

Name _____

Richard Nixon: The Resilient Leader

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Richard Nixon's early life and career choices were characterized by determination and ambition. He was born in Yorba Linda, California, to a modest family. Despite his background, he excelled academically and earned a scholarship to attend Duke University School of Law. His educational achievements showcased his dedication to his studies. Additionally, during World War II, Nixon served in the U.S. Navy, demonstrating his commitment to service and patriotism. This period in the Navy also highlighted his resilience and leadership qualities.
2. Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972 was a diplomatic milestone that significantly influenced Cold War geopolitics. It marked the opening of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. This thaw in relations reduced tensions between the two superpowers and reshaped global alliances. By engaging with China, Nixon aimed to create a balance of power in the Cold War era and enhance the United States' position on the world stage. This diplomatic breakthrough had lasting effects on international relations.
3. The Watergate scandal was a political scandal that engulfed Richard Nixon's presidency. It began with the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. Nixon's administration was implicated in covering up the break-in and obstructing the subsequent investigations. The scandal led to congressional investigations, the resignation of top officials, and legal battles. Ultimately, the threat of impeachment forced Nixon to become the first U.S. president to resign from office in August 1974. The scandal damaged public trust in the government and had significant consequences for American politics.
4. Richard Nixon faced economic challenges during the 1970s, including high inflation and unemployment. To address these issues, he implemented policies such as wage and price controls. However, the results were mixed, and economic instability persisted during his presidency. Inflation and unemployment remained major concerns, affecting the well-being of American citizens. Nixon's efforts to combat these economic challenges were met with varying degrees of success, and they had lasting impacts on the U.S. economy during that era.

