

Death of a President

John Kennedy had gained world prestige by his management of the Cuban missile crisis and had won great popularity at home. Many believed he would win re-election easily in 1964. But on November 22, 1963, he was assassinated while riding in an open car during a visit to Dallas, Texas. His death, amplified by television coverage, was a traumatic event, just as Roosevelt's had been 18 years earlier.

In retrospect, it is clear that Kennedy's reputation stems more from his style and eloquently stated ideals than from the implementation of his policies. He had laid out an impressive agenda but at his death much remained blocked in Congress. It was largely because of the political skill and legislative victories of his successor that Kennedy would be seen as a force for progressive change.

Directions: Read the passage above, then answer the questions below.

1. Who is the passage about?
2. How did his handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis affect his popularity?
-Why do you think this was the case?
3. When and where was he assassinated?
4. What was one factor they made his assassination possible?
-Is this the case today? Explain
5. Why was he seen as an effective leader?

Based on the reading, was he an effective leader? Explain
6. What allowed him to be seen as a force for progressive change?