

TEACHER'S NOTES: Week 30: The Nixon Years

THREADS: Historical

Grammar: be introduced to President Nixon, focusing on his accomplishments and mentioning, briefly, how his own poor choices (sin) led to his disgrace and dismissal.

Dialectic/Rhetoric:

- Learn about the life of Richard Nixon. Focus on both his very real accomplishments, especially in the field of Foreign Policy.
- Assess Nixon's character in light of his obvious failures as a man, a President, and a leader.

THREADS: Geographical

All: review

THREADS: Literary

Grammar:

Dialectic:

Rhetoric: selected poems of e. e. cummings.

THREADS: Law and Governmental Studies

Rhetoric: examine the propositions that Nixon put forth, saying that he had prerogatives to illegally tape conversations secretly in order to administer the presidency.

THREADS: Fine Arts/Hands-on

THREADS: Writing

For all grades, teachers should consult the **4-Year Writing Scope chart** and students, the **Writing Assignment chart** for the appropriate grades. Be sure your child writes every week!

THREADS: Church History

Grammar:

Dialectic:

Rhetoric:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

World Book on Richard Nixon:ⁱ

Nixon, Richard Milhous (1913-1994), was the only President of the United States ever to resign from office. He left the presidency on Aug. 9, 1974, while facing almost certain impeachment for his involvement in the Watergate scandal. This scandal included a break-in at the Democratic national headquarters and other illegal activities by employees of Nixon's 1972 reelection committee. Nixon's attempts to cover up these crimes became a major part of the scandal.

Nixon was succeeded as President by Vice President Gerald R. Ford. One month after Nixon resigned, Ford pardoned him for all federal crimes he may have committed during his presidency.

Although Nixon left office in disgrace, he won respect for his conduct of foreign policy. As President, he ended U.S. military participation in the Vietnam War in 1973 [see details in sidebars, pages 3-5ⁱⁱ] and eased the tension that had existed for years between the United States and both China and the Soviet Union. [See details in the sidebar on page 2.ⁱⁱⁱ] Nixon became the first President to visit China while in office. He also visited the Soviet Union. Nixon won congressional approval of U.S.-Soviet trade agreements and agreements to limit the production of nuclear weapons.

Notes:

Core Assignments by grade levels:

Lower Grammar:

- Core History readings.
- Geography:
- Literature:
- Writing Assignment.
- Vocabulary: understand listed words.
- Hands-on: as you choose.

Upper Grammar:

- Core History readings.
- Geography:
- Literature:
- Writing Assignment.
- Vocabulary: understand/spell listed words and those listed for younger students.
- Hands-on: as you choose.

Dialectic

- Core History readings.
- Geography:
- Literature:
- Writing Assignment.
- Vocabulary: define & spell listed words and those listed for younger students.
- Time line: add this week's dates.
- Hands-on: as you choose.

Rhetoric

- Core History readings.
- Geography:
- Literature:
- Writing Assignment.
- Vocabulary: define and spell this week's list and those listed for younger students.
- Time line: add this week's dates.
- Hands on: as you choose.

OPTIONAL:

- Government Credits:
- Church History Credits:
- Fine Arts/Art History Credits:


Notes:** The Cold War in the 1970's**

The loosening of ties among members of both the Communist and Western blocs during the 1960's led to new international relationships in the 1970's. Several Communist and democratic nations developed friendlier relations with one another, helping ease tensions.

In 1970, West Germany and Poland signed a treaty to reject the use of force and to recognize the boundaries created in Europe after World War II. West Germany and the Soviet Union ratified a similar treaty in 1972.

The status of West Berlin, a major Cold War problem, was settled in the early 1970's. France, Britain, the U.S.S.R., and the United States signed an agreement in 1971 stating that West Berlin was not part of West Germany. The Berlin agreement also allowed free movement of traffic between West Germany and West Berlin. The pact took effect in 1972, after details were worked out. In 1973, East and West Germany joined the UN.

Also in 1973, Britain finally entered the European Community. The increased economic ties among the organization's member nations made Western Europe a powerful, independent force in world affairs. Japan also began acting more independently of U.S. policies. China's relations with the West improved in the early 1970's. Canada and several other Western nations established diplomatic relations with Communist China for the first time. China was admitted to the UN in October 1971. In February 1972, Nixon visited China for seven days. During the visit, Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai agreed to increase contacts between their two countries. In 1979, the United States and China established diplomatic relations. As part of the agreement, the United States ended diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

In 1972, Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev signed two agreements, together known as SALT I, to limit the production of U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons. SALT stands for Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. In 1979, the two countries signed another pact, SALT II, limiting long-range bombers and missiles. But SALT II did not go into effect officially. The U.S. Senate stopped considering the treaty after Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in late 1979 and early 1980. 

At home, Nixon was challenged by sharply rising prices. He placed government controls on wages and prices to halt inflation, but the controls had little effect. Nixon ended the military draft and created an all-volunteer system for the U.S. armed services.

When Nixon was elected President in 1968, he climaxed one of the most extraordinary political comebacks in U.S. history. In 1960, while serving as Vice President under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nixon ran for the presidency and lost to John F. Kennedy. In 1962, Nixon was defeated when he ran for governor of California, his home state. After this loss, Nixon held what he called his "last press conference." Reporters wrote his political obituary.

But in 1968, Nixon showed that he was politically very much alive. He won several primary elections, and again became the Republican candidate for President. This time, Nixon defeated Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, his Democratic opponent, and former Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama, the candidate of the American Independent Party. In 1972, Nixon won a second term in a landslide victory over Democratic Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota.

