The Rise and Fall of Richard Nixon

What events influenced Richard Nixon’s rise to and fall from power?

PREVIEW

Copy this list of events from Richard Nixon’s early political career into your notebook. Then sequence the events in the order in which you think they occurred by writing a number next to each. Begin with the number 1 for the event that you think happened first.

- accused of misusing campaign funds
- elected to the House of Representatives
- elected president of the United States
- elected to the Senate
- elected vice president on the Eisenhower ticket
- escaped scandal with the “Checkers” speech
- lost California gubernatorial election
- lost presidential election

KEY CONTENT TERMS

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

New Federalism
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Family Assistance Plan
energy crisis
détente
Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)
Watergate scandal

READING NOTES

Sections 2 to 4

Create the following graph on two blank pages in your notebook. Then follow the steps below to complete your Reading Notes.

1. Read the events listed below for each section. Determine to what degree each event represents a high or low point in the Nixon presidency. Then place the events on the graph in correct chronological order.

2. For each event, write the date, a short description of the event, and a brief explanation of why you placed the event where you did.

3. Draw a corresponding visual near each event.

4. Use a line to connect all of the events on the graph. Answer this question in your notebook: What does your graph reveal about President Nixon’s rise to and fall from power?
Section 2
January 1969: Nixon is inaugurated after a close election.
July 1970: Nixon proposes the Environmental Protection Agency.
October 1973: Middle East countries stop shipping oil to the United States.

Section 3
May 1972: Nixon signs the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Section 4
November 1972: Nixon wins a second term.
July 1973: Nixon refuses to release White House tapes.
August 1974: Nixon resigns as president.

PROCESSING
Design an epitaph for Richard M. Nixon commenting on both his rise to and his fall from power. An epitaph is something engraved on the tombstone of an individual. Your epitaph should include the following elements:
• his name
• a descriptive phrase or title that highlights both his accomplishments and his controversies (such as Skillful Diplomat or Disgraced President)
• a short poem that alludes or refers to two events that led to Nixon’s rise to power and two events that led to his fall from power
• two or more images that illustrate details in the poem
• other clever or creative touches to make the epitaph more interesting