

Where  
the past  
is present

# DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## TEACHER RESOURCE LESSON PLAN

### SELECTED MAYORS OF DETROIT



**Jerome P. Cavanaugh, 1964**  
*Courtesy of the Detroit Historical Society*

#### INTRODUCTION

This lesson was originally published in *Telling Detroit's Story: Historic Past, Proud People, Shining Future* curriculum unit developed by the Detroit 300 Commission in 2001.

Students in grades six through eight will develop a good background of Detroit's political history as well as develop an understanding of different leadership models.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Understand duties and responsibilities of mayors.
- Be familiar with how five Detroit mayors dealt

with problems they faced in office.

- Be able to identify the consequences of these mayors' policies and leadership.
- Be able to identify unique characteristics of these mayors' leadership styles.
- Propose alternative ways of coping with Detroit's problems during at least one mayor's term of office.

#### BACKGROUND ESSAY

Each municipal elected official solves problems within the context of his/her times and his/her own personality. Elected officials' problem solving skills have the goal of keeping the peace and providing for the general welfare. More particularly, five mayors of Detroit – Pingree, Murphy, Cavanaugh, Young, and Archer – have dealt with such matters as required in a large urban area; satisfying basic necessities people need; racism; integrating city work forces; and keeping the city viable. Their decisions have impacted the generations that followed. This is a study of the decision-making responsibilities of the mayor, each of whom was confronted with serious issues during his term of office, and examines how each person solved some of these major problems. The mayors examined are:

- Hazen S. Pingree: 1890 to 1896
- Frank Murphy: 1930 to 1933
- Jerome P. Cavanaugh: 1962 to 1970
- Coleman A. Young: 1974 to 1994
- Dennis Archer: 1994 to 2001

# LESSON PLAN: SELECTED MAYORS OF DETROIT

## MATERIALS USED

- Chart: Selected Mayors of Detroit
- Reading: Who Am I?
- Reading: Demographic and Historical Data
- Reading: Mayoral Models
- Reading: Powers of Mayor as Defined by the City Charter
- Reading: Names of Mayors of Detroit since 1824

## LESSON SEQUENCE

### Opening the Activity:

1. Group discussion
  - What is the meaning of the word “mayor” and what does a mayor do?
  - Who is the current mayor of Detroit? In your city?
  - Can you name mayors of other cities? Past Detroit mayors? (Think of names of streets and buildings)
2. Distribute the chart “Selected Mayors of Detroit.”
  - Do you recognize any of the names on this list? What can you tell about any of these people?
  - Distribute “Who Am I?” to each student. Using the chart, have students answer “Who Am I?” What clues are suggested to give the answers?

### Developing the Activity

1. Divide the students into five groups. Each group will select a group leader/spokesperson. Each group will then select the name of a mayor from a hat. Distribute to each group the appropriate biographical material and the historical data sheet.
2. The students will read their mayor’s biographical material either as homework or in class groups.
3. Small group discussion:
  - What were your mayor’s specific problems?
  - What were at least two accomplishments of your selected mayor?

- What were at least two areas of little success?
- What two aspects of this mayor – his life and times – were particularly interesting to you?
- Why do you think he made the choices he made? Would you have made similar choices? Why or why not?

### Concluding the Activity

1. Starting with the Mayor Pingree group leader, in chronological order, have the spokesperson for each group give their brief report to the class.
2. Discussion: What characteristics do these five mayors appear to share? What are at least two differences among these five mayors?
3. Distribute: “Mayoral Models.” Discuss how each of the five mayors examined fit into these models. Do you think that a woman might be able to fulfill the role of mayor of Detroit? Why or why not?

## ASSESSING THE LEARNING

1. Each student writes on either:
  - The Mayor I Most Admire and Why
  - The Most Effective Mayor and Why
2. If there is time, have the students volunteer to read a few of the papers aloud in class and discuss.
3. What are the personal characteristics these five mayors appear to share? What are the differences?