Nixon was the 12th former Vice President who became President. He was the first of this group who did not succeed the President under whom he had served. Nixon became Vice President at the age of 40, and was the second youngest man to hold that office. John C. Breckinridge was 36 when he became Vice President under James Buchanan in 1857. Before Nixon was elected Vice President, he was elected twice to the U.S. House of Representatives and once to the U.S. Senate.

Friends knew Nixon as a painfully sensitive man. Nixon felt especially hurt by what he considered unfair criticism. But in politics, he won fame as a tough, forceful campaigner. He liked a good fight and had a fierce determination to succeed.

Early life

Boyhood. Richard Milhous Nixon was born on Jan. 9, 1913, in Yorba Linda, Calif., a village 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles. He was the second of the five sons of Francis Anthony Nixon and Hannah Milhous Nixon. Nixon's father had moved from Ohio to southern California. There he met and married Hannah Milhous, who had come from Indiana with her parents and a group of other Quakers. Francis Nixon later gave up his Methodist faith and became a Quaker. At one time or another, he worked as a streetcar conductor, a carpenter, a laborer, and a farmer.

In 1922, the Nixon family moved to nearby Whittier. There the elder Nixon opened a combination grocery store and gasoline station. The President had four brothers, Harold (1909-1932), Donald (1914-1987), Arthur (1918-1925), and Edward (1930-...).

At the age of about 10, Richard began working part time as a bean picker. During his teens, he worked as a handyman in a packing house, janitor at a swimming pool, and barker at an amusement park. While in college, Nixon served as bookkeeper and as manager of the vegetable department of his father's store.

Education. Nixon attended elementary schools in Yorba Linda, Whittier, and nearby Fullerton. At Whittier High School, history and civics were his favorite subjects. He played football and starred in debating. At the age of 17, Nixon entered Whittier College, a Quaker institution. He won several debating awards, and became president of the student body.

Nixon graduated from Whittier in 1934 and won a scholarship from the Duke University School of Law in Durham, N.C. Walter F. Dexter, then president of Whittier College, wrote in a letter of recommendation for Nixon: "I believe he will become one of America's important, if not great, leaders." At Duke, Nixon was elected president of the student law association. He also won election to the Order of the Coif, the national law fraternity for honor students. Nixon ranked third in the 1937 graduating class of 44 students.

Lawyer. The Great Depression still gripped the United States when Nixon left Duke. There were few jobs. Nixon tried unsuccessfully to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation and then a law firm in New York City. He finally returned home and joined a Whittier law firm, in which he became a partner. Nixon and several investors later formed a company to make and market frozen orange juice, but it went bankrupt in 18 months. At the age of 26, Nixon became the youngest member of the Whittier College Board of Trustees.

Nixon's family. Shortly after returning to Whittier, Nixon met Thelma Catherine Ryan (1912-1993). She had been born in a mining camp at Ely, Nev. Her father nicknamed her Pat because she was born on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. When Pat was a baby, her parents moved to a farm in California. They died before Pat finished high school, but she put herself through the University of Southern California.

When Nixon met Pat, she was teaching commercial subjects at Whittier High School. They met during tryouts for a community theater play. They were married on June 21, 1940. The Nixons had two daughters, Patricia (Tricia), born in 1946, and Julie, born in 1948. Julie married David Eisenhower, grandson of former President Eisenhower, in 1968. Tricia married Edward Cox in 1971.

Naval officer. In January 1942, during World War II, Nixon left Whittier to take a job in the tire rationing section of the Office of Price Administration in Washington, D.C. Eight months later, Nixon joined the Navy as an ensign. He served in a naval air transport unit in the Pacific, and was promoted to lieutenant commander before the war ended in 1945.

Career in Congress

Since 1936, the voters of Nixon's home congressional district had elected a Democrat, Jerry Voorhis, to the U.S. House of Representatives. Republican leaders searched for a "new face" to oppose Voorhis in the 1946 election. Nixon, then awaiting discharge from the Navy, convinced a number of leading Republicans that he was the best candidate.


Professional politicians gave Nixon little chance of defeating Voorhis, a veteran campaigner. But Nixon campaigned aggressively, implying that Voorhis was a Communist, though there was no evidence to prove that he was. Nixon won the election.

U.S. representative. In the House of Representatives, Nixon was proudest of his work on a committee that laid the groundwork for the Marshall Plan and other foreign aid programs. Nixon helped write the Taft-Hartley Act, which established controls over labor unions. In addition, he became a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

In 1948, Nixon was reelected to the House. The Alger Hiss case, which began that same year, brought Nixon into national prominence. Hiss, a former State Department official, was accused of having passed classified State Department documents to a Soviet spy ring during the 1930's. The matter rested with Hiss's word against that of his accusers. Many members of the Un-American Activities Committee wanted to drop the case, but Nixon insisted that the charges against Hiss be either proved or disproved. The question of Communists in government was a fierce political issue at the time. In 1950, a federal District Court jury convicted Hiss of perjury in denying that he had ever given secret documents to Soviet agents.

U.S. senator. At the peak of his prominence in the Hiss case, Nixon ran for the U.S. Senate in 1950. He opposed Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas, a New Deal Democrat. During the campaign, Nixon emphasized charges, made originally by Douglas' foes in the Democratic primary election, that she did not

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 Vietnam article (continued from Week 26): **Vietnamization**

The U.S. withdrawal begins. The peace talks failed to produce agreement, and more and more Americans became impatient for the war to end. President Richard M. Nixon felt he had to reduce U.S. involvement in the conflict. On June 8, 1969, he announced a new policy known as Vietnamization. This policy called for stepped-up training programs for South Vietnamese forces and the gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam. The U.S. troop withdrawal began in July 1969.

