

## Lesson Plan

### Life at a Glance

**Book:** *Michelle Obama: First Lady*

**Series:** Important Women

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students practice organizing information in a timeline.

### Supplies

- *Michelle Obama: First Lady* book
- Markers
- Large, white sheets of paper
- Whiteboard

### Before the Activity

Read through the *Michelle Obama: First Lady* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Draw a sample timeline on the whiteboard, showing several short vertical lines along a longer horizontal line.

### Activity

A timeline is a way to quickly summarize information in an easy-to-understand graphic. Show students the timeline on the whiteboard. Explain that the horizontal line shows the passage of time from left to right. Each vertical line represents a specific date, organized from earliest on the far left to most recent on the far right. Vertical lines can also represent a range of dates, for instance, 2004–2008.

Students will create their own timelines to summarize Michelle Obama's life. Students should identify eight important moments in Obama's life to feature in their timelines. The timeline should list these moments from earliest to most recent. For each moment, students should include the following information:

- The year
- A summary of what happened, written in a complete sentence

## Evaluation

Collect the timelines at the end of class. Using the following sample timeline, give students up to 18 points:

- 1 point for each year included in the timeline
- 1 point for each accurate summary of what happened
- 2 points for organizing the events in chronological order

Sample Timeline:

- 1964: Michelle Robinson is born on January 17.
- 1992: Michelle marries Barack Obama and takes his last name.
- 1993–1996: Obama serves as director of the Chicago branch of Public Allies.
- 2009: Obama becomes the first Black First Lady.
- 2010: Obama starts Let’s Move, a program with the goal of ending childhood obesity.
- 2011: Obama starts Joining Forces, a program to support members and veterans of the US military.
- 2014: Obama starts Reach Higher, a program to promote higher education in the United States.
- 2015: Obama starts Let Girls Learn, a program to support girls’ education around the world.
- 2018: Obama starts the Girls Opportunity Alliance, a program to support girls’ education around the world.

## Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.1, 3.3).