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Warren G. Harding: A President's Journey

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Warren G. Harding's upbringing in a small rural town in Blooming Grove, Ohio, had a significant influence on his political journey. Growing up in this environment instilled in him a strong sense of community and traditional American values. His early career as a newspaper publisher and editor equipped him with valuable communication and public relations skills, which he would later apply in politics. His experience in the media allowed him to connect with people and convey his message effectively during his political career.
2. The concept of "return to normalcy" as advocated by Warren G. Harding during his presidential campaign referred to his desire to restore stability and traditional American values after the disruptions of World War I. He believed that the nation needed a break from the challenges and uncertainties brought about by the war and its aftermath. Harding aimed to bring back a sense of normality, focusing on domestic issues and economic recovery.



Name _____

3. The Teapot Dome scandal had a significant impact on Warren G. Harding's presidency and raised questions about government transparency and accountability. The scandal involved corrupt practices in the leasing of federal oil reserves. While Harding was not directly involved in the scandal, it occurred within his administration and damaged its reputation. It underscored the need for greater government oversight and integrity in dealing with valuable national resources.
4. After World War I, Warren G. Harding faced economic challenges, including the need for economic recovery and addressing the concerns of returning veterans. The war had disrupted the economy, and there was a need to transition back to peacetime production and employment. Additionally, veterans returning from the war sought benefits and support. Harding's administration aimed to address these challenges and stimulate economic growth through policies such as the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act.