The invasion of Cambodia. In April 1970, Nixon ordered U.S. and South Vietnamese troops to clear out military supply centers that North Vietnam had set up in Cambodia. Large stocks of weapons were captured, and the invasion may have delayed a major enemy attack. But many Americans felt the campaign widened the war. The invasion aroused a storm of protest in the United States, especially on college campuses.

The nation was shocked on May 4, 1970, when National Guard units fired into a group of demonstrators at Kent State University in Ohio. The shots killed four students and wounded nine others. The Senate voted soon afterward to repeal the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. In addition, a move began in Congress to force the removal of the troops from Cambodia by June 30. Nixon helped end further congressional action on these moves by ending the campaign in late June.

Renewed protest. Opposition to the war in the United States grew rapidly during Nixon's presidency. Some opposition may have developed as a result of television coverage of the war, which brought scenes of war horrors into millions of homes.

In March 1971, the conviction of Lieutenant William L. Calley, Jr., for war crimes raised some of the main moral issues of the conflict. Calley's Army unit had massacred at least 100 and perhaps as many as 200 civilians in 1968 in the hamlet of My Lai in South Vietnam. Calley was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to prison for 10 years. Some war critics used the trial to call attention to the large numbers of civilians killed by U.S. bombing and ground operations in South Vietnam. Others pointed to the vast stretches of countryside that had been destroyed by bombing and by spraying of chemicals. U.S. forces used such weed killers as **Agent Orange** to reveal Communist hiding places in the jungle and to destroy enemy food crops (see more in the sidebar on page 7).
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Public distrust of the U.S. government deepened in June 1971, when newspapers published a secret government study of the war called The Pentagon Papers. This study raised questions about decisions and secret actions of government leaders regarding the war.

Invasion of the south. In March 1972, North Vietnam began a major invasion of South Vietnam. Nixon responded by renewing the bombing of North Vietnam. He also ordered the placing of explosives in the harbor of Haiphong, North Vietnam's major port for importing military supplies. These moves helped stop the invasion, which had nearly reached Saigon by August 1972.

The high cost paid by both sides during the 1972 fighting led to peace negotiations. The talks were conducted by Henry A. Kissinger, Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser, and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam. On Jan. 27, 1973, a cease-fire agreement was signed in Paris by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Viet Cong. The pact provided for the withdrawal of all U.S. and allied forces from Vietnam and for the return of all prisoners--both within 60 days. It permitted North Vietnam to leave 150,000 of its troops in the south and called for internationally supervised elections to decide the political future of South Vietnam.

The end of the war. On March 29, 1973, the last U.S. ground forces left Vietnam. But the peace talks soon broke down, and the war resumed. Congress opposed further U.S. involvement, and so no American troops returned to the war. In mid-1973, Congress began to sharply reduce military aid to South Vietnam.

The decreasing support from the United States encouraged North Vietnam. In late 1974, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops attacked Phuoc Long, north-east of Saigon, and won an easy victory. In March 1975, they forced South Vietnamese troops to retreat from a region known as the Central Highlands. Thousands of civilians fled with the soldiers and died in the gunfire or from starvation. This retreat became known as the Convo of Tears.

Early in April, President Gerald R. Ford, Nixon's successor, asked Congress for \$722 million in military aid for South Vietnam. But Congress provided only \$300 million in emergency aid, mainly to evacuate Americans from Saigon. The war ended when South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam in Saigon on April 30, 1975. Saigon was then renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

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realize the threat of Communism. He called her the "Pink Lady," implying that she sympathized with Communists. Douglas took revenge by labeling Nixon "Tricky Dick." In one of California's most savage political contests, Nixon defeated Douglas by nearly 700,000 votes. [Note that Nixon did not take the moral high road in these early elections, but sought to win at all costs—even moral ones.]

Nixon worked hard in the Senate, serving on the Labor and Public Welfare Committee. He also became a popular speaker at Republican Party affairs and at civic meetings in all parts of the United States.

The 1952 campaign. In 1952, the Republican National Convention nominated Nixon for Vice President to run with General Dwight D. Eisenhower. A highlight of the campaign was a dispute over an \$18,000 fund set up by Nixon's supporters in California. They had organized the fund in 1950 to enable Nixon to campaign for Republican programs and candidates in both election and nonelection years. Nixon and his friends showed that they had used the money only for political expenses, but his Democratic opponents called it a "secret slush fund." Some Republicans, fearing that Nixon might hurt Eisenhower's chances of victory, demanded that Nixon withdraw from the campaign.

Nixon's cause seemed hopeless. Then, on Sept. 23, 1952, Nixon stated his case in an emotional address over television and radio. He discussed his personal finances in detail, showing that he had not profited personally from the fund. He said that "Pat doesn't have a mink coat. But she does have a respectable Republican cloth coat." And he vowed to keep **Checkers**, a cocker spaniel that had been a gift to his daughters. [Thus, this speech is often referred to as the "Checkers Speech."] After the program, Republicans hailed Nixon as a hero. Eisenhower put his arm around Nixon when they next met and declared: "You're my boy." Nixon then accused his Democratic opponents of not recognizing the Communist threat to the United States and the world. He charged that a vote for the Democrats was a vote for socialism at home and surrender abroad. Eisenhower and Nixon went on to defeat their Democratic opponents, Governor Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois and Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama.

