

**Forrest Gump video activity**

World History; Voorhees

- **On a separate sheet of paper, create a timeline illustrating the historical events represented in this film**
  - **Label your timeline by decades**
- **Also, while watching the movie fill in the blanks:**

As Forrest Gump sits at the bus stop, his life story gradually unfolds as he speaks to other people. On the first day of school, Forrest meets a girl named Jenny Curran, whose life is followed parallel to his at times. Despite his below average intelligence quotient (IQ), his ability to run very fast gets him into the University of Alabama on a football scholarship. He ultimately becomes an All American and meets President John F. \_\_\_\_\_ . While attending college he witnesses George Wallace's attempt to prevent integration at the school.

After graduation, Forrest enlists in the army. He makes friends with Benjamin Buford Blue, nicknamed \_\_\_\_\_ , who convinces him to be his partner in the shrimping business when the Vietnam War is over. He also meets Jenny again and discovers that she is a stripper. In 1967, he and Bubba are sent to Vietnam, and after several months of patrolling with the 9th Infantry Division, their platoon is ambushed. Though Forrest rescues many of the men in his unit, Bubba is fatally wounded and dies. Lt. Dan Taylor, the platoon's commanding officer, is also seriously wounded and loses both legs. He chastises Forrest for saving him, insisting that he would rather die honorably on the battlefield than become a cripple. For Forrest's actions, he is awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. \_\_\_\_\_ .

While in Washington, he becomes swept up in an anti-war rally where he again meets Jenny. They spend the evening walking around Washington, but when the morning comes she leaves with her abusive boyfriend.

While in recovery from a gunshot wound to the buttocks, Forrest discovered an uncanny ability for ping pong. He begins playing for the U.S. Army team, eventually competing against Chinese teams on a goodwill tour, sometimes referred to as Ping Pong Diplomacy. He goes to the White House for a third time to meet President Richard

\_\_\_\_\_ who provides him a room at the Watergate hotel. While there, Forrest witnesses a burglary and calls security. He also goes on the *Dick Cavett Show* in New York City and talks with John Lennon, presumably inspiring the song Imagine. When leaving, he meets Lt. Dan, now an embittered drunk living on welfare.

Forrest is discharged, and uses money from an endorsement for ping pong paddles to buy a shrimping boat, fulfilling his wartime promise to Bubba. Later, Lt. Dan joins him as first mate. They meet little success however, but after Hurricane Carmen hits the Gulf states, their boat is the only one to survive. This results in easy success. Forrest buys an entire fleet of shrimping boats, and the Bubba Gump \_\_\_\_\_ Company becomes a household name. Lt. Dan, having had an epiphany while riding out the hurricane, forgives Forrest and thanks him for saving his life. Forrest returns home when his mother falls ill and she dies soon afterward.

In 1976, Jenny returns to visit Forrest, and after some time he proposes to her. Although she declines she tells him that she does love him. Although they sleep together she leaves the next day. On a whim, Forrest elects to go for a run and simply decides not to stop. Over the next \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months, \_\_\_\_\_ days, and \_\_\_\_\_ hours, he runs coast to coast across the country several times, gathering a small following. Realizing that he had been running to try and make sense of his feelings for Jenny and the deaths of his mother and Bubba, he abruptly stops and returns home.

While finishing his story, Forrest reveals that he is waiting at the bus stop because Jenny has contacted him and asked him to visit her. Once they are reunited, he discovers they have a young son together, named \_\_\_\_\_. She tells him that she is suffering and dying from an unknown virus. She proposes to him and he accepts. The three move back to Greenbow where they marry but Jenny dies soon afterward. On his son's first day of school, Forrest Sr. sits with his son at the bus stop. As the bus picks Forrest Jr. up and drives away, Forrest Sr. sits on the same tree stump that his mother did, watching a feather float into the air.

