



## Challenge Accepted!

Throughout history, we've been motivated by the desire to achieve what hasn't been done and to face our challenges head-on. This week, are you up to the challenge to learn from the past and face the future?

- How have national and global leaders motivated citizenry during times of challenge?
- What do we learn about our abilities when faced with a challenge?

### Motivational Moments

**Estimated Time: 60-90 minutes**

In times of challenge, we often turn to our leaders. Presidents have used the power of their speeches to motivate, comfort, and inspire. One of the most famous presidential speeches is President Kennedy's challenge to America to embrace new technologies and take charge in the space race. In short, he wanted the country to shoot for the moon. And it did.



**Listen to Kennedy's speech here.**  
WEBSITE: [bit.ly/3d2WgIk](https://bit.ly/3d2WgIk)



**SCAN ME**

**Watch or read President Kennedy's speech, then answer the following questions:**

- What is your reaction to President Kennedy's speech? How did it make you feel? Was it inspiring? Why or why not?
- If you were an audience member during this speech, would you have been excited and motivated by President Kennedy's challenge to go to the moon? Or would you have been scared or in disbelief? Explain your reaction.
- Going to the moon was quite a feat, and some people even thought it was an unattainable goal. What challenge would you want a local, state, or national leader to issue to us today? Explain why attaining this goal is so important and how it could build morale.

**Additional Resources:** Do you have a favorite president or is there a particular time period in our country's history that you love to study? The Miller Center has a thorough collection of other presidential speeches that you can read, listen to, or watch. Browse the topics to learn more about what you only touched on in history class or to better understand a president's point of view.

We've seen some challenging times throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The History Channel highlights the ways United States presidents have approached everything from the Great Depression to World War II to the post-9/11 reality.



**Check out historic presidential speeches here.**  
WEBSITE: [millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches](https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches)



**Check out modern presidential speeches here.**  
WEBSITE: [history.com/news/10-modern-presidential-speeches-every-american-should-know](https://history.com/news/10-modern-presidential-speeches-every-american-should-know)

**Go Further:** If you're interested in history on a global scale, check out this NPR interview about Winston Churchill's leadership and reassuring words during his first year as Britain's prime minister, just when World War II was getting started. Churchill's speeches calmed the nation's fears, even in the midst of devastating events. What calming ideas would you communicate during these challenging times? Write your own speech that gives hope and reassurance to your audience. As a bonus, share it with your family and friends at dinner, at your next video gathering, or on social media!



**Listen to the NPR interview here.**  
WEBSITE: [n.pr/2AdaQ1B](https://www.npr.org/2020/04/15/828411100/winston-churchill-speeches)

## Monumental Feats

**Estimated Time: Varies depending on structure detail**

Throughout the world, there are monuments, memorials, and architectural wonders that have withstood weather, wars, and modernization. Ancient structures brought new challenges to the civilizations building them. What materials would be used? How were they designed? How long did it take to construct? After all, Rome wasn't built in a day!

This spring, the Archaeological Institute of America hosted a Build Your Own Monument challenge to complete at home. Four world-famous landmarks were chosen and folks from all over the world submitted their own interpretations using food and other materials from around the house.



**You can see the winning results here.**  
WEBSITE: [archaeological.org/build-your-own/](https://www.archaeological.org/build-your-own/)



**SCAN ME**

**Instructions:** Though the AIA competition is over, we challenge you to create your own monument! Is it a memorial from Washington, D.C., Times Square, or maybe the Eiffel Tower?

**Create a plan for your recreation:** What materials will you use: Legos, food, or even craft supplies? How will you scale it down (after all, the Washington Monument won't fit in your living room!)? How can you ensure the structural integrity? Considering the "why" behind your design choices will help you build the best monument you can!

**Additional Resources:** *Smithsonian Magazine* article about the AIA competition ([bit.ly/2A8qqeH](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cheesehenge-and-other-historical-homages-debut-online-archaeology-competition-180974722/)).



Image source: [smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cheesehenge-and-other-historical-homages-debut-online-archaeology-competition-180974722/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cheesehenge-and-other-historical-homages-debut-online-archaeology-competition-180974722/)

**Students!** Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at [discovery@worldstrides.com](mailto:discovery@worldstrides.com).