

Name _____

George H. W. Bush: The Diplomatic President

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. George H. W. Bush's early life began in Milton, Massachusetts, in 1924. He hailed from a family with a strong tradition of public service. During World War II, he served as a Navy pilot, demonstrating his bravery by flying combat missions. His experiences in the war shaped his character and leadership qualities.
2. George H. W. Bush contributed to the end of the Cold War by skillfully managing the transition of power in the Soviet Union and fostering peaceful relations between the United States and Russia. This diplomatic approach helped reduce tensions and led to the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union. It significantly improved U.S.-Russian relations and marked the end of the Cold War era.
3. The Gulf War, during George H. W. Bush's presidency, was significant as it involved the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Bush led a successful international coalition to achieve this goal, showcasing his commitment to global stability and diplomacy. The victory in the Gulf War demonstrated the United States' military prowess and its ability to respond decisively to threats to international security.
4. George H. W. Bush's decision to break his "no new taxes" pledge had several consequences. It led to disagreements with some members of his own party and a loss of popularity among some voters who felt betrayed by his change in tax policy. This decision also had an impact on the 1992 presidential election, where Bush faced criticism from his political opponents. Ultimately, it was a contentious issue during his presidency that shaped the political landscape at the time.

