private companies. The scandal tarnished the reputation of the Harding administration, as several government officials were implicated in bribery and illegal activities. While Coolidge was not directly involved in the scandal, it underscored the need for government transparency and accountability. The consequences included convictions of some officials and increased public scrutiny of government ethics.
4. The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 was a major challenge during Calvin Coolidge's presidency. This catastrophic flood affected several states along the Mississippi River, causing widespread devastation, displacement, and loss of life. Coolidge's response was significant as the federal government provided aid and support to the affected regions. The disaster showcased the importance of federal disaster relief efforts and emphasized Coolidge's commitment to assisting Americans in times of crisis. His leadership in this situation demonstrated his ability to respond to natural disasters and provide assistance to those in need.