Vice President (1953-1961)

Eisenhower succeeded Democratic President Harry S. Truman in 1953. He gave Nixon the job of working with members of Congress to smooth out possible quarrels with the new Administration. Eisenhower also assigned Nixon to preside over Cabinet meetings and the National Security Council in the President's absence. Nixon took a greater role in the executive branch of the government than any previous Vice President.

Eisenhower's illnesses. Nixon's biggest test as Vice President began Sept. 24, 1955, when Eisenhower suffered a heart attack. Nixon calmly went about his normal duties, presided at Cabinet meetings, and kept the wheels of government moving smoothly. He also stepped in when the President suffered another illness in June 1956 and a stroke in November 1957.

The 1956 election. Many people wondered whether Eisenhower would ask Nixon to run with him again in 1956. Angered by rumors that he planned to drop Nixon, the President declared: "Anyone who attempts to drive a wedge of any kind between Dick Nixon and me has just as much chance as if he tried to drive it between my brother and me." Eisenhower and Nixon defeated the Democratic nominees, Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee.

Overseas missions. Nixon frequently acted as spokesman for the government on trips to other nations. As Vice President, he toured nearly 60 countries, visiting every continent except Antarctica. During a tour of Latin America in the spring of 1958, Nixon faced violence and danger. In Peru, Communist agents led

groups that booed and stoned him. In Venezuela, mobs smashed the windows of Nixon's car. However, he was not hurt.

Nixon traveled to the Soviet Union in July 1959 to open an American exhibit in Moscow. As he and Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev walked through a model home, they argued over which economic system was better, capitalism or Communism. At one point in the "kitchen debate," Nixon startled his hosts by pointing his finger at Khrushchev and saying bluntly: "You don't know everything."

Defeat by Kennedy. Few people doubted that Nixon would be the Republican presidential candidate in 1960. Some party leaders thought Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York might make an all-out fight for the nomination. But Rockefeller withdrew, and the Republican National Convention nominated Nixon on the first ballot. Nixon chose Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, as his vice presidential running mate. The Democrats nominated Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts for President and Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas for Vice President.

The presidential campaign was close and hard-fought from start to finish. Kennedy argued that Republican methods had slowed United States economic growth, contributing to what he called a loss of American prestige abroad. Nixon cited figures to show that the economy was growing at a satisfactory rate. Nixon and Kennedy took part in a unique series of four televised debates. The television and radio audiences included most of the nation's voters. These "great debates" marked the first time in U.S. history that presidential candidates argued campaign issues face-to-face.

Nixon lost to Kennedy in one of the closest presidential elections in U.S. history. Kennedy won by 114,673 popular votes out of nearly 69 million total votes. Nixon carried 26 states to 22 for Kennedy, but Kennedy received 303 electoral votes compared to Nixon's 219. Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia got 15 electoral votes. Widespread charges of fraudulent vote counting in certain states cast some doubt on Kennedy's victory.

Political comeback

Defeat in California. In 1961, Nixon began to practice law in Los An. In 1962, he decided to run for governor of California. Nixon won the Republican nomination for governor by defeating Joseph C. Shell in the state primary election. But the victory was costly. Conservative Republicans had supported Shell, and Nixon's triumph split the party. Democratic Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown beat Nixon by about 300,000 votes.

New York City lawyer. Nixon moved to New York City in 1963 and began a new law practice. He became a partner in a Wall Street law firm, and his associates placed his name first in the list of partners.

Some of Nixon's supporters wanted him to run for President in 1964, but Nixon felt that most Republicans favored Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona. Goldwater won the Republican presidential nomination, and Nixon campaigned for him and other party candidates. President Lyndon B. Johnson, seeking his first full term, defeated Goldwater by a huge margin.

Goldwater's overwhelming defeat put Nixon back into the political limelight. Liberal and conservative Republicans were quarreling bitterly, and he was the only nationally prominent man whom both groups could accept. In 1966, Nixon campaigned vigorously for Republican candidates in congressional elections. Republicans won 47 House seats and 3 Senate seats that had been held by Democrats. Nixon received much credit for the Republican victories.

In 1967, Nixon traveled around the world. His trip included visits to the Soviet Union and South Vietnam.

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Results of the war

Casualties and destruction. About 58,000 American military personnel died in the war, and about 300,000 were wounded. South Vietnamese deaths topped 1 million. North Vietnamese losses ranged between 500,000 and 1 million. Countless numbers of civilians in North and South Vietnam also were killed.

The United States spent over \$150 billion on the war. The U.S. bombing in the conflict was about four times greater than the combined U.S.-British bombing of Germany in World War II. The American air strikes destroyed much of North Vietnam's industrial and transportation systems. But South Vietnam, where most of the fighting took place, suffered the most damage. The war made refugees of up to 10 million South Vietnamese, or about half the country's population. The bombing and the use of chemicals in order to clear forests scarred the landscape and may have permanently damaged much of South Vietnam's cropland and plant and animal life.

Other effects in Southeast Asia. North Vietnam helped establish Communist governments in Laos and Cambodia in 1975. In 1976, it officially united North and South Vietnam into the single nation of Vietnam. North Vietnam also forced its culture and political system on the people of the south. The North Vietnamese imprisoned hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese. About 1 1/2 million Vietnamese fled Vietnam between 1975 and the early 1990's.

Effects in the United States. The Vietnam War had far-reaching effects in the United States. It was the first foreign war in which U.S. combat forces failed to achieve their goals. This hurt the pride of many Americans and left bitter and painful memories.

The Americans most immediately affected included the approximately 2,700,000 men and women who fought in the war, and their families. Most veterans adjusted smoothly to civilian life. But the war left others with deep psychological problems. These veterans suffered from a high rate of divorce, drug abuse, suicide, involvement in violent crimes, and joblessness.

