



# **An Interactive History of Camelot: John F. Kennedy & Jackie Kennedy**

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*Includes 5 videos of John and Jackie, with video coverage of the Election of 1960, Kennedy's Inauguration, Jackie's White House Tour, and more.*

Includes pictures of the Kennedys and important people, places, and events in their lives.

"Don't let it be forgot  
that once there was a spot  
for one brief shining moment  
that was known as Camelot"

Everyone has read about history's most important people and events in dense textbooks and classrooms, but words can only say so much. In Charles River Editors' Interactive History series, history comes to life in video and audio, allowing people to not only read history but truly experience it, through the eyes and ears of the people who were there.

In many ways, John Fitzgerald Kennedy and his young family were the perfect embodiment of the '60s. The decade began with a sense of idealism, personified by the attractive Kennedy, his beautiful and fashionable wife Jackie, and his young children. Months into his presidency, Kennedy exhorted the country to reach for the stars, calling upon the nation to send a man to the Moon and back by the end of the decade. In 1961, Kennedy made it seem like anything was possible, and Americans were eager to believe him. The Kennedy years were fondly and famously labeled "Camelot" by Jackie herself, suggesting an almost mythical quality about the young President and his family.

Much of the glamor and vigor of Camelot, if not the majority of it, was supplied by First Lady Jackie Kennedy, whose elegance and grace made her the most popular woman in the world. Her popularity threatened to eclipse even her husband's, who famously quipped on one presidential trip to France that he was "the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris." Lady Jeanne Campbell put it best, writing for *The London Evening Standard*, "Jacqueline Kennedy has given the American people...one thing they have always lacked: Majesty."

Americans were fascinated by the young First Lady's style, and the manner in which she glamorously positioned both the First Family and the White House in those years, and Jackie remains one of the country's most popular First Ladies. But it was in the face of adversity that she truly made her lasting mark, with the country taking its cue from her in the aftermath of the president's assassination. Having devised and lit the eternal flame at JFK's tombstone, Jackie also set about securing her husband's legacy, a time still fondly and mythically remembered as Camelot today, despite his legendary transgressions and infidelities.

As it turned out, the '60s closely reflected the glossy, idealistic portrayal of John F. Kennedy, as well as the uglier truths. The country would achieve Kennedy's goal of a manned moon mission, and the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally guaranteed minorities their civil rights and restored equality, ensuring that the country "would live out the true meaning of its creed." But the idealism and optimism of the decade was quickly shattered, starting with Kennedy's assassination in 1963. The '60s were permanently marred by the Vietnam War, and by the time Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. were assassinated in 1968, the

country was irreversibly jaded.

An Interactive History of Camelot profiles the lives and legacies of the nation's youngest elected president and his glamorous wife with videos, pictures, and more.

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