

Nixon and Ford

Nixon in Office

- Elected President in 1968
- Country in turmoil because of Vietnam War
- The U.S. came together on July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon

Domestic Problems

- The economy was a big problem
- High inflation (which is a steady rise in prices), a recession and high unemployment
- Nixon froze wages, rents, and prices to curb inflation
- The policy didn't work

Foreign Policy

- Opened relations with Communist China
- In 1972 he visited mainland China met with Chairman Mao Zedong
- Signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)
- This treaty limited how many and what kind of nuclear weapons the U.S. and Soviet Union could build

Watergate Scandal

- Nixon was reelected in 1972
- Within months, a political scandal erupted
- During the presidential campaign, burglars broke into the Democratic Party offices in the Watergate complex to get information.
- White House officials paid the burglars so that they would not talk about the break-in
- The story becomes public
- A Senate committee started to investigate the scandal in May 1973

- The Senate hearings were on television
- Former White House counsel, John Dean, testified that Nixon had approved the cover-up
- Another witness revealed that Nixon had tapes of all of his presidential conversations
- The Supreme Court ordered Nixon to turn over the tapes
- The White House tried to erase many of the incriminating conversations
- The tapes showed Nixon had been involved in the cover-up operation
- July 1974 Nixon faced impeachment by the House of Representatives
- He knew there were enough votes to remove him from office
- On August 9, 1974 Nixon resigned as President

Ford Presidency

- Vice President Gerald Ford becomes President
- He pardoned Nixon and that was very unpopular
- He tried to lower inflation with a program called Whip Inflation Now
- It included voluntary wage and price controls
- He pushed Congress to cut taxes
- He arranged the Saigon airlift of U.S. workers and many South Vietnamese when Saigon fell in May, 1975
- In 1976, Ford lost the presidential election to Democrat Jimmy Carter