

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 1 Nixon's Foreign Policy

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do governments change?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What did President Nixon do to improve relations with China and the Soviet Union?*
2. *What was Nixon's foreign policy toward the Middle East?*
3. *How did the Nixon administration try to halt the spread of communism in Latin America?*

Terms to Know

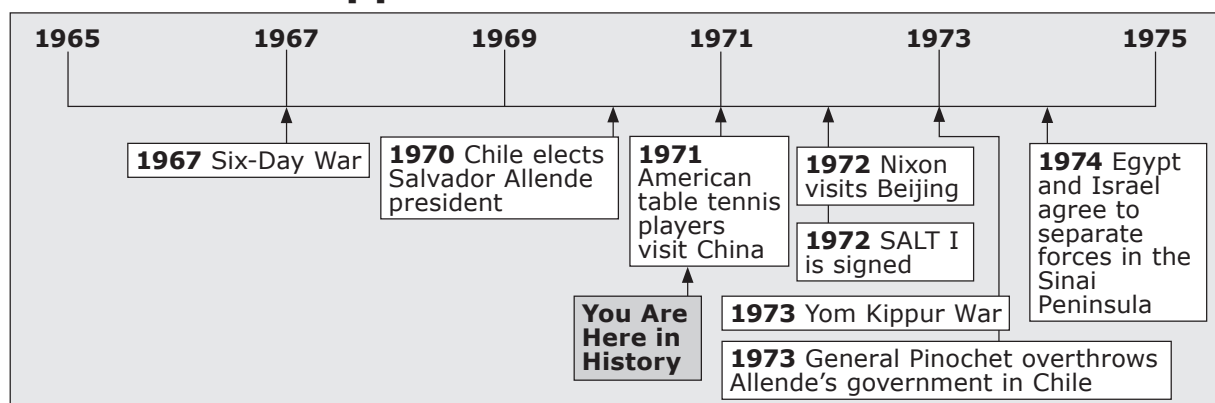
détente an attempt to ease international tensions

embargo a ban on trade

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



A Troubled Nation

Lesson 1 Nixon's Foreign Policy, *Continued*

A Thaw in the Cold War

President Nixon believed the world could be more peaceful if the United States had better relationships with the Soviet Union and China. National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and Nixon felt that peace would come through talking rather than making threats or using force. They believed in a policy called **détente** in which countries would try to relax tensions when problems arose. Nixon felt that détente required a balance of power. This meant that all countries would have equal strength.

In 1949, a revolution in China led to Communist control of the Chinese government. The Communist government in China and a separate anti-Communist government claimed to be the rightful rulers of China. The anti-Communist government was led by Chiang Kai-shek and was located on the island of Taiwan near the Chinese coast. The United States refused to treat the Communist government as the rightful rulers. But by 1970, both the United States and Communist China wanted to improve their relationship.

China did not trust the Soviet Union. Their troops sometimes fought along their borders. Nixon hoped that recognizing the Communist government in China would help end the war in Vietnam. He also believed that it would divide the Soviet Union and China. In the fall of 1970, Nixon said he wanted to visit China. When, the Chinese invited an American table tennis team to visit, it became known as "ping-pong diplomacy." The countries used table tennis to become friendlier. A week later the United States said it would begin to trade with China.

American and Chinese officials held secret talks about building a closer relationship. After Kissinger made a secret trip to China in July 1971, Nixon said that he would visit China. He wanted to make it normal for the two countries to work together. In February 1972, Nixon visited China. Nixon and Chinese leader Zhou Enlai (JOH•EN•LIE) talked about science, culture, and increasing trade. It was the first formal contact in 25 years.

In May 1972, Nixon visited the Soviet Union. The Soviets also wanted to be friendlier with the United States. They did not want the United States and China to be allies. They also hoped to buy U.S. technology, or scientific tools and material. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I). This treaty set limits on the number of certain nuclear missiles each side could have. The two nations also agreed to work together in trade and science.



