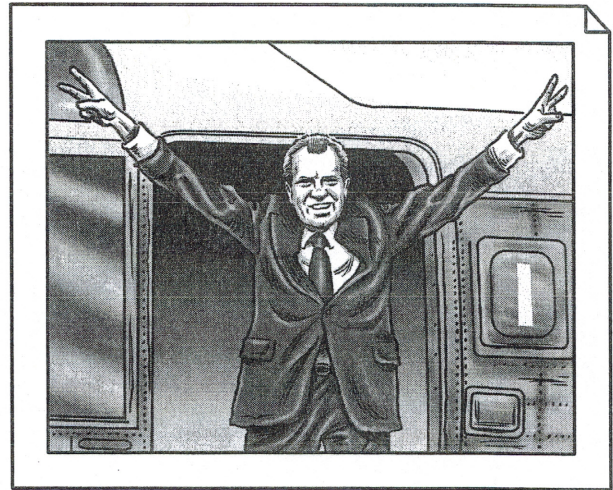


THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Five people broke into the Watergate in June 1972. The Watergate was an office building and apartment complex in Washington, D.C. The headquarters of the Democratic National Committee were located in the Watergate. Police arrested the burglars inside the Democratic Party's offices. The burglars had equipment to copy records and bug telephones.

Suspicion fell on the Republican Party, which was President Richard Nixon's party. Three of Nixon's campaign officials had been involved in the break-in. The President, though, said no White House staff had been involved. Most Americans believed him, and Nixon was re-elected.



The Watergate burglars went on trial in 1973. Most pleaded guilty, which meant they could not be questioned about the case. One of them, however, told the judge that important Republican officials had helped plan the burglary. An investigation soon showed that there had been a cover-up of evidence. Nixon was accused of helping plan the cover-up.

A witness told investigators that Nixon had secretly recorded all the conversations that took place in his office. It was believed that the taped conversations might contain important information about the case. Senate investigators asked the President to let them listen to the tapes. Nixon refused, saying he had the right to keep information about presidential business secret.

People began to think that Nixon was lying about his involvement in the burglary and cover-up. A new Justice Department investigator, Archibald Cox, asked the White House to turn over the tapes. Nixon refused again, so a federal judge ordered Nixon to give the tapes to Cox. Instead of turning over the tapes, Nixon told the Attorney General to fire Cox. The Attorney General resigned instead of firing Cox. The Assistant Attorney General resigned too. Finally, a third member of the Justice Department fired Cox. This chain of events is called the Saturday Night Massacre.

The Supreme Court ruled that Nixon had to turn over the tapes. People now demanded that the President be impeached. To impeach the President is to accuse him or her of wrongdoing. Three articles of impeachment were brought against Nixon. The tapes proved Nixon had known about the Watergate break-in and had ordered the cover-up. Instead of waiting for the House of Representatives to vote on impeaching him, Nixon resigned from office. On August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office and became President. Ford later pardoned Nixon for his crimes.

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

☐

1. The burglars broke into the headquarters of _____.

- A. the Democratic National Committee
- B. the Republican National Committee
- C. President Nixon's re-election committee
- D. all of the above

☐

2. One Watergate burglar told the judge that _____ helped plan the burglary.

- A. President Nixon
- B. Vice President Spiro Agnew
- C. the Justice Department
- D. important Republican officials

☐

3. _____ finally got Nixon to turn over the tapes.

- A. Senate investigators
- B. A federal judge
- C. The Justice Department investigators
- D. The Supreme Court

☐

4. People demanded that _____ be impeached.

- A. Vice President Gerald Ford
- B. Archibald Cox
- C. President Nixon
- D. John Dean

