

VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK FOR SARAH PALIN AND JOE BIDEN

Objectives: Students will:

1. Identify key elements of the lives of 2008 Vice Presidential nominees Sarah Palin (Rep.) and Joe Biden (Dem.) and display these elements on a desktop for each candidate.
2. Use a diagram to analyze unique and similar items on the two nominee's desks

TEKS: 7.22C&D; 8.30C&D; US.30A; Govt.21D

Materials: Biographies of Palin and Biden, desk pattern, markers, diagram

Teaching Strategy:

1. After the students have studied Sarah Palin and Joe Biden, each student will be assigned to design a desk befitting one of the vice presidential nominees.
2. Teachers should introduce the activity by noting what is on the teacher's desk, which may include a lesson plan book, grade book, pictures of children or grandchildren, calendar, books, etc.
3. Ask students to analyze the teacher's desk and draw conclusions about the teacher from the items on the desk. Help students to conclude that one can tell a great deal about a person from what is on or around the person's desk.
4. Included on or around (on the wall behind the desk, the floor near it) the vice presidential nominee's desk should be the following:
 - a. A calendar with a significant date marked. This date could be a birthday, election day, inauguration day, or another date that would be significant to that individual.
 - b. Pictures of the person's family.
 - c. A means of communication, such as a phone, computer, etc.
 - d. A book, newspaper or magazine, which the nominee might have been reading.
 - e. A written document that the nominee might have been creating, such as a letter, memo, announcement, or law. Students should be able to explain what the document contains.
 - f. A memento from the nominee's career, such as notes from an important meeting, a trophy, an award, certificate, or diploma.
5. When the appropriate information has been gathered, students will draw items on the desk pattern. After they have designed their desk they are to find another student with a different vice presidential nominee's desk. Using a diagram, of students will list the desk items they have in common and unique items in the appropriate sections of the diagram.

SARAH PALIN

Governor Sarah Palin made history on Dec. 4, 2006, when she took office. As the 11th governor of Alaska, she is the first woman to hold the office.

Since taking office, her top priorities have been resource development, education and workforce development, public health and safety, and transportation and infrastructure development.

Under her leadership, Alaska invested \$5 billion in state savings, overhauled education funding, and implemented the Senior Benefits Program that provides support for low-income older Alaskans. She created Alaska's Petroleum Systems Integrity Office to provide oversight and maintenance of oil and gas equipment, facilities and infrastructure, and the Climate Change Subcabinet to prepare a climate change strategy for Alaska.

During her first legislative session, Governor Palin's administration passed two major pieces of legislation – an overhaul of the state's ethics laws and a competitive process to construct a gas pipeline.

Governor Palin is chair of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, a multi-state government agency that promotes the conservation and efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety and the environment. She also serves as vice chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) Natural Resources Committee, which is charged with pursuing legislation to ensure state needs are considered as federal policy is formulated in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental protection and natural resource management.

Prior to her election as governor, Palin served two terms on the Wasilla City Council and two terms as the mayor/manager of Wasilla. During her tenure, she reduced property tax levels while increasing services and made Wasilla a business friendly environment, drawing in new industry.

She has served as chair of the Alaska Conservation Commission, which regulates Alaska's most valuable non-renewable resources: oil and gas. She was elected by her peers to serve as president of the Alaska Conference of Mayors. In this role, she worked with local, state and federal officials to promote solutions to the needs of Alaska's communities.

Sarah Heath Palin arrived in Alaska with her family in 1964, when her parents came to teach school in Skagway. She received a bachelor of science degree in communications-journalism from the University of Idaho in 1987. Palin, who graduated from Wasilla High School in 1982, has lived in Skagway, Eagle River and Wasilla.

She is married to Todd Palin, who is a lifelong Alaskan, a production operator on the North Slope and a four-time champion of the Iron Dog, the world's longest snowmachine race.

Todd and Sarah fish in Bristol Bay with their children – Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper and Trig. Through Todd's Yup'ik grandmother, Alaska's Native heritage plays an important role in their family. Track enlisted in the U.S. Army on Sept. 11, 2007.