# LESSON PLAN: SELECTED MAYORS OF DETROIT



**Dennis Archer, 2000**

*Courtesy of EWOLF*



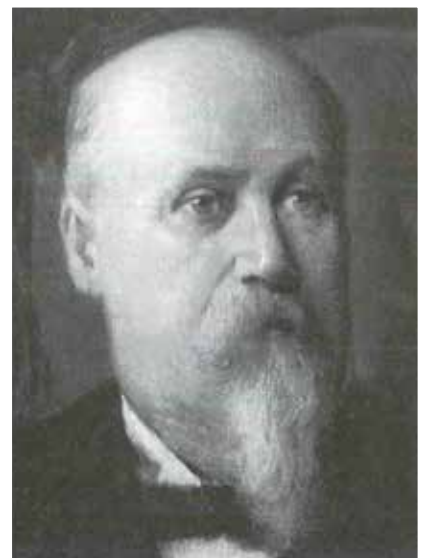
**Frank Murphy**

*Courtesy of the Detroit Historical Society*



**Judge John B. Swainson, Coleman Young, and Judge Damon Keith at Young's swearing-in ceremony, January 2, 1974.**

*Courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University*



**Hazen S. Pingree**

*Courtesy of the Detroit Historical Society*

## CHART: SELECTED DETROIT MAYORS

JOHN PRIDGEON, JR.	1888-1889
HAZEN S. PINGREE	1890-1896
JAMES COUZENS	1919-1922
JOHN C. LODGE	1928-1930
FRANK MURPHY	1930-1933
EDWARD JEFFRIES	1940-1948
ALBERT COBO	1950-1957
JEROME P. CAVANAUGH	1962-1970
COLEMAN A. YOUNG	1974-1994
DENNIS ARCHER	1994-2001

## READING: WHO AM I?

I am originally from the state of Maine. I heard about Detroit while serving as a prisoner during the War Between the States. Therefore, after the War in 1866, I moved to Michigan and prospered in the boot/shoe business. I then decided to run as mayor on the Republican ticket in a city that was already heavily populated with Democrats. Fortunately, I won by 2,300 votes. I am known as one of the first progressive liberal-humanitarian leaders in the country. I advocated municipal ownership of the Transit Company and exposed widespread graft and corruption in government. For two months, I was both mayor of Detroit and Governor of Michigan. **Who Am I?**

I was the third of three children of a closely-knit Irish family. I was elected mayor after Detroit voters, on the grounds of graft, recalled my predecessor. A few hours after the recall results were announced, Jerry Buckley, an influential radio commentator who led the fight against my predecessor, was murdered in the LaSalle Hotel lobby. I was elected on the eve of the Great Depression and spent my three years in office trying to alleviate the plight of the 20% unemployed in the city. My liberal and humanitarian policies eventually led me from mayor of Detroit to governor-general of the Philippines, Governor of Michigan, and a distinguished career as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. **Who Am I?**

I was a lawyer before I became mayor of Detroit. On July 23, 1963, I lead a march on 125,000 people down Woodward Avenue, arm in arm with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1965 the Watts community in California exploded but I was certain that would not happen in Detroit. Forty percent of the African American population of Detroit owned homes and no other United States city, backed by 42 million dollars of federal funds, had waged a more comprehensive battle against poverty. **Who Am I?**

It's been said of me that I "understand politics and play it like a game of showdown poker." I am not afraid to take on the media, the city council, presidents of corporations and the country. Although, like other cities, my city has seen a shrinking tax base, flight to the suburbs and many other problems. My constituency supports me, their first African American mayor. It has been a mutual love affair for 20 years. **Who Am I?**

"We have no place to go but up!" I declared shortly before I was sworn in as mayor. And although some people might disagree, I think I succeeded in reversing some of Detroit's decline. I began life as a poor boy in rural southwest Michigan. Sometimes we were on welfare when my father could not get a handyman's job. I managed to get an education and started as a teacher, teaching the handicapped in Detroit's Public Schools, where I met my wife, another teacher. She encouraged me to get my law degree. I worked as a corporate lawyer and subsequently served as Michigan's first African American Supreme Court Justice. **Who Am I?**