☐

5. On August 9, 1974, _____ took the oath of office and became President.

- A. Spiro Agnew
- B. Gerald R. Ford
- C. George McGovern
- D. Jimmy Carter

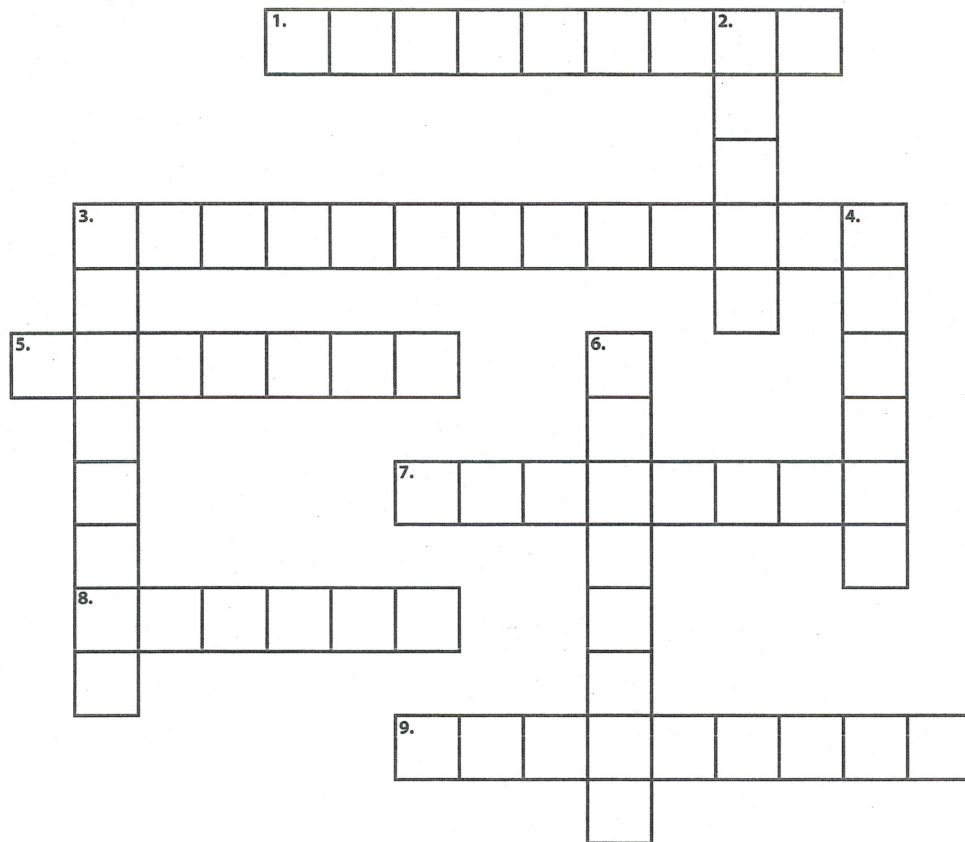
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Date:

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

1. The burglars had _____ to copy records and bug telephones.
3. Nixon had been secretly recording all the _____ in his office.
5. To _____ the President is to accuse him or her of wrongdoing.
7. The chain of events in which several officials resigned rather than fire Archibald Cox is called the Saturday Night _____.
8. Most of the Watergate burglars pleaded _____.
9. The _____ was an office building and apartment complex in Washington, D.C.

DOWN

2. _____ was accused of helping cover up evidence about the Watergate break-in.
3. Three of Nixon's _____ officials had been involved in the Watergate break-in.
4. Nixon said he had the right to keep his tapes _____ because they included information about presidential business.
6. Nixon _____ from office instead of waiting for the House of Representatives to impeach him.

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Time Line – Richard M. Nixon

Use the time line to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

January 9, 1913	• Richard Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, California.
1950	• Nixon becomes a Senator.
1952	• Nixon serves as Vice President under President Eisenhower.
1960	• Nixon runs for President and is defeated by John F. Kennedy.
1968	• Nixon is elected President.
1972	• Nixon is re-elected President. • The Watergate scandal happens.
1973	• Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns. Nixon nominates Gerald R. Ford to replace Agnew as Vice President.
1974	• As a result of the Watergate Scandal, Nixon faces impeachment and resigns from office.
April 22, 1994	• Nixon dies in New York City.

1. Who did Nixon run against for President in 1960?

2. What happened in 1974?

3. Who became Vice President after Spiro Agnew resigned?

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. If you were President Nixon, would you have resigned or have waited to be impeached? Explain your answer.

2. Spiro Agnew was the first Vice President under President Nixon. Why did Agnew resign from office? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.

3. President Nixon resigned before he could be impeached. Two Presidents were impeached by the House of Representatives and went to trial in the Senate. Name one of these Presidents and explain what happened in his case. Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.

QUIZ: THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. Most of the Watergate burglars pleaded not guilty.
- _____ 2. President Nixon never turned over his secret tapes.
- _____ 3. President Nixon resigned from office.
- _____ 4. Burglars broke into the headquarters of the Republican National Committee.
- _____ 5. Three of Nixon's campaign officials were involved in the break-in.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

☐

6. On August 9, 1974, Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office and became _____.

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- D. Attorney General

☐

7. The chain of events in which several officials resigned rather than fire Archibald Cox is called the _____.

- A. Watergate Scandal
- B. Cuban missile crisis
- C. Saturday Night Massacre
- D. Washington March

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What does the word **impeach** mean?