Vocabulary

1. What is détente?



Identifying

2. What were the two governments in China in 1949?



Explaining

3. Why was ping-pong diplomacy important for the United States and China?



Listing

4. What are some examples of today's technology?

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 1 Nixon's Foreign Policy, *Continued*



Analyzing

5. Why did Egypt and Syria attack Israel in 1973?



Explaining

6. Why did some Arab countries place an oil embargo on the United States?



Summarizing

7. What happened in the United States because of the oil embargo?



Explaining

8. Why were Henry Kissinger's visits to the Middle East called "shuttle diplomacy"?

Middle East Tensions

The Jewish state of Israel was founded in 1948. Many Arab nations opposed its creation. The United States supported Israel when it was attacked by its Arab neighbors.

Egypt and Israel had strong disagreements. On June 5, 1967, Israel bombed Egyptian airfields because it thought Egypt was making threats. Jordan and Syria joined Egypt in fighting Israel. In six days, Israel defeated the Arab states. It destroyed their air bases and captured areas held by Egypt and Jordan and an area which was part of Syria.

The conflict was called the "Six-Day War." After the war, the United Nations asked the Israelis to leave the areas they had captured. It also asked the Arab nations to accept Israel's right to exist as a country. The Arabs refused to talk, and Israel kept the areas it captured.

After the war, thousands of Palestinians lived in areas held by Israel. Thousands more fled to neighboring Arab states. They demanded their own country. This became another source of tension.

Arabs and Israelis continued to disagree. In 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel. They wanted to recapture land lost in the Six-Day War. This attack took place on Yom Kippur, an important Jewish holy day. The conflict became known as the Yom Kippur War.

In early battles, many Israeli planes were shot down. Egypt and Syria took land they had previously lost. Israel struck back with American help. The United Nations convinced both sides to stop. Israel had recaptured the land lost in the Arab attack.

Arab states that produced oil were angry because the United States supported Israel. They placed an **embargo** on oil. They refused to sell oil to the United States. The embargo caused problems for the U.S. economy. It led to an oil shortage. Oil and gasoline prices went up. There were long lines at gas stations.

President Nixon sent Henry Kissinger to the Middle East to gain Arab trust, solve the oil crisis, and help Israel and its neighbors make an agreement. Kissinger traveled back and forth between Middle Eastern nations. This was called "shuttle diplomacy."

In 1974, the prime minister of Israel and the president of Egypt agreed to separate their forces in the Sinai Peninsula. In March of 1974, Kissinger convinced the Arab nations to end the oil embargo. He promised large amounts

A Troubled Nation**Lesson 1** Nixon's Foreign Policy, *Continued*

of foreign aid to Egypt. This improved U.S. relations with Egypt, the most powerful Arab state.

Latin America

President Nixon wanted to prevent countries in Latin America from becoming Communist. In 1970 Chile elected the Marxist Salvador Allende (uh•YEN•day) president. He believed that the country's wealth should be more equally divided among the people. His government took over large businesses, gave land to the poor, and raised workers' wages. The economy grew, although there were food shortages. Businesses also raised prices because they had to pay higher wages.

Allende's Marxist plans frightened wealthy Chileans. Many took their money out of the country. They then invested it in other countries. The United States was angry when Allende took over U.S. companies. The Nixon administration wanted to weaken Allende's government. It gave money to his political opponents and encouraged workers in Chile to strike. Nixon also convinced other countries and businesses to stop loaning money to Chile. By 1972, Chile's economy was in terrible shape.

In 1973 Chile's military took action. Military leaders under General Augusto Pinochet (peen•oh•SHAY) took control of the government. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped Pinochet take over the government. The United States quickly recognized the new government. It once again gave foreign aid to Chile.

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

Check for Understanding

List one effect of Nixon's foreign policy on the Middle East and Latin America.

How effective were U.S. attempts at reducing tensions with China and the Soviet Union?

**Identifying**

- 9.** List two positive and two negative effects of Allende's government on Chile.

**Analyzing**

- 10.** Why did the United States oppose Salvador Allende?



- 11.** Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Nixon's Foreign Policy* on the anchor tab. Label the four tabs *China*, *Soviet Union*, *Middle East* and *Latin America*. Use both sides of the tabs to write words and phrases about the actions Nixon took to improve relations with each.