# READING: DEMOGRAPHIC & HISTORICAL DATA FOR SELECTED DETROIT MAYORS

<b><u>Hazen S. Pingree</u></b> Population of Detroit: Ethnicity in Detroit: Industry in Detroit:  Transportation in Detroit:	<b><u>1890-1896</u></b> 205,876 English, German, Canadian Railcars, paint manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, Vernors Ginger Ale Buggy, railroad, steamship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity is available for home lighting for the first time.</li> <li>Electric streetcars began operation on Woodward Avenue.</li> <li>Detroit joined Western Baseball League, name changed to American League in 1899.</li> <li>Henry Ford drove his first motor vehicle</li> </ul>
<b><u>Frank Murphy</u></b> Population of Detroit:  Ethnicity of Detroit:	<b><u>1930-1933</u></b> 1,568,662 (4th largest U.S. city) People of Polish heritage outnumbered all foreign-born in Detroit area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depression: automobile production dropped from 5,377,087 in 1929 to 1,331,860 in 1931; 20% workforce idle.</li> <li>Detroit-Windsor Vehicular Tunnel opened.</li> <li>Collingwood Massacre - Purple Gang at its height.</li> <li>In 1933 all Michigan banks were closed; Detroit City treasury empty.</li> <li>192,000 people on welfare; 1932 - 3,000 people march on Dearborn-Ford hunger strike.</li> <li>City colleges combine, become Wayne State University.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Jerome Cavanaugh</u></b> Population of Detroit: Ethnicity of Detroit: Industry in Detroit:	<b><u>1962-1970</u></b> 1,640,144 Mixed, African American 1965 automobile production: 9,300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate public transportation system.</li> <li>St. Lawrence Seaway, completed in 1959, allowed deep-water transportation in the Great Lakes.</li> <li>City income tax instituted.</li> <li>Walk to Freedom.</li> <li>Airlines centered at Metropolitan Airport.</li> <li>1967 Riot: 44 killed; 7,331 arrested; 4,700 federal troops called in; 1,600 fires.</li> <li>1968 Tigers win World Series in 7th game against Cardinals.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Coleman Young</u></b> Population of Detroit:  Industry in Detroit:	<b><u>1974-1994</u></b> 1970: 1,515,063. Between 1970 and 1980, Detroit lost 20.5% of its population. Transition from an industrial to a mixed (service) economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic redevelopment began.</li> <li>1975 and 1981 were years of fiscal crisis.</li> <li>Renaissance Center and Joe Louis Arena were built.</li> <li>For the first time, Black leadership led Detroit.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Dennis Archer</u></b> Population of Detroit:  Ethnicity of Detroit: Industry in Detroit:	<b><u>1994-2001</u></b> 1990 - A little over 1,000,000 75% African American Mixed, included gaming, auto manufacturing, other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Archer took office, 1/3 of Detroiters lived below the poverty line.</li> <li>Unemployment rate in 1991 was 20%.</li> <li>Bus system of Detroit merged with bus systems of some suburbs.</li> <li>New stadiums, casinos in Detroit.</li> </ul>

# READING: MAYORAL MODELS

## MAYORAL MODELS

by Milton and Paul Lawrence

- **Power Broker Model**

This type of mayor uses power as capital.

Patronage and influence are used to maintain power. Mayor Daley of Chicago has been used as an example.

He invested his influence with the right people, much as a shrewd financial investor would invest capital.

- **Public Entrepreneur Model**

A creative, energy-oriented mayor who takes risks.

He or she is also described as open to new ideas and possesses organizational ability and promotional ingenuity.

Former Detroit Mayor Oscar Marx qualifies for having constructed the Detroit Receiving Hospital and the municipal court building and for appointing the first woman to a commissionership. The non-entrepreneur would be more cautious, meticulous, and protective in initiating new policies and projects.

- **Coalition Building Model**

This breed of consensus-oriented executives tend to seek compromise. The key factor in policy success within this model is the creation of a workable coalition of interests.

- **The Personality Model**

A great man, a charismatic personality, who dazzles and completely dominates the political process by his very being.

