THE UNITED STATES IN THE MODERN WORLD

1968-1992
Georgia Standards

- USH25 The student will describe changes in national politics since 1968.
  - b. Explain the impact of Supreme Court decisions on ideas about civil liberties and civil rights; include such decisions as Roe v. Wade (1973) and the Bakke decision on affirmative action.
  - c. Explain the Carter administration’s efforts in the Middle East; include the Camp David Accords, his response to the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and the Iranian hostage crisis.
  - d. Describe domestic and international events of Ronald Reagan’s presidency; include Reaganomics, the Iran-contra scandal, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.
ELECTION OF 1968

1968

ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 538
56.1% 301
35.5% 191
8.4% 46

POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 73,026,831
43.2% 30,898,055
42.6% 31,710,470
12.9% 9,446,167
1.3% 972,139

Republican (Nixon)
Democratic (Humphrey)
American Independent (Wallace)

REPUBLICAN – Richard Nixon
DEMOCRAT – Hubert Humphrey
PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - #37

- WWII Veteran (served in the US Navy in the Pacific)
- Never learned to read music but could play 5 instruments: saxophone, clarinet, accordion, violin, and piano
- Once lost his bid to be his high school student-body president
- First elected to Congress in 1946
- Led the House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during the 2nd Red Scare
- Served as Dwight Eisenhower’s Vice-President
- In 1972 Nixon visited communist China.
  - This visit opened China to American markets and highlighted a shift in American policy in regards to communism and was one of the greatest accomplishments of Nixon’s term in office.
THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

► In 1972, Nixon ran for re-election. He was worried that he might lose the race to his challenger George McGovern.

► Workers from Nixon’s campaign were caught breaking in to the Democratic National Headquarters located in the Watergate Hotel complex in Washington, D.C.

► They were looking to steal the Democrats’ “game plan” for the election.

► Nixon’s administration tried to quickly cover up the break in but Congress organized an investigation and found tapes of Nixon speaking with the break in suspects and Nixon was implicated.
THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

- Nixon officially announced his resignation in August 1974
  - Due to mounting public pressure and a threat of impeachment, Nixon chose to resign from office.
- This made Richard Nixon the first and, so far, only President to ever voluntarily leave office.
- The Watergate scandal caused many Americans to lose confidence and trust in a government they viewed as corrupt and untrustworthy.
The Watergate Scandal

- After Nixon resigned, his Vice-President Gerald Ford became President.
  - Ford oversaw America during a time of severe economic recession.
  - He was wounded twice by two separate assassination attempts.
- His reputation was further tarnished when he **pardoned** former President Nixon for any wrong doing in the Watergate scandal.
Two landmark decisions were handed down by the Supreme Court in the 1970’s.

- **Roe v. Wade**
  - Legalized women’s right to an abortion

- **Bakke v. Regents (of the University of California)**
  - Allowed for affirmative action in college admissions
ELECTION OF 1976

REPUBLICAN: Gerald Ford
DEMOCRAT: Jimmy Carter
In 1976 Georgia Democratic Governor Jimmy Carter beat Ford for the presidency.

Carter’s administration was heavily influenced by international issues.

One highlight was the Camp David Accords, a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1978.

The Camp David Accords were the first signed peace agreement between the nations of the Middle East.
INTERNATIONAL CRISSES

Through much of the 20th century, the Middle Eastern country of Iran had been an ally of the United States.

1979 – Iranian Revolution

- Muslim leaders led a revolution that led to the overthrow of the Shah (king) of Iran while he was out of the country
- Revolutionaries wanted instill a religious based government
- Ayatollah Khomeini (the leader of the Shi’a sect of Islam in Iran) became the ruler of Iran
INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

- **Iranian Hostage Crisis**
  - In response to President Carter’s refusal to send the Shah back to Iran, Islamic revolutionaries stormed the US embassy in the Iranian capital of Tehran.
  - 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days.
  - Hostages were finally released on January 20, 1981 when Carter left office and Ronald Reagan was sworn in.
  - Event only served to strengthen the anti-American sentiment in the Middle East.
ELECTION OF 1980

REPUBLICAN: Ronald Reagan
DEMOCRAT: Jimmy Carter

1980

ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 538
489

90.9%

9.1%

ANDERSON 6.7%
MINOR 1.6%

POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 86,515,221

50.7%

41%

43,904,153
35,483,883

Republican (Reagan)
Democratic (Carter)
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN - #40

- Ronald Reagan, former governor of California elected President in 1980.
- Started his adult life as a Hollywood actor
- As a conservative, Reagan believed that the federal government should have a smaller role in American life.
- Pursued an economic policy critics called “Reaganomics”; included tax breaks and budget cuts.
- Instituted his plan for the economy known as “Reaganomics”
REAGAN’S PRESIDENCY

- Reaganomics -
  - Also commonly called supply-side economics or “trickle-down” economics
  - Reaganomics operated off the idea that if the corporations were given less government restriction and allowed for their profits to increase then it would lend to greater job growth and wealth for middle class America
  - Reaganomics saw the one of the largest job growths and income growths among all levels of American society in US history
ELECTION OF 1984

REPUBLICAN: Ronald Reagan
DEMOCRAT: Walter Mondale
Iran-Contra Incident

During Reagan’s second term, a scandal involving the sale of weapons tarnished his administration.

In an attempt to free 7 American hostages from Iran, Reagan’s administration offered to sell Iran weapons for the hostage’s release.

This money would in turn be used to fund the rebellion of anti-Communist fighters (called “Contras”) in Nicaragua.

Both the sale of arms to Iran and the funding of the Nicaraguan Contras violated acts of Congress.
THE COLD WAR ENDS

One of the biggest accomplishments of Regan’s administration is the downfall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

- Through urging and negotiating several key Soviet leaders agreed to expand more individual freedoms to its citizens.

- Reagan, while decreasing domestic spending, increased military spending.

- Following in a like minded attitude, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev instituted the policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* that led to economic changes in the communist nation.

- *Glasnost* – open discussions of political and social reform

- *Perestroika* – political movement to reform the communist party inside the Soviet Union
THE COLD WAR ENDS

- Reagan famously encouraged Soviet leader Gorbachev to end Soviet control of its satellite nations.
  - “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
- October 1989 – Berlin Wall is torn down
- Reunification of communist East Germany and capitalist West Germany
On Christmas Day in 1991, Gorbachev resigns as leader of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union is dissolved into 15 individual “republics” including Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The collapse signified the over 50 year standoff between the US and the Soviet Union known as the Cold War was over.
ELECTION OF 1988

REPUBLICAN: George H.W. Bush
DEMOCRAT: Michael Dukakis
Promising to keep pushing the politics of the Reagan administration, Reagan’s Vice President, George H.W. Bush, is elected president in 1988.

Bush’s presidency is mostly known for guiding the US through the Gulf War (the 1st war in Iraq).
THE GULF WAR

August 1990:
- Saddam Hussein orders the Iraqi Army to invade their neighbor to the south, Kuwait in order to take over the oil fields.
- The United States led a coalition of 34 nations in support of Kuwait and other allied countries in the Middle East.
- US and Coalition commander was GEN Norman Schwarzkopf.
- The Allied Coalition pushed deep into Iraq and threatened to invade the Iraqi capital of Baghdad to depose Saddam’s regime.
- Saddam backed down and eventually a cease-fire was called between the US-led coalition and Iraq.
- The agreement allowed Saddam to stay in power if Iraqi forces swore to never invade Kuwait again.
Read the selection at the following link:


Answer the 10 questions at the end in COMPLETE SENTENCES.