

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **President James Earl Carter**

Although his given name is James Earl Carter, everyone knows the thirty-ninth President of the United States as Jimmy Carter. Carter was born on October 1, 1924 in rural Plains, Georgia. Carter's father was a farmer. Jimmy Carter often spoke of attending school and playing with the many African American children who lived nearby. Remember, when he was growing up segregation, or separation by race, was the social norm.

After graduating from high school, Jimmy Carter first attended Georgia Southwestern University and then Georgia Institute of Technology. However, in 1946 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and became a lieutenant while performing submarine duty for the Navy. Also in 1946 he married Rosalynn Smith of Plains, Georgia and they had one daughter, Amy.

Admiral Hyman Rickover was responsible for selecting the best and brightest to staff the nuclear submarine program and he chose Jimmy Carter to join the program. Carter studied nuclear reactor technology and nuclear physics at Union College before becoming a senior officer of the second nuclear submarine in the U.S. Navy.

Carter returned to the family peanut farm in 1953 after his father died, leaving his military career behind. He began his political career in local government and ran for state senate in 1962. In 1966 he ran for governor of Georgia but was defeated. But when he ran for governor again in 1970, he was elected. Just two years later, in 1974, he announced that he was running for president. In 1976 he was the Democratic nominee for president and defeated Gerald Ford who had taken over as president after Richard Nixon resigned.

Jimmy Carter served one term as president, being defeated by Ronald Reagan in the 1980 election. During Carter's term in office he focused on human rights throughout the world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **President James Earl Carter (Cont'd)**

His administration is known for the Panama Canal Treaty and the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) with the Soviet Union which limited the nuclear arms of both countries. Carter expended a significant amount of effort on bringing peace to the Middle East between Egypt and Israel. He brought the leaders of both countries to the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland for peace talks known as the Camp David Accords. "Accords" is another name for agreements. Carter also established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

With his background in nuclear power, Carter created the Department of Energy as a cabinet level position and established a national energy policy. He also created the Department of Education as a cabinet level position.

However, the Carter administration faced some major crises. In the United States there was a severe shortage of gasoline causing long lines at gas stations. Inflation was very high during the Carter years. During this time, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan; this was the beginning of the problems in Afghanistan that we still experience today with American troops in that country.

What hurt the American morale the most is that militant Iranian students took over the American embassy in Iran in 1979 and held 52 Americans as hostages. Carter approved a plan to rescue the hostages but this rescue attempt failed and further demoralized the American people. More citizens disapproved of Carter as president than approved his performance.

In spite of this, Carter became the Democratic nominee for president in the 1980 election. Ronald Reagan, the Republican nominee, won the election and he projected the image of a strong leader to the rest of the world. The hostages in Iran were released just before Reagan took office while Carter was still president.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **President James Earl Carter (Cont'd)**

After leaving office Jimmy Carter returned to Plains, Georgia. Carter has written twenty-three books; many of these books have been revised to a second edition. He has continued to work on humanitarian causes throughout the world through the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. For this work Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Carter has continued to be involved in settling international disputes as well as very active in other causes such as Habitat for Humanity.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### President James Earl Carter Questions

1. What was important about Jimmy Carter playing with African American children when he was a boy?
  - a. The southern U.S. was integrated when Carter was young.
  - b. The southern U.S. was segregated when Carter was young.
  - c. The southern U.S. was neutral when Carter was young.
  
2. In what branch of the U.S. military did Jimmy Carter serve?
  - a. Navy
  - b. Marines
  - c. Coast Guard
  
3. What subject did Jimmy Carter study at Union College?
  - a. Law
  - b. Technology
  - c. Nuclear Physics
  
4. Besides being President, what other office did Jimmy Carter hold?
  - a. Governor of Georgia
  - b. U.S. Senator from Georgia
  - c. U.S. Congressman from Georgia
  
5. Who did Jimmy Carter defeat in the presidential election of 1976?
  - a. Richard Nixon
  - b. Gerald Ford
  - c. Ronald Reagan
  
6. Jimmy Carter was not able to free the American hostages held in
  - a. Iran
  - b. Iraq
  - c. Israel
  
7. After leaving office Jimmy Carter received
  - a. The Nobel Peace Prize
  - b. An Academy Award
  - c. The Camp David Accord

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### President James Earl Carter Answers

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. c
6. a
7. a