From Break-In to Resignation

Trace the events that changed the presidency.

SS24.US2.15b "Outline the events that led to the Watergate scandal and brought about the