After World Wars I and II, the country welcomed the returning veterans as heroes. But many of the Americans who opposed the U.S. role in Vietnam criticized or ignored the returning veterans. These reactions shocked the veterans. Many of them felt that the nation neither recognized nor appreciated their sacrifices.

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Both Congress and the public became more willing to challenge the President on U.S. military and foreign policy after the Vietnam War. The war also became a new standard of comparison in situations that might involve U.S. troops abroad.

Today, Americans still disagree on the main issues and lessons of the war. Some believe U.S. participation was necessary and just. Many of these people say the war was lost because the United States did not use its full military power and because opposition at home weakened the war effort. However, other Americans believe that U.S. involvement was immoral and unwise. Some of them feel U.S. leaders stubbornly made the war a test of the nation's power and leadership. Others view the conflict as a civil war that had no importance to U.S. security. Since Vietnam, many Americans have argued that the nation should stay out of wars that do not directly threaten its safety or vital interests. 🌐📖

The 1968 election. In February 1968, Nixon announced that he would be a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. Many Republicans wondered whether he could regain his voter appeal. They feared that his defeats by Kennedy and Brown had given him the image of a loser. But Nixon won primary elections by large margins in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Indiana, Nebraska, Oregon, and South Dakota.

Nixon's chief opponents for the presidential nomination were Governors Nelson Rockefeller of New York and **Ronald Reagan** of California. But Nixon easily won nomination on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach. The convention nominated Nixon's choice as running mate, Governor **Spiro T. Agnew** of Maryland.

The Democrats chose Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. Former Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama and retired General Curtis E. LeMay ran as the candidates of the American Independent Party.

Both Nixon and Humphrey promised to make peace in Vietnam their main goal as President. The Vietnam War had begun in 1957 as a battle for control of South Vietnam between South Vietnam's non-Communist government and Communists. By the mid-1960's, the United States was deeply involved in the war as an ally of the South Vietnamese government.

Nixon called for a program of what he termed "new internationalism." Under this program, other nations would take over from the United States more of the responsibility for preserving world peace and helping developing countries. Nixon also pledged to strengthen law enforcement in the United States.

In the election, Nixon defeated Humphrey by only about 511,000 popular votes, 31,785,148 to 31,274,503. Wallace received 9,901,151 popular votes. But Nixon won a clear majority of electoral votes, with 301. Humphrey received 191 electoral votes, and Wallace got 46.

Nixon's first Administration (1969-1973)

Foreign policy. Nixon's major goal was settlement of the Vietnam War. In his first inaugural address, Nixon said: "The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker. This honor now beckons America."

The Vietnam War. The Vietnam peace talks, begun in 1968, continued in Paris. But the negotiators made little progress. In March 1969, Nixon ordered a stepped-up training program for South Vietnamese forces so they could gradually take over the major burden of fighting. In July, he began a gradual withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Vietnam, a policy known as **Vietnamization**. Many Americans favored it, but many others wanted U.S. involvement to end immediately. Still others wanted to increase the U.S. commitment to the war. Protests and demonstrations swept the nation.

In 1970, United States troops invaded Cambodia to attack North Vietnamese supply depots there. Nixon said the action would shorten the war, but many people felt it was expanding it. Protests broke out on hundreds of college campuses. At **Kent State** University in Ohio, National Guardsmen fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In 1972, Nixon ordered a blockade of North Vietnam to cut off its war supplies from the Soviet Union and China. The blockade included the mining of North Vietnam's ports and the bombing of its rail and highway links to China. In December 1972, Nixon ordered extensive bombing of Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital. [The US military also used Agent Orange, a deadly, cancer-causing weed killer during this phase of the war. See more on Agent Orange in the sidebar, page 7.^{iv}

Relations with China. In 1969, Nixon approved the removal of some restrictions on travel by Americans to China. He also encouraged the reopening of trade between China and the United States. The two nations had stopped trading with each other during the Korean War (1950-1953). In 1971, Nixon approved the export of certain goods to China. In February 1972, the President visited China for seven days. Remembering Nixon's ticket to success in early elections was his strong anti-Communist stance, and our long study of the tensions between Communist China and the West, this visit was a HUGE landmark event of the 20th Century. You'll need to emphasize it and set it in context for the student to understand. Nixon had many wicked aspects to his character, but his work in foreign affairs was both groundbreaking and foundational to the international scene of today.]

Relations with the Soviet Union. In May 1972, Nixon visited the Soviet Union for nine days. During this visit, Nixon and Leonid I. Brezhnev, leader of the Soviet Communist Party, signed agreements to limit the production of nuclear weapons. Later that year, the Soviet Union became a major buyer of U.S. wheat.

The national scene. In August 1969, Nixon proposed a series of major domestic reforms, which he termed the New Federalism. One of the reforms called for a minimum federal payment to every needy family with children. Nixon also suggested a revenue sharing plan in which the federal government would share its tax revenues with state and local governments. But action on the reforms was stalled as key Democrats in Congress asked for major changes.



Major legislation. In spite of the legislative slowdown, Congress did enact several far-reaching laws. In 1969, it passed Nixon's proposal to establish a lottery system for the military draft. Also in 1969, Congress approved extensive reforms in federal tax laws. These reforms included increases in personal income tax deductions and cuts in tax benefits for foundations and oil companies. In 1970, Congress established independent agencies to replace the Post Office Department and to operate the passenger trains that linked the nation's major cities. Also in 1970, Congress lowered the minimum voting age in federal elections to 18. The **26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**, ratified in 1971, set the voting age at 18 for elections. In 1972, Congress approved Nixon's revenue sharing program. The legislation provided billions of dollars in federal tax money to state and local governments.