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 2 Nixon and Watergate

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do governments change?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did the role of the federal government change under Nixon?*
2. *Why was Nixon forced to resign during his second term?*
3. *How did Ford attempt to unite the nation after the Watergate scandal?*

Where in the world?



Terms to Know

revenue sharing a policy in which the federal government gives states some of its revenue to be used at state and local levels

affirmative action an approach to hiring or promotion that favors disadvantaged groups.

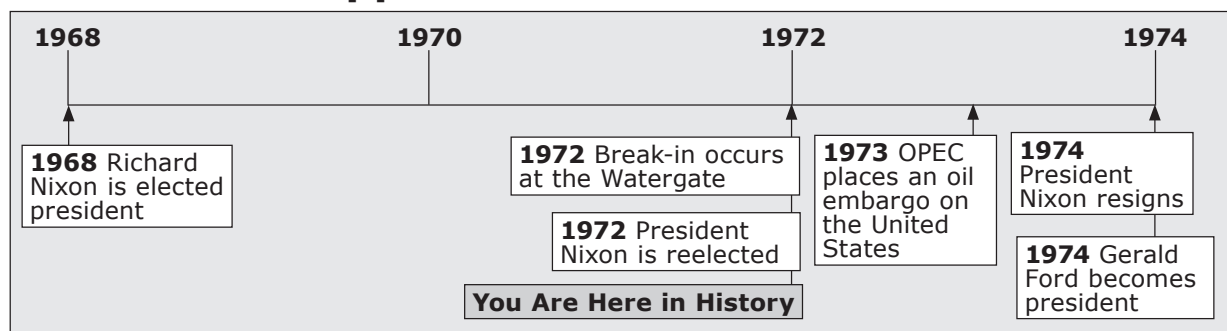
deficit when government spending is greater than government revenue, or income

executive privilege the principle that White House conversations should remain secret to protect national security

impeach to officially charge someone with misconduct in office

amnesty protection from prosecution

When did it happen?



A Troubled Nation

Lesson 2 Nixon and Watergate, *Continued*

Domestic Policies under Nixon

One of Nixon's goals at home was to bring back "law and order" to the country. He wanted stronger punishments for lawbreakers. He used federal money to help state and city police forces. Nixon appointed four justices to the Supreme Court. He hoped they would make conservative decisions.

Another goal was to reduce federal involvement in people's lives and give more power to state and local governments. His plan was called New Federalism. One part was **revenue sharing**. It gave states some of the money collected in federal taxes to use or to help cities and towns. It began in 1972. Nixon closed the agency which led the War on Poverty, but created new agencies that protected workers' safety and the environment.

Nixon opposed creating racially mixed schools with forced busing—sending students from all-white or all-African American areas to schools in other areas. Nixon did work to integrate schools under federal court orders. He supported **affirmative action** which favors the hiring or promoting of people from disadvantaged groups.

//////////, Glue Foldable here //////////

Economically, manufacturers faced strong competition from foreign countries. There was a rise in the prices of goods and services—called inflation—and increases in the price of oil. In addition, the United States faced slow economic growth and high unemployment.

When prices rise and business activity is slow, experts call the mixture "stagflation." First, Nixon tried cutting federal spending and raising interest rates, then a temporary freeze on wages and prices. Later, Nixon tried a third plan. He increased federal spending to help the economy grow. This plan helped the economy grow for a short time, but it created a budget **deficit**. This is when government spending is greater than government income.

A Second Term—and Scandal

Nixon worried about his chances for reelection in 1972. To make sure he was reelected, the president and his close aides sometimes broke the law. In 1971, Nixon had the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) investigate people they thought were "enemies." They also paid for secret actions against Democratic foes.

Democrats nominated Senator George McGovern of South Dakota. Many Democrats did not agree with his



Marking the Text

1. Underline the sentence in the text that defines *stagflation*.



Explaining

2. Use a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Glue it over the text that begins "Economically, manufacturers faced strong competition ...". Write the title *Economic Issues* on the anchor tab. Use the front of the Foldable to list Nixon's three plans for reducing inflation and helping the economy. On the back, explain if these efforts helped the economy.

