

# **TITLE: JFK Assassination Worksheet**

## **Lesson Plan**

**Cube Fellow:** Rachelle R Bouchat      **Teacher Mentor:** Pam Callahan

**Goal:** To give students practice on writing equations of lines and finding lengths of line segments.

**Grade and Course:** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade algebra courses

**KY Standards:** MA-HS-1.1.1 (Number Sense)  
MA-HS-3.1.1 (Shapes and Relationships)  
MA-HS-5.3.3 (Equations and Inequalities)

**Objectives:** To provide students with an application of how lines, line segments, and the lengths of line segments can be applicable to real world problems.

**Resources/materials needed:** Worksheet and ruler.

**Description of Plan:** Have the students work in small groups to complete the worksheet. At various stages, the class will reconvene and talk about their results up until that point and any questions they may have.

**Lesson Source:** Original

**Instructional Mode:** Group work.

**Date Given:** 11/21/06

**Estimated Time:** 50 minutes

**Date Submitted to Algebra<sup>3</sup>:** 2/26/07

# JFK Assassination Worksheet

---

President John F. Kennedy (the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States) was assassinated on Friday, November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas at 12:30pm central time. Kennedy was shot while riding with his wife in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza. He was the fourth U.S. President to be assassinated and the eighth to die while in office.

An official investigation by the Warren Commission concluded that the assassination was carried out solely by Lee Harvey Oswald in the "Sniper's Lair" (located in the Texas School Book Depository). This conclusion was initially met with widespread support among the public, but polling in recent years shows a majority of the public now hold beliefs contrary to the Commission's findings. A later official investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) concluded that Kennedy was assassinated by Oswald "probably . . . as a result of a conspiracy".

The HSCA proposed that four shots were fired during the assassination; Oswald fired the first, second, and fourth bullets, and that (based on the acoustic evidence) there was a high probability that an unnamed second assassin fired the third bullet, but missed, from President Kennedy's right front, from a location concealed behind the "Grass Knoll" picket fence. However, many people believe that President Kennedy was killed from the supposed shot fired at the "Grassy Knoll".

The assassination is still the subject of widespread speculation, and has spawned a number of Kennedy assassination theories. It should be noted that none of the theories have been proven.

(Information gotten from: <http://www.answers.com/topic/john-f-kennedy-assassination>).

---

Our goal is to calculate the distance between the "Sniper's Lair" and where President Kennedy was shot and the distance between the "Grassy Knoll" and where President Kennedy was shot. There is a map located on the last page.

---

1. Draw a line on the attached map using the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Sniper's Lair" as points.

2. Find coordinates for the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Sniper's Lair" (Hint: Your coordinates may not be whole numbers).

3. Find the equation for this line.

4. Calculate the distance between the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Sniper's Lair" (Hint: The distance formula is  $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$  ).

5. Draw a line on the attached map using the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Grassy Knoll" as points.

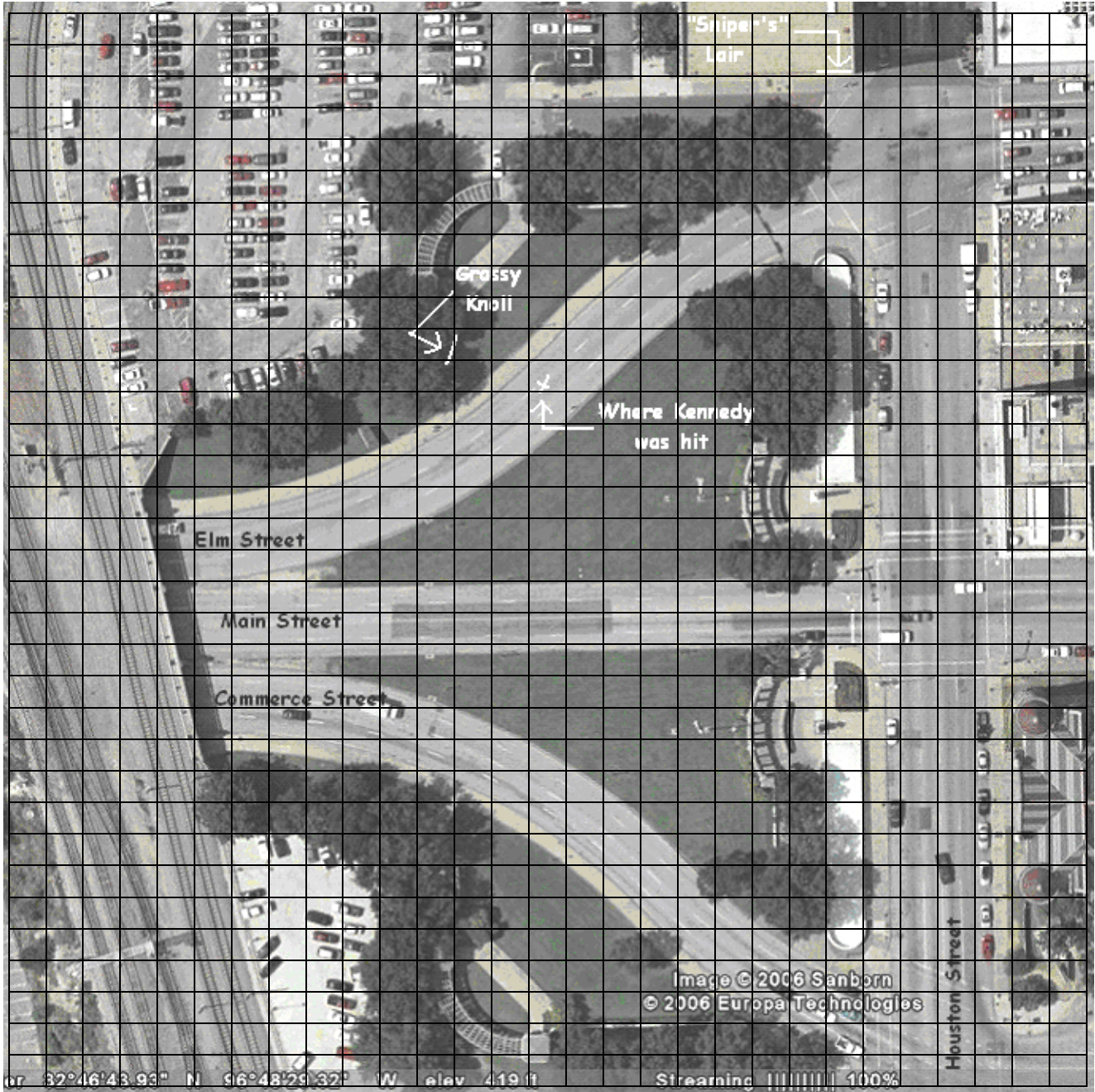
6. Find coordinates for the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Grassy Knoll" (Hint: Your coordinates may not be whole numbers).

7. Find the equation for this line.

8. Calculate the distance between the place where President Kennedy was shot and the "Grassy Knoll" (Hint: The distance formula is  $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$  ).

9. Based on your calculations above, which shot was easier to make? Why?

Note: Since we do not know the trajectory of the bullet when it hit President Kennedy, we cannot conclude where the shooter was located. This lack of information is why we cannot calculate for sure where the bullet came from. It is interesting to note that there could be people who are still alive who may know who killed President Kennedy and why he was killed.



(This picture was generated using the Google Earth program available for free at <http://earth.google.com/>)