Inflation was one of Nixon's chief domestic concerns. Many Americans found that although they were earning more money than ever before, rising prices sharply cut their gains. In 1971, Nixon set up a Pay Board to stop inflationary wage and salary increases and a Price Commission to regulate price and rent increases. Business increased in 1972. In addition, the inflation rate slowed.



The ABM system. In March 1969, Nixon proposed a plan to build an antiballistic missile (ABM) system called Safeguard. Nixon said the new missiles were needed to protect U.S. underground missiles and bomber bases from enemy missile attack. The plan became one of the most heavily debated issues of Nixon's Administration. Critics charged that the system would step up the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. They also claimed the new missiles would cost too much money and fail to destroy enemy missiles. In August, the Senate narrowly approved construction of the two ABM bases Nixon had requested.

School desegregation was the subject of two major rulings by the Supreme Court of the United States during Nixon's first Administration. In 1969, the court ruled that all public school districts must end segregation "at once." This ruling replaced a 1955 Supreme Court decision calling for an end to segregation "with all deliberate speed." In 1971, the court ruled that children could be bused to integrate public schools in areas where state laws had required segregation. In

Notes:

  **Agent Orange** is the military code name for a weed killer used by the United States during the Vietnam War (1957-1975). In the 1960's and early 1970's, the United States armed forces sprayed Agent Orange over jungles and farms in South Vietnam and Laos. Agent Orange was used to defoliate (cause the leaves to fall off) trees and shrubs and to kill crop plants. The spraying revealed enemy hiding places and destroyed food crops.

Agent Orange consisted of two weed killers--2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Some veterans of the war blamed Agent Orange for causing later health problems. In 1990, the Centers for Disease Control, a U.S. government agency, released a study which found no evidence that Agent Orange increased the risk of cancer among Vietnam veterans. That same year, a congressional committee declared the study flawed. In 1991, Congress passed a bill providing disability benefits for Vietnam veterans suffering from certain illnesses said to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

In 1993, the Institute of Medicine, an adviser to the U.S. government, released a study that linked exposure to Agent Orange to three kinds of cancer and two skin diseases. The study reached these conclusions based on civilians' exposure in their jobs or in job-related accidents. It recommended additional studies before the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans could be determined.  

Notes:

March 1972, Nixon proposed legislation to stop federal courts from issuing new busing orders.

Supreme Court nominations. In 1969 and again in 1970, Nixon suffered a stinging defeat when he tried to appoint a conservative Southerner to the Supreme Court. In May 1969, Associate Justice Abe Fortas resigned from the court under charges of personal misconduct. Nixon nominated Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., of South Carolina to succeed Fortas. Some critics claimed that Haynsworth was anti-black. Others charged he was unethical for ruling in a case in which he had a financial interest. In November, the Senate rejected the nomination by a 55 to 45 vote.

In January 1970, Nixon nominated Judge G. Harrold Carswell of Florida for the seat. Opposition to Carswell grew quickly after several judges and law school deans rated him unqualified for the Supreme Court. In April, the Senate defeated the nomination by a 51 to 45 vote. It was the first time that two Supreme Court nominees of a President had been rejected since 1894, when Grover Cleveland was President.

After Carswell's defeat, Nixon charged that the Senate would not confirm a Southerner to the court. In May, the Senate unanimously approved Nixon's third choice, Judge Harry A. Blackmun of Minnesota.

The U.S. space program opened a new era of exploration and discovery in 1969. On July 20, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., became the first people to set foot on the moon. Through a special telephone connection while they were on the moon Nixon told them, "Because of what you have done, the heavens have become part of man's world."

Environmental problems attracted more and more attention during Nixon's Administration. Many Americans began to realize that pollution of the air, land, and water endangered not only the quality of life but also life itself. In 1970, Nixon set up the Environmental Protection Agency to deal with pollution problems.

The 1972 election. Nixon and Agnew easily won renomination at the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla. The Democrats nominated Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota for President. Sargent Shriver, former director of the Peace Corps, became McGovern's running mate.

In the election, Nixon won a landslide victory. He received almost 18 million more popular votes than McGovern--the widest margin of any U.S. presidential election. Nixon got 520 electoral votes, and McGovern received 17. John Hospers of the Libertarian Party won 1 electoral vote.

Life in the White House. The Nixons brought a calm and reserved way of life to the White House. They preferred formal dress, including white ties and coats with tails for men and long gowns for women. They also favored fox trots and waltzes for dancing.

The Nixons' taste in art also was conservative. They replaced a number of the op art paintings on White House walls with traditional landscapes and portraits.

Nixon was the first President to play the piano since Harry Truman. He occasionally played the White House piano for guests. Nixon followed sports closely, especially professional football. He impressed many visitors with his knowledge of baseball and football.

Pat Nixon worked hard to encourage Americans to volunteer for social work. She occasionally traveled across the nation to support volunteer organizations.

Shortly after Nixon took office, he bought a large estate in San Clemente, Calif., a beach resort between San Diego and Los Angeles. The residence became known as the Western White House because Nixon spent working vacations there.

Nixon's second Administration (1973-1974)

Foreign affairs. On Jan. 27, 1973, the United States and the other participants in the Vietnam War signed agreements to stop fighting immediately and begin exchanging prisoners. The agreements climaxed several weeks of bargaining between North Vietnamese officials and **Henry A. Kissinger**, Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser. The United States completed its troop withdrawal from South Vietnam in March. Nixon privately assured South Vietnam that the United States would use "full force" to aid the South Vietnamese if the Communists violated the agreements. Fighting did continue in 1973, but no U.S. troops reentered the war. Later that year, Kissinger became secretary of state.