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 2 Nixon and Watergate, *Continued*



Explaining

3. Why did the Democratic Party lose the 1972 election?



Making Inferences

4. Why did the investigators want to hear Nixon's tapes?



Identifying

5. Who were President Nixon's vice presidents?



Explaining

6. How did Gerald Ford become president?

views. When the economy improved and peace in Vietnam seemed possible, Nixon won a landslide victory.

During Nixon's second term, the economy got worse. This was mainly caused by the 1973 oil embargo. Many American companies laid off workers and raised prices. The president urged Americans to use less energy. He also supported drilling for oil in new places, such as Alaska.

In Nixon's second term, a small scandal turned into a disaster. In June 1972, Nixon's reelection committee sent a team of burglars to break into the Democratic Party's office in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. The burglars tried to get information about the Democrats' campaign. They tried to plant bugs on the telephones.

A security guard caught the burglars. At the time, no one knew that the group was working for the Nixon campaign. In fact, few people paid any attention to the story. In November, voters gave Nixon a landslide victory.

Reporters at the *Washington Post* newspaper kept digging into the burglary. The Nixon administration denied knowing anything. In fact, the burglars were paid by the White House and were told to plead guilty and remain silent. "Watergate" had become a scandal.

In May 1973, the Senate held hearings on the scandal. They learned that a secret taping system recorded conversations in the president's office. They demanded the tapes. Nixon refused. He claimed **executive privilege**. This is the principle that a president's conversations should remain secret to protect national security.

A special prosecutor asked a court to force Nixon to hand over the tapes. Nixon ordered the prosecutor fired. Nixon's attorney general and a deputy attorney general quit in protest. The nation was shocked by Nixon's actions.

Another scandal also struck. Vice President Spiro Agnew was charged with taking bribes while he was governor of Maryland. In October 1973, Agnew resigned. Nixon named Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Michigan as vice president.

Nixon released some tapes, but they were not complete. The Supreme Court ruled that the president had to turn over all the tapes. Then, a House committee voted to **impeach** Nixon, or officially charge him with misconduct in office. Before the full House could vote, investigators found clear evidence against him. Impeachment seemed certain. On August 9, 1974, Nixon resigned his office in disgrace. Gerald Ford became president.

A Troubled Nation**Lesson 2** Nixon and Watergate, *Continued***Healing the Nation**

Because of Nixon's actions, the public lost faith in its political leaders. Gerald Ford hoped to heal the nation. But then he granted Nixon a pardon which meant he could not be prosecuted for his part in the cover-up. Many Americans were angry that Nixon escaped punishment.

Another controversy arose when Ford gave **amnesty**, or protection from prosecution, to men who illegally avoided military service during the Vietnam War. Some people thought these "draft dodgers" should be punished.

Like Nixon, Ford worked for détente with the Soviet Union and China. In 1975, he signed the Helsinki Accords with the Soviet Union and other nations. The countries promised to respect their citizens' human rights. Chinese leader Mao Zedong (MOW ZUH • DAWNG) died in 1976 and China's new leaders wanted to increase trade with the United States.

Ford faced a troubled economy. Inflation, unemployment, and oil prices remained high. Foreign countries challenged U.S. economic power. This caused factory closings, high unemployment, and a reduced standard of living.

To fight inflation, Ford asked Americans to save rather than spend money. He also tried to cut government spending. When this failed, the president asked Congress to pass a tax cut. But the cuts meant the government took in less money and faced a budget deficit. Ford could not solve the nation's economic problems.

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

Check for Understanding

List two ways Nixon's reelection campaign broke the law.

1. _____
2. _____

What actions did Ford and Nixon take to address economic problems? How successful were they?

**Identifying**

7. Which countries did Ford work with to continue Nixon's foreign policies?

**Identifying**

8. What economic problems occurred during Ford's presidency?



9. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Draw an arrow from the left edge of the anchor tab to the right to show a sequence of events. Label the four tabs *Re-election Campaign, Watergate, Resignation, and President Ford*. List one fact that you recall about each. Use your notes to help answer Check for Understanding.

