



# VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for High Schoolers

## Inspiration and Sacrifice in the Media

### Fireside Chat on Sacrifice

Let's go back to 1942. There is no television, no Playstation. Your family receives much of its news and entertainment from the family radio. You are about to listen to one of the most popular radio shows in America, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's (FDR) "Fireside Chats." FDR began giving these Fireside Chats in 1933. His entire presidency was filled with one crisis after another, so it was a revolutionary way to bring his message forward through technology. It was a calming presence to think of the most powerful man in the world, sitting back and having a nice conversation with us through our radio. Presidents have continued to use the newest mediums and technologies to communicate with the public. Who do you think was the first president to use television to speak directly to the public? (Hint: rhymes with "Like") What other forms of communication have Presidents used since television? Is it effective?



Fireside Chats saw peacetime ratings around 18 percent of all American radio owners, but during the war years, the numbers increased to an unheard of 59 percent of the total listening audience, approximately 65,000,000 listeners during his State of the Union address in February, 1942. Gather your family around the radio (your computer or smart phone) and listen to President Roosevelt address the sacrifices that he asks of the American people in his Fireside Chat on April 28, 1942 when FDR addresses the sacrifices that he asks of the American people. Copy this link, or search "Fireside Chat on sacrifice" on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIElfl9Bquo&t=1034s>. You're welcome to listen to the entire broadcast, or you may skip ahead to 8:59 on the audio/video. Listen closely to answer the questions on page two.

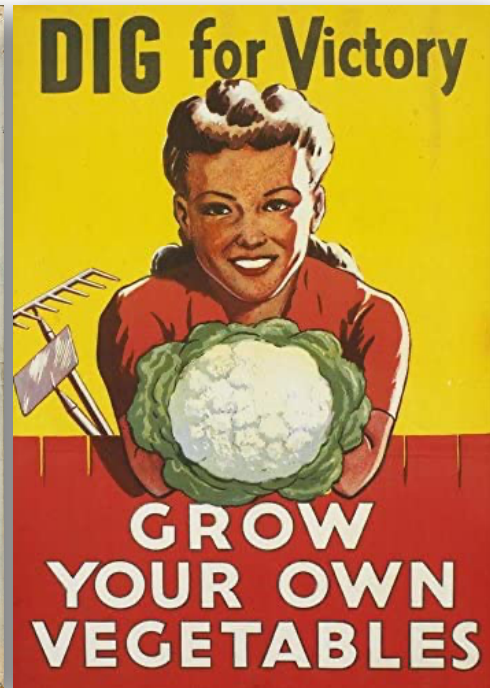
# FDR's Fireside Chat on Sacrifice

## April 28, 1942

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIEfl9Bquo&t=1034s>

### Close Listening Questions

1. What is the one question that recurs in letters from Americans to the White House?
2. How much money is being spent on the war at the time of this chat?
3. FDR says that he submitted to the Congress of the United States a seven-point program to make up a national economic policy for attaining the great objective of keeping the cost of living down. What were they?
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4. Which of those points do you think you could do?
5. How does FDR inspire the public to be willing to make sacrifices on their daily lives?
6. What sacrifices are you currently making in the midst of our current health crisis?



### Dig for Victory

The Victory Garden was an essential way to do your part during a time where so many were putting their very lives on the line to fight for our country. The U.S. Office of Civil Defense produced lots of posters, ads, and guidebooks to encourage Americans to “Dig for Victory.” Many films like “The Gardens of Victory” were also created to inspire and educate at the same time. They would be shown before a movie starts at the theater, like a preview. Use this link to pull up the video, or search “The Gardens of Victory” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBg1ND5X3tA>. Answer the questions below while you watch.

### Close Listening Questions



1. Why is food considered a “weapon” of war?
2. What are some similarities you can see between then and now?
3. The narrator says that as gardeners are “discovering that the closer they get to the good earth and the more they drink in fresh air and sunshine,” they also gain what?
4. What kinds of public service announcements are you seeing today, that are meant to inspire people to help during the pandemic?



## Recreating History

Many Americans have taken on the "Getty Museum Challenge" to recreate works of art during this time of quarantine. The results are so creative and often hilarious! We want to continue that idea by challenging you to recreate one of the World War II era Victory Garden posters or ads using yourself, your family, pets, or whatever props you have at home. If you would like to see more examples for inspiration, just Google "World War II Victory Garden posters." Below are some examples our IKEducation staff did this past week.



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