Nixon continued his efforts to improve relations between the United States and China. In 1973, the two nations sent representatives to serve in each other's capital and exchanged visits by cultural groups.

Events at home. Nixon carried out a key campaign pledge in January 1973 when he ended the military draft. The military then became an all-volunteer force.

Disputes with Congress. Nixon's relations with the Democratic-controlled Congress grew increasingly strained during 1973. Nixon angered many members of Congress by impounding (not spending) several billion dollars in federal aid on projects that Congress had approved. Nixon called the projects wasteful.

The President suffered a major defeat when Congress forced him to end U.S. bombing in Cambodia. Nixon had argued that the bombing was needed to prevent a Communist take-over of that nation. But Congress refused to provide money for bombing beyond Aug. 15, 1973. This was the first time Congress had ever denied funds for U.S. combat operations in a war.

Nixon received another major setback in 1973 when Congress overrode his veto of a resolution that limited presidential war powers. The War Powers Resolution gives Congress the power to halt the use of any U.S. armed forces that the President has ordered into combat abroad. Passage of the resolution was the strongest action ever taken by Congress to spell out the war-making powers of Congress and the President.

Economic problems continued to challenge Nixon in 1973. In January, he ended most of the government-required limits that had been placed on wage and price increases in 1971. But prices soared, and another brief use of controls resulted in a shortage of beef and other foods. By the end of 1973, inflation had risen 8.8 per cent nationally--the largest increase in any year since 1947.

Also in 1973, a **fuel shortage** led to reduced supplies of oil for home heating and industry, and to **gasoline rationing** in a number of states. In 1974, Congress approved Nixon's proposal to set up a **Federal Energy Administration** to deal with the energy shortage.

The Watergate scandal hit the Nixon Administration during 1973. It arose from a break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate building complex in Washington, D.C., on June 17, 1972. Employees of Nixon's 1972 reelection committee were arrested in the break-in and convicted of burglary. Early in 1973, evidence was uncovered that linked several top White House aides with either the break-in or later attempts to hide information related to it.

Nixon insisted that he did not participate in the break-in or the cover-up. In addition, he promised a full investigation of the case. In May, **Archibald Cox**, a Harvard Law School professor, was named to head the investigation as the special prosecutor.

In July, a Senate investigating committee learned that Nixon had secretly made tape recordings of conversations in his White House offices since 1971. The President said that he taped the conversations to preserve an accurate record of his Administration. Cox and the Senate committee asked Nixon to give them certain tapes that they believed could aid their investigations. Nixon refused. He argued that the Constitution gives a President the implied right to maintain the confidentiality of private presidential conversations. Nixon said the loss of that right would

Notes:

Nixon is an incredibly complex character, as your Rhetoric-level student's reading will reveal this week. Talk with your child about Nixon's choices to sin, and how his pride and lack of honesty when confronted only compounded his problems in the end. It really was his bold-faced lies about his involvement in the scandal—to both trusted "insiders" and the American public at large—that sealed his fate once the truth was revealed. Americans might have pardoned the initial break-in—they never did forgive his lies and cover-up attempt. Talk with your child about the following, using Nixon's story as a springboard:

1. Was Nixon a talented, intelligent, and gifted leader? Many say yes!
2. What sins led to his downfall? Pride, aggression, slander, selfish ambition, and more.

James 3:16

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Philip. 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Titus 3:1-2

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, [2] to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

More on this discussion, next page...

Notes:

Continued from sidebar, previous page...

3. What does the bible say about the relationship of leaders to God? Are they to be submitted to God's laws and ways, or are they somehow above these?

Deut. 17:18-20

When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. [19] It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees [20] and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

NOTE: the above law is the law of Moses, but if it applies to spiritual matters, surely it applies to civil laws.

4. How about the nation's laws? Is a leader above the laws of the land?

Romans 13:2

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Furthermore, a MAJOR premise of American government is that ALL are under law: from the least to the greatest. A president is not above the law.

5. What does the Bible say about confessing sin?

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

6. Does the Bible mention anything about lies entrapping the liar later on?

Proverbs 5:21-23

For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.

endanger the presidency.

In August, Cox and the committee filed petitions in court to obtain the tapes. U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica decided to review the tapes himself and ordered Nixon to give them to him. Nixon appealed the order, but a U.S. court of appeals supported Sirica.

On October 19, Nixon offered to supply summaries of the tapes to the Senate committee and to Cox. Cox refused, arguing that summaries would not be regarded as proper evidence in court. Nixon then had Cox fired. Leon Jaworski, a noted Texas attorney, later succeeded Cox. But Nixon's actions resulted in a move for his impeachment.

The resignation of Agnew on Oct. 10, 1973, further stunned the nation. Federal officials had begun to investigate Agnew earlier that year in connection with charges of graft in Maryland. They uncovered evidence that he had accepted illegal payments while serving as an officeholder in Maryland and as Vice President. Shortly after he resigned, Agnew pleaded *nolo contendere* (no contest) to a charge that he had cheated the government on his federal income tax payment for 1967. Years later, in 1981, a Maryland court ordered Agnew to pay the state the amount of the bribes it declared he had accepted, plus interest. In 1983, Agnew paid Maryland \$268,482.

Nixon became the first President to appoint a Vice President under procedures established by the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. He named House Minority Leader **Gerald R. Ford** as Agnew's successor, and Ford became Vice President on Dec. 6, 1973.