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 3 The Presidency of Jimmy Carter

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do governments change?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What problems did President Carter face?*
2. *What were some successes and challenges of President Carter's foreign policy?*

Terms to Know

trade deficit when the value of foreign imports is greater than the value of American exports

human rights the basic rights and freedoms that all people should have

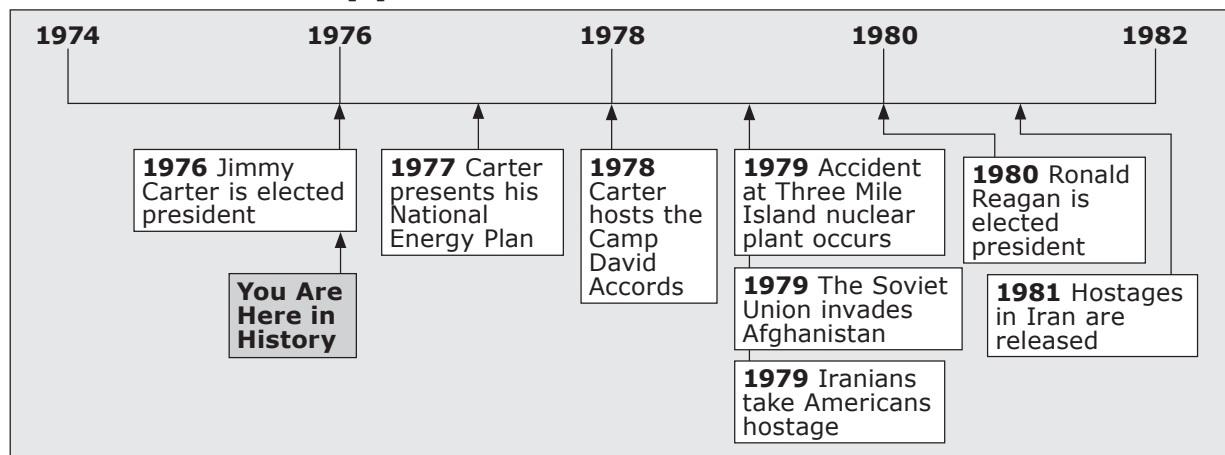
apartheid racial separation and discrimination against nonwhites

fundamentalist someone who believes in strict obedience to religious laws

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



A Troubled Nation

Lesson 3 The Presidency of Jimmy Carter, *Continued*

An Informal Presidency

President Ford planned to seek election in 1976. Ronald Reagan also sought the nomination. Reagan was a former actor and governor of California. He had strong support from conservative voters. Ford still won the nomination.

Jimmy Carter was the Democratic candidate. During his campaign, he stressed his integrity, or moral character, and his religious faith. Carter was a former Georgia governor. He had never worked in Washington, D.C., and had no connection to the Watergate scandal.

Ford ran on his record as president. Carter ran against the memory of Nixon and government corruption. Carter won a close election. He got strong support from African American voters in the South. He set an informal tone. For example, at his inauguration, he wore an ordinary business suit rather than more formal clothing.

Carter cut taxes and increased spending to help the economy. Unemployment went down, but inflation went up. Carter then called for spending cuts and a tax cut. Carter's change of policy made him seem weak and uncertain. The president had trouble getting support in Congress because he came from outside Washington.

Carter also tried to solve the country's energy problems. The high cost of energy made inflation worse. The high price of imported oil also led to a growing **trade deficit**. This means that the value of foreign imports was greater than the value of U.S. exports.

In April 1977, Carter presented a National Energy Plan. He wanted to create a Department of Energy to oversee energy policy. The plan described ways to conserve energy. It called for research into other energy sources and for more oil production in the U.S. Congress made changes and passed a weakened version of the plan in 1978.

In the past, the United States had used nuclear power to make bombs. Nuclear energy could also be used to make electricity. In the 1970s, 10 percent of the nation's electricity came from nuclear power.

In March 1979, an accident took place at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant located near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Officials said there was little threat to the public from the accident. Still, many people were afraid that another accident like this could release nuclear energy that might poison people and the land.



