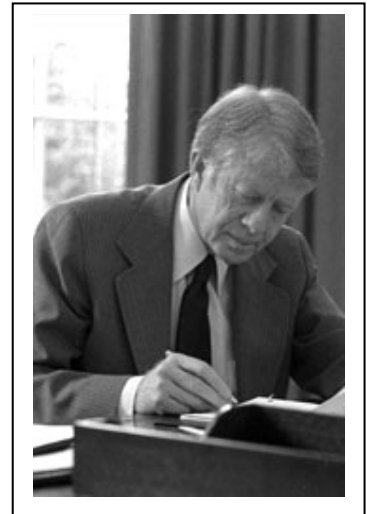


Jimmy Carter

2002

“War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children”

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.), thirty-ninth president of the United States, was born October 1, 1924, in the small farming town of Plains, Georgia, and grew up in the nearby community of Archery. His father, James Earl Carter, Sr., was a farmer and businessman; his mother, Lillian Gordy, a registered nurse. He was educated in the Plains public schools, attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In the Navy he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, N.Y., where he did graduate work at Union College in reactor technology and nuclear physics, and served as senior officer of the Seawolf.



On July 7, 1946, he married Rosalynn Smith. When his father died in 1953, he resigned his naval **commission** and took his family back to Plains. He took over the Carter farms, and he and Rosalynn operated Carter's Warehouse, a general-purpose seed and farm supply company. He quickly became a leader of the community, serving on county boards supervising education, the hospital authority, and the library. In 1962 he won

A giant peanut-shaped balloon was part of Carter's Inauguration Day Parade

Carter graduated from the Naval Academy in 1946.

Jimmy has four children

He was the first president since 1932 that lost re-election

“Unless both sides win, no agreement can be permanent”

election to the Georgia Senate. He lost his first **gubernatorial** campaign in 1966, but won the next election, becoming Georgia's 76th governor on January 12, 1971. He was the Democratic National Committee campaign chairman for the 1974 congressional elections.

On December 12, 1974, he announced his candidacy for President of the United States. He won his party's nomination on the first ballot at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and was elected President on November 2, 1976. Because Carter was from the South, his attitudes on race were

closely watched during his presidential campaign. His father was a politically active man who had believed in racial segregation, or separation of blacks and whites. But Carter's mother, Lillian, a nurse, did not share her husband's views. In the 1960s she joined the Peace Corps and went to India, at the age of 68. In the 1950s, Jimmy Carter was the only white man in Plains who refused to join the White Citizens Council, This was an organization devoted to preserving segregation. That refusal caused a short-lived boycott of the family's peanut warehouse. In the mid-1960s, the Carter family and one other person were the only members of the Plains Baptist Church who voted to admit blacks to the congregation.

Jimmy Carter served as President from January 20, 1977 to January 20, 1981. Some important accomplishments of his presidency included the Panama Canal **treaties**, the Camp David **Accords**, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. **diplomatic relations** with the People's Republic of China. He encouraged human rights throughout the world.

One of the first and main points that the Nobel Committee mentioned about Carter was his participation in the Camp David Accords. The Camp David Accords were peace meetings that Carter held in 1978 between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. They were named the Camp David Accords because President Carter hosted them in the presidential retreat in Virginia called Camp David. Begin and Sadat were hardly on speaking terms at the time. Israel and Egypt had been fighting for a long time over territory in the Middle East that they both believed was rightfully theirs. Carter would talk to one of the men at a time, relaying what the other had said and offering mediation.

The three men worked very hard to come to peaceful agreements about how Egypt and Israel would treat each other. A few times, Carter had to convince each man to stay and continue talking, even though they did not want to. Later that year Sadat and Begin were both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but Carter was left out. His close advisors felt angry that the award had not been awarded to Carter as well, and have now said that they feel the 2002 award was long awaited and justified. It has been reported that President Sadat wanted the talks to be called the Carter Accords, due to the strong commitment and effort that Carter showed the process. Carter truly believed that peace could be achieved in the Middle East, so he continued to press for better relations in the region even after he left office. The Nobel Committee also praised Carter for his work in economic and social development. Carter has led efforts to eliminate infectious diseases in the developing world and to build more affordable housing in the United States.

In 1982, he became University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded The Carter Center in Atlanta. This nonpartisan and nonprofit center discusses national and international issues of public policy. The goal of the Carter Center is to resolve conflict, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent disease and other afflictions. Through the Global 2000 program, the Center advances health and agriculture in the developing world.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter volunteer one week a year for Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps needy people in the United States and in other countries build homes for themselves.

On December 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2002 to Mr. Carter “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.”

Jimmy Carter once ended a talk by saying, “So what I want -- I guess the message that I would leave to you is this. What I want you to remember is that you are people who are change agents. You care. You’re smart. You follow the issues. You are people that you won’t hear a big hooray about this, but when you talk about issues, other people will listen. Every time that you talk to someone else, you will influence other people.

We want this country to continue to be great, and if it is going to be great, and if you’re going to have democracy, we have to have more participation. We have to have civic understanding. We have to have a knowledge of American history, and we have to get everybody participating.

The American people are great. The American people make right decisions, but it needs informed discussion. And I want to thank you very much. And I want you to just think about your future and to say to yourself, I want to go out and change the world.”

Classroom Activities

Jimmy Carter

Vocabulary Terms:

1. Commission
2. Gubernatorial
3. Treaties
4. Diplomatic Relations
5. Deregulation
6. Resolve Conflict
7. Human Rights
8. Developing World
9. Nonprofit Organization
10. Change Agents
11. Accords

Discussion Questions:

1. What leadership experience did Jimmy Carter have before becoming president? (Level 1)
2. What is diplomacy between countries? Why is diplomacy important? (Level 2)
3. What role should human rights play in diplomatic relations? (Level 2)
4. What is a change agent and how can you be one? How was Jimmy Carter a change agent? (Level 3)
5. Can you name other change agents? (Level 3)

Classroom Activity:

Objectives:

Students will express their views on an important or controversial issue.

Students will examine human rights from several points of view.

Students will attempt to develop alternative courses of action.

Students will debate and discuss a controversial topic. The students will need to debrief either orally or in a written context for closure, especially if no consensus was reached.

Some possible debriefing questions include:

What were the major views presented in this discussion?

How good were we at listening to opposing points of view?

Was it difficult to come up with alternative courses of action?

Is it reality that there are times when consensus won't be reached?

What happens now?

What kinds of human rights violations take place in situations like this?

How did it feel to play a role?

How did it feel to play a role that you may have been opposed to?

Technology Option:

Listen to the News Hour interview with Jimmy Carter in 2002 about the Prize. This can be used as an extension for students who desire or need more information. Text is available at the website as well.

What does the Carter Center Do? Students research the projects sponsored by the Carter Center and write a newspaper article about their work

This is an incredibly good website designed to teach middle school students how to resolve conflict.

http://www.msct.beyondintractability.org/gateways/msct/10negotiation/110_lesson_plan.jsp

Resources:

Carter, Jimmy. Talking Peace, New York: Dutton's Children's Books, 1993.

Read or watch streaming video of three experts on Jimmy Carter regarding the prize.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/international/july-dec02/nobel_10-11.html

Online News Hour Interviews Jimmy Carter. October 11, 2002

Read or listen to streaming audio of an interview with Jimmy Carter just after he had won the prize.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/international/july-dec02/bkgdnobel_10-11.html