The impeachment hearings began before the House Judiciary Committee in October 1973. The committee tried several times to obtain tapes of White House conversations by issuing subpoenas (legal demands). But Nixon refused to give the committee any tapes.

In July 1974, the committee finished reviewing evidence and voted to recommend three articles of impeachment against Nixon. The first article charged that the President obstructed justice by acting to delay the investigation of the Watergate break-in. It also accused Nixon of attempting to hide the identities of the people who ordered the break-in. The second impeachment article charged that Nixon abused presidential powers, and the third accused him of disobeying subpoenas.

Resignation and pardon. On August 5, Nixon released records of taped White House conversations that severely damaged his struggle against impeachment. The conversations showed that he had approved a Watergate cover-up on June 23, 1972--six days after the burglary. As a result of the new evidence, Republican congressional leaders warned Nixon that he faced almost certain impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal from office by the Senate.

Nixon told his family on August 7 that he planned to resign as President, and he announced his decision to the American people during a nationwide television address the next day. On August 9, with about 21/2 years remaining in his second term, Nixon submitted his resignation as President. At noon that day, Vice President Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as the 38th President.

Nixon's resignation ended the prospect of a struggle over impeachment. But many Americans continued to debate whether he should be prosecuted (brought to trial) for his role in the cover-up. On September 8, Ford granted Nixon a pardon for all federal crimes Nixon may have committed while President. Ford said he made the decision to "reconcile divisions in our country and heal the wounds that had festered too long."

Retirement


After leaving office, Nixon returned to San Clemente. He avoided active participation in politics and spent much of his time playing golf and writing. Nixon maintained a strong interest in international affairs, and his opinions on U.S. foreign policy were highly regarded by many people, including both Democratic and Republican Presidents who served after him.

In 1978, Nixon published *RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon*. In 1980, he moved to New York City and published *The Real War*, a book about U.S. foreign policy. Nixon moved to Saddle River, N.J., in 1981 and to Park Ridge, N.J., in 1991. His other books include *Leaders* (1982), *Real Peace: A Strategy for the West* (1983), *No More Vietnams* (1985), *In the Arena* (1990), and *Beyond Peace* (1994).

In 1990, the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace opened in Yorba Linda, Calif. The library includes a museum. Nixon and his wife are buried on the grounds, near the house he was born in.

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

You may want to review the geography of both China and Russia, as you cover Nixon's trips there. Indeed, some of your suggested reading this week is a completion of books begun in Week 20.

LITERARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** World Book on e. e. cummings:^v**

E. E. Cummings (1894-1962) was one of the most innovative poets in American literature. He is especially known for violating the rules of composition, rejecting punctuation and capitalization, distorting syntax (sentence structure), and experimenting with typography (the arrangement of printed matter). He wrote his own name as e. e. cummings. However, Cummings' themes and even many of his forms are traditional. Beneath his poems' complex surfaces are relatively simple, straightforward ideas. Cummings emphasized the supremacy of the individual over society, and he criticized the tendency of people to conform to socially accepted values and opinions. His poems show him to be joyous and childlike, a believer in love and spontaneity.

Edward Estlin Cummings was born in Cambridge, Mass. He studied at Harvard University, earning a B.A. degree in 1915 and an M.A. degree in 1916. During World War I (1914-1918), Cummings served as a volunteer ambulance driver in France. French authorities suspected him of expressing treasonous views and held him in a French detention camp for three months. Cummings vividly described this experience in his book *The Enormous Room* (1922). Cummings published his first book of poems, *Tulips and Chimneys*, in 1923. In addition to his poetry, Cummings wrote verse plays such as *Him* (1928); *Eimi* (1933), an account of a visit to the Soviet Union; and *i: six nonlectures* (1953), lectures originally delivered at Harvard. His *Complete Poems, 1904-1962* was published in 1991.

WRITING HELPS: ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

- Dialectic Level: 30 minute essays

FINE ARTS BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**CHURCH HISTORY BACKGROUND****Notes:**

Continued from sidebar, previous page...

Proverbs 6:12-19

A scoundrel and villain,
who goes about with a corrupt mouth,
[13] who winks with his eye,
signals with his feet
and motions with his fingers,
[14] who plots evil with deceit in his heart--
he always stirs up dissension.
[15] Therefore disaster will overtake him in
an instant; he will suddenly be
destroyed--without remedy.

[16] There are six things the Lord hates,
seven that are detestable to him:
[17] haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
[18] a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
[19] a false witness who pours out lies
and a man who stirs up dissension
among brothers.

GROUP DISCUSSION: GRADES 9-12 (Suggested day for this discussion: Wednesday.)

1st Hour:

2nd Hour:

ⁱ From an article in *World Book* entitled **Richard Milhous Nixon**. Contributor: Stephen E. Ambrose, Ph.D., Alumni Distinguished Prof. of History, Univ. of New Orleans.

ⁱⁱ Excerpted from an article in *World Book* quoted in Week 26, entitled **Vietnam War**. Contributor: George C. Herring, Ph.D., Prof. of History, Univ. of Kentucky.

ⁱⁱⁱ Excerpted from an article in *World Book* last quoted in Week 26, entitled **Cold War**. Contributor: Burton I. Kaufman, Ph.D., Prof. of History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.

^{iv} From an article in *World Book* entitled **Agent Orange**. Contributor: Gary F. Bennett, Ph.D., Prof. of Biochemical Engineering, Univ. of Toledo.

^v From an article in *World Book* entitled **E. E. Cummings**. Contributor: Bonnie Costello, Ph.D., Prof. of English, Boston Univ.