Identifying

1. What was the first step Carter took to improve the economy?



Listing

2. What was the second step Carter took to improve the economy?



Making Connections

3. What are some alternative energy sources we use today?

A Troubled Nation

Lesson 3 The Presidency of Jimmy Carter, *Continued*



Identifying

4. Which countries did Carter criticize for their human rights abuses?



Describing

5. How did the United States' reaction to the Cuban "boatlift" change over time?



Explaining

6. Why were the Camp David Accords important for peace?

Some people protested the use of nuclear power. Carter did not want to stop using it. Supporters of nuclear power argued that it was not harmful if used properly.

Carter's Foreign Policy

Carter based his foreign policy on **human rights**. Human rights are the basic rights and liberties all people should have. He said that the United States should not support any nation that did not respect human rights. For example, Carter said South Africa's policy of **apartheid** (uh • PAHR • TAYT) should be changed. Apartheid means racial separation and discrimination against nonwhites.

In 1980 Fidel Castro was the Communist leader of Cuba. He allowed thousands of Cubans to leave Cuba by boat for Florida. The U.S. accepted the Cubans at first because Carter had criticized the lack of human rights in Cuba. The United States had trouble helping such large numbers of people. By the time Cuba ended the "boatlift," about 125,000 people had entered the United States. A few were criminals. Public opinion turned against the Cubans.

U.S. control of the Panama Canal had caused friction between the United States and Panama. To improve things, Carter signed two treaties with Panama in 1977. The treaties turned the Panama Canal over to Panama by the year 2000. The canal would also remain a neutral waterway open to all shipping. Some Republicans in the Senate tried to block passage of the treaties. They said that Carter was giving away U.S. property. This effort failed. The Senate approved the treaties in 1978.

President Carter also wanted to bring peace to the Middle East. In 1978 talks between Israel and Egypt stalled. Carter invited Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar el-Sadat to a meeting at Camp David in the United States. The three leaders reached an agreement known as the Camp David Accords.

The agreement led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The treaty was signed in March 1979. It was the first time that Israel and an Arab nation had made peace.

Carter spoke out against human rights abuses by the Soviets. He also tried to improve relations with them. In June 1979, Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, or SALT II. However, Congress did not approve it right away.

Then in December 1979, any hope of Senate approval ended when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, a

A Troubled Nation**Lesson 3** The Presidency of Jimmy Carter, *Continued*

country in southwest Asia. Carter expressed Americans' anger. The United States and other nations refused to take part in the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

In the 1970s, Iran was a major U.S. ally. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was Iran's ruler. He built a powerful military with U.S. aid. Many Iranians were angry with corruption in the shah's government. Others disliked Western influences in Iran. They felt these weakened traditional Muslim values.

In January 1979, Islamic **fundamentalists** forced the shah to flee Iran. Fundamentalists are people who believe in strict obedience to religious laws. The Ayatollah Khomeini took power. Khomeini opposed the United States because it had supported the shah.

In November 1979, Iranian students broke into the American embassy in Tehran, the capital of Iran. The group captured 52 Americans and held them hostage. The United States was outraged. Attempts to gain the release of the hostages failed. The American military then tried a daring desert rescue attempt, but it failed and eight American soldiers died. The hostage crisis dragged on. It became a major issue in the presidential election of 1980.

Many Americans blamed President Carter for the weak economy. They were also angry that the hostages had not been released. The Republicans nominated Ronald Reagan. He spoke of lower taxes, less spending, strong defense, and national pride. Reagan won the election easily. Republicans also gained control of the Senate.

During the last weeks of his presidency, Carter worked to free the hostages. He failed. The Iranians finally did release them—after Ronald Reagan took the oath of office. The hostages had been in captivity for 444 days.

Check for Understanding

List two things you consider successes of President Carter's administration.

1. _____

2. _____

Why did many voters in the 1980 election think of President Carter as weak or uncertain?

**Summarizing**

7. Why did the United States boycott the 1980 Olympics?

**Making Inferences**

8. Why did Iranian students capture Americans and hold them hostage?



9. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Challenges During the Carter Presidency* on the anchor tab. Label the first tab *Domestic* and the second tab *Foreign*. Use both sides of the tabs to list examples of each kind of challenge. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.