Prior to taking office, Palin served on numerous boards and commissions throughout the state. She was active in her family's pursuits – including serving as a sports team mom and school volunteer. She also runs marathons. Palin is a lifetime member of the NRA and enjoys hunting, fishing, Alaska history, and all that Alaska's great outdoors has to offer.

SOURCE: www.johnmccain.com

Governor Sarah Heath Palin (AK)

Current Office: Governor
Office Seeking: Vice President
First Elected: 11/07/2006
Last Elected: 11/07/2006
Next Election: 2010
Party: Republican

Background Information

Family: Husband, Todd
5 Children: Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper, Trig.
Birth Date: 02/11/1964
Birthplace: Sandpoint, ID
Home City: Wasilla, AK
Religion: Assembly of God

Education:

BA, Communications/Journalism, University of Idaho, 1987.

Professional Experience:

Media
Utilities.

Political Experience:

Governor, Alaska, 2006-present
Former President, Alaska Conference of Mayors
Former Mayor/Manager, Wasilla City
Former Council Member, Wasilla City Council.

Organizations:

Member, Alaska Miners Association
Member, Alaska Outdoor Council
Member, Alaska Resource Development Council
Member, Chambers of Commerce (Various)
Member, Iditarod Parent-Teacher Association
Member, National Rifle Association
Member, Valley Hospital Association Board
Coach/Hockey Team Manager, Valley Youth Sports
Member, Youth Court Steering Committee
Former Member, American Management Association
Former Member, Salvation Army Board.

Caucuses/Non-Legislative Committees:

Chairman, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 2003-2004
Former Member, Alaska Municipal League Board
Chair, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
Vice Chair, National Governors Association Natural Resources Committee.

JOE BIDEN

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., age 65, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on November 20, 1942, to Joseph Sr. and Jean Biden. He was the oldest of four children. In 1953, the Biden family moved from Pennsylvania to Claymont, Delaware. Biden attended parochial school at St. Helena's School in Wilmington and the Archmere Academy in Claymont. Public service was part of the Biden family, with one of Joe's great grandfathers serving as a Pennsylvania state senator. After graduating from the University of Delaware in 1965 and from law school at Syracuse University in 1968, Biden moved back to the Wilmington area and set up his own law firm. He practiced law until 1972.

In 1970, Biden – at age 27 – ran for New Castle County Council and won in a Republican district. At age 29, he launched an improbable bid to unseat two-term Republican U.S. Sen. J. Caleb Boggs. With very little help from the state establishment, and with his sister as his campaign manager, Biden defeated Boggs by 3,162 votes. Just weeks after the election, Biden's wife, Neilia, and their 1-year-old daughter, Naomi, were killed and their two young sons critically injured in an auto accident. Biden was sworn in at his son's hospital bedside and began commuting to Washington every day by train, a practice he has maintained throughout his career in the Senate.

In 1977, Biden married Jill Jacobs. Jill Biden, who holds a PhD in education, has been an educator for over two decades in Delaware's schools. Currently she is a professor at Delaware Technical Community College.

Senator Biden has three children: Beau, Hunter and Ashley. Beau currently serves as Delaware's Attorney General; a captain in the 261st Signal Brigade of the Delaware National Guard, he will be deployed to Iraq this October. Ashley is a social worker and Hunter is an attorney. Senator Biden also has five grandchildren.

Biden became ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee in 1997 and served as chairman of the committee from 2001 to 2003 and from January 2007 to the present. He has served as chairman or ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for sixteen years. He is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on foreign policy, as well as one of its most influential voices on terrorism, drug policy, crime, and issues important to women. He has been a tireless advocate for working families and has reached across the aisle to work with Republicans on tackling some of the greatest challenges facing Americans. Biden has been instrumental in crafting almost every major piece of crime legislation over the past two decades. His Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 put more than 100,000 police officers on America's streets and has been credited with bringing down crime rates to the lowest in a generation. In 1996, he authored legislation to create a national registry of sex offenders. He authored the landmark Violence Against Women Act, the strongest legislation to date that criminalizes domestic violence and holds batterers accountable. Biden was a strong supporter of the Family and Medical Leave Act, cracked down on deadbeat dads, and has been a consistent champion for equal pay. Biden was one of the first to introduce legislation to address global warming and he co-sponsored the most aggressive piece of climate change legislation in the U.S. Senate. SOURCE: www.barackobama.com

Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. (DE)

Current Office: U.S. Senate
Current District: Senior Seat
Office Seeking: U.S. Senate, Vice President
First Elected: 11/07/1972
Last Elected: 11/05/2002
Next Election: 2008
Party: Democratic

Background Information

Family: Wife: Jill
3 Children: Beau, Hunter, Ashley.
Birth Date: 11/20/1942
Birthplace: Scranton, PA
Home City: Wilmington, DE
Religion: Roman Catholic

Education:

JD, Syracuse University College of Law, 1968
BA, History/Political Science, University of Delaware, 1965.

Professional Experience:

Adjunct Professor, Widener University School of Law, 1991-present
Attorney, Private Practice, Wilmington, Delaware, 1968-1972.

Political Experience:

Candidate, United States President, 2008
Senator, United States Senator, 1973-present
Councilmember, New Castle County Council, 1970-1972.

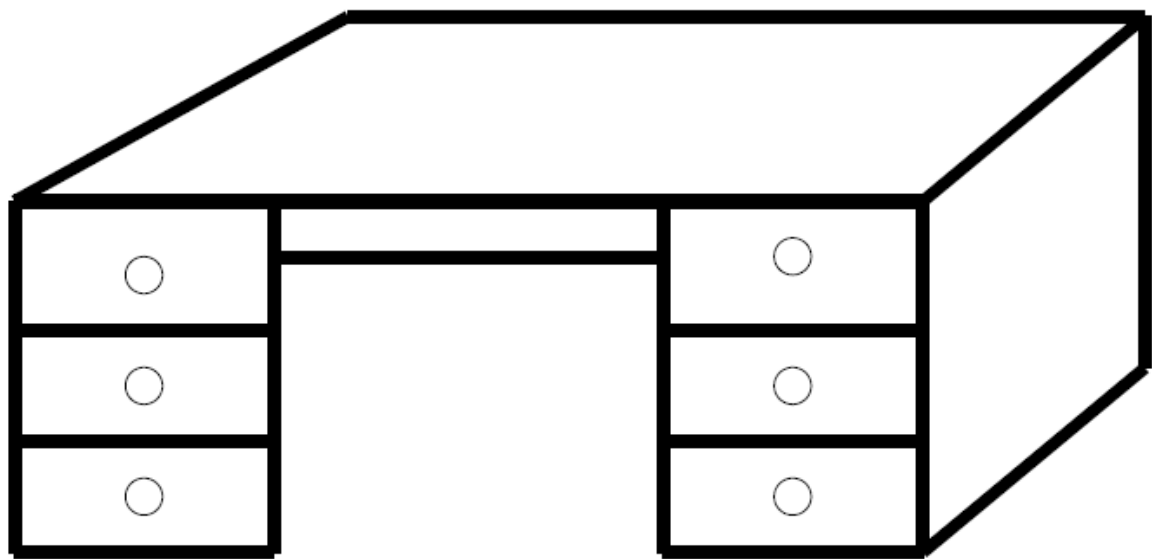
Caucuses/Non-Legislative Committees:

Vice Chairman, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly.

Committees:

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, Member
Foreign Relations, Chair
Judiciary, Member
Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, Chair
Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Member
Subcommittee on European Affairs, Member
Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, Member
Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Refugees, Member
Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection, Member
Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights, Member
Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, Member
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, Member
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs, Member

Source: Project Vote Smart



COMPARING DESKTOPS

Find a classmate who has designed a desktop for a different nominee for vice president and fill in the diagram, listing in the center circle items that are similar, and in the circles labeled with their names, items that are unique to that person.