## POWERS OF MAYORS AS DEFINED BY THE CHARTER

### Powers and Duties of the Mayor

The Mayor is the chief executive of the City and as provided by the City Charter, has control of and is accountable for the executive branch of city government. The Mayor's powers, duties, and authorities include the following:

- To wield exclusive authority for the implementation of programs, services and activities of city government.
- To make appointments and removals to administrative positions in city departments and to city boards and commissions as described by the charter.
- To conserve the peace of the city and administer oaths and take affidavits as provided by law and the city charter.
- To approve, disapprove, or veto all ordinances or resolutions passed by City Council in accordance with the procedure provided by the charter.
- To prepare a budget each year to provide for the operation of city government. The budget is submitted to the City Council each April for its review and approval.

The Mayor is an ex-officio member of designated boards and commissions. Such designations may, by ordinance or otherwise, from time to time, change and therefore are not listed here.

The Mayor also wields enormous influence over the economic development of the city through the activities of the Community and Economic Development Department, various other economic development organizations and his own relationships with business, labor and community leaders. All current major economic development projects underway in the City have been put together with direct involvement of the Mayor.

## READING: MAYORS OF THE CITY OF DETROIT FROM 1824

John R. Williams	1824-1825	John Pridgeon, Jr.	1888-1889
Henry J. Hunt	1826	Hazen S. Pingree	1890 - 3/22/1897
Jonathon Kearsley	1826	William Richert (acting)	3/22/1897-4/5/1897
John Biddle	1827-1828	William C. Maybury	4/5/1897 - 1904
Jonathon Kearsley	1829	George P. Codd	1905-1906
John R. Williams	1830	William B. Thompson	1907-1908
Marshall Chapin	1831	Phillip Breitmeyer	1909-1910
Levi Cook	1832	Willam B. Thompson	1911-1912
Marshall Chapin	1833	Oscar B. Marx	1913-1918
C.C. Trowbridge	1834	James Couzens (resigned)	1919-12/5/1922
Andrew Mack	1834	John C. Lodge (acting)	12/5/1922-4/29/1923
Levi Cook	1835-1836	Frank E. Doremus (resigned)	4/9/1923-6/10/1924
Henry Howard	1837	Joseph A. Martin (acting)	6/1/1924-8/2/1924
Augustus A. Porter	1838	John C. Lodge (acting)	8/2/1924-11/21/1924
De Garmo Jones	1839	John W. Smith	11/21/1924-1/9/1928
Zina Pitcher	1840-1841	John C. Lodge	1928-1929
Douglas Houghton	1842	Charles Bowles (recalled)	1930-9/22/1930
Zina Pitcher	1843	Frank Murphy	9/23/1930-5/10/1933
John R. Williams	1844-1846	Frank Couzens (acting)	5/10/1933-9/8/1933;
Jas A. Van Dyke	1847	Frank Couzens	1935-1937
Frederick Buhl	1848	Richard Reading	1938-1939
Charles Howard	1849	Edward Jeffries, Jr.	1940-1947
John LaDue	1850	Eugene I. Van Antwerp	1948-1949
Zachariah Chandler	1851	Albert C. Cobo (died in office)	1950-9/12/1957
John H. Harmon	1852-1853	Louis C. Miriani (acting)	9/12/1957 - 1957
Oliver M. Hyde	1854	Louis C. Miriani	1958-1961
Henry Ledyard	1855	Jerome P. Cavanaugh	1962-1969
Oliver M. Hyde	1856-1857	Roman S. Gribbs	1970 - 1973
John Patton	1858-1859	Coleman A. Young	1974 - 1993
Christian H. Buhl	1860-1861	Dennis Archer	1994 - 2001
Wm. C. Duncan	1862-1863	Kwame Kilpatrick (resigned)	2002-9/18/2008
Kirkland C. Baker	1864-1865	Kenneth Cockrel, Jr. (acting)	9/18/2008-5/11/2009
Merrill I. Mills	1866-1867	David Bing	5/11/2009 - 2013
Wm. W. Wheaton	1868-1871	Mike Duggan	2014 -
Hugh Moffat	1872-1875		
Alexander Lewis	1876-1877		
George C. Langdon	1878-1879		
Wm. G. Thompson	1880-1883		
S.B. Grummond	1884-1885		
M.H. Chamberlain	1886-1887		