

Lesson Plan

What, Where, When?

Book: *Watergate*

Series: Postwar America

Level: Navigator

Objective

To have students write an essay that presents key details about an important event from the 1970s.

Supplies

- *Watergate* book
- “Timeline of the 1970s” from the Encyclopedia Britannica website:
<https://www.britannica.com/story/timeline-of-the-1970s>
- Computer access for students

Before the Activity

Read through the *Watergate* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Watergate tells the story of President Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal. The book describes what happened (a scandal consisting of a break-in and cover-up), where it took place (the Watergate complex), who was involved (President Nixon and his staff), when the event was (June 1972 to August 1974), and its lasting effects (Nixon’s resignation and a distrust in government).

Have students visit Britannica’s “Timeline of the 1970s” page and choose another event from that decade to research. Students should write an essay about this event. Like the *Watergate* book, this essay should describe who and what the event involved, when and where it happened, and the impacts or effects it created.

Evaluation

Collect the essays and use the following system to give each student up to 24 points:

- 1 point for choosing an event from the timeline
- 5 points for clearly summarizing key details about what that event was
- 2 points for accurately describing the main people involved
- 2 points for explaining where the event happened
- 2 points for correctly describing the event’s timing

- 5 points for explaining the results and long-term effects of the event
- 5 points for ordering information in a way that is clear and easy to follow
- 2 points for using correct spelling and grammar

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 5 (RI 5.1), and writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.2).