Unit 3: The Age of Social Change and Limitations (Nixon to Ford to Carter)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **November**
Length: **2 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

The America of the 1960s and 1970s was a different country than the America of the 1950s. Deep cultural shifts marked this period of great change. The counterculture of the 1960s posed a fundamental challenge to traditional values and customs, and the women's rights movements brought gender disparities to the forefront of American consciousness. Even the people's relationship with the nation's landscape and resources was brought into question, as the environmental movement emerged. The Nixon presidency, called a "long national nightmare", by his successor, Ford, was followed by the difficulties of the Carter administration.

Enduring Understandings

- President Richard Nixon tried to steer the country in a conservative direction and away from federal control.
- President Nixon’s involvement in the Watergate scandal forced him to resign from office.
- The Ford and Carter administrations attempted to remedy the nation’s worst economic crisis in decades.
- During the 1970s, Americans strengthened their efforts to address the nation’s environmental problems.

Essential Questions

- What was the goal of Nixon’s New Federalism?
- Why had many Democratic voters in the South become potential Republican supporters by 1968?
- What was Nixon’s Southern strategy?
- How did Nixon’s trip to China change foreign relations between the two countries?
- What was the Watergate scandal?
- Why was Ford’s call for voluntary actions to help the economy unsuccessful?
- What factors played a role with America’s economic stagnation in the 1970s?
- What environmental actions were taken during the Nixon administration?
- How did the Three Mile Island incident affect the use of nuclear power in America?

Content

Learning Objectives

1. Summarize Nixon's plan to lead the nation on a more conservative course.
2. Analyze Nixon's efforts to win the support of Southern Democrats.
3. Describe the steps Nixon took to battle stagflation.
4. Examine the importance of Nixon's visits to China and the USSR.
5. Analyze how Nixon and his advisors sought to increase the power of the presidency.
6. Summarize the details of the Watergate burglary.
7. Describe how the Watergate scandal was uncovered.
8. Explain why the House Judiciary Committee voted to impeach Nixon and analyze the impact of Watergate on American politics.
9. Summarize Gerald Ford's efforts to confront economic problems and handle foreign policy.
10. Analyze the significance of Jimmy Carter's election in 1976.
11. Identify Jimmy Carter's approach to solving economic problems.
12. Describe Carter's foreign policy.
13. Analyze Carter's achievements and failures in foreign policy matters.

21st Century Skills

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Communication
5. Information and Media Literacy

Standards

SOC.6.1.12.A.13.b	Analyze the effectiveness of national legislation, policies, and Supreme Court decisions (i.e., the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Rights Amendment, Title VII, Title IX, Affirmative Action, Brown v. Board of Education, and Roe v. Wade) in promoting civil liberties and equal opportunities.
SOC.6.1.12.B.13.b	Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental movements and their influence on public attitudes and environmental protection laws.
SOC.6.1.12.C.12.a	Explain the implications and outcomes of the Space Race from the perspectives of the scientific community, the government, and the people.
SOC.6.1.12.D.13.d	Determine the extent to which suburban living and television supported conformity and stereotyping during this time period, while new music, art, and literature acted as catalysts for the counterculture movement.
SOC.6.1.12.D.13.f	Relate the changing role of women in the labor force to changes in family structure.