

Activity: Evaluating Jimmy Carter's Leadership Through Civil and Human Rights

Background: Jimmy Carter, the 39th president, grew up in the racially segregated South. As a state and national leader, he prioritized racial equality and human rights. These issues shaped his work during his presidency and after he left office.

Objective: Identify characteristics of effective leadership and evaluate how Jimmy Carter's political decisions and public service align with those criteria.

What is a leader? Designate the qualities of a leader through "Chalk-Talk."

1. Use a Dry-Erase marker to write the word "Leader" as your anchor word on your desk or portable whiteboard.
2. Write five attributes that you feel describe a leader and connect them to the anchor word.
3. Turn to your shoulder partner. Compare the attributes. Cross out any words that have been repeated. Keep only the unique attributes.
4. Compare with the class. The teacher will have the word "leader" on the class board. Each pair will come and write their attributes off the leader circle. Students may make a new circle connected to the word leader, or they may connect to another pair's word.
5. Make further connections to the class model. Once the pairs have gone around once, the teacher will invite a second and third round for the pairs to come and contribute unique attributes, not already listed, to either the anchor word or to a fellow student's contribution.

Jimmy Who? Discover who Jimmy Carter was and determine how he became a domestic and international leader.

- Define key terms that relate to the different stages of Jimmy Carter's life.
- Read "[Jimmy Carter](#)" | The New Georgia Encyclopedia.
- Answer questions relating to the life and career of Jimmy Carter.

Early Years

Define:

- Championed
- Tenets
- Enlightened

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How did Jimmy Carter's mother influence his later stance on human rights?

How did Carter's family background and early career shape his politics?

Governor of Georgia	
Define: - Progressive - Moderate - Jurisdictional - Predecessors	
How did Jimmy Carter's stance on civil rights change when he became governor of Georgia in 1971?	
What are some examples of Carter's inclusion of women and minorities while he was the governor of Georgia?	
What national leadership position did Carter hold that allowed him to explore running for president?	
President of the United States	
Define: - Constituency - Incumbent - Stagflation - Diplomatic	
What two cabinet-level positions were created during the Carter presidency that reflected his personal views?	
Post-Presidency & The Carter Center	
Define: - Sanitarium - Dissidents - Eradicate	
Provide three examples of how, as a past president, Carter continued to exhibit the qualities of a national leader.	

In what ways did Carter's post-presidential work expand upon or shift from his work while in elected office?	
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End of Life and Memorial Services

How did the locations of Carter's funeral reflect his leadership throughout his life?	
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Watch the Retro Report video “[Jimmy Carter: A Lifelong Commitment to Rights](#)” ([Transcript](#)) and fill out the chart below

What racial inequalities did Carter observe during his youth in rural south Georgia?	
Besides President Carter, who else does Woodruff identify as a partner in advocating for human rights?	
Why does Woodruff describe holding public office as a crucible for a political leader?	

Primary Source Analysis: Governor Jimmy Carter's 1971 Inaugural Address

Directions: Read or listen to the “[Excerpt from Governor Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Address](#)” and answer the following questions.

What words or phrases does Governor Carter use that would support his views on equality and human rights?	
What is the reaction of the crowd to Governor Carter's declaration?	
How did Carter's announcement lead to advancements in equality for all races?	

Read the following quote from Jimmy Carter and fill out the chart.

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.”

Source: [Jimmy Carter](#) | Wikiquote

In your own words, summarize Carter's philosophy regarding personal responsibility and public service based on this quote

Select two leadership traits from our class Chalk Talk list. Based on the quote, reflect on whether Carter demonstrated those traits in his career.

How did Carter's personal ethical framework shape his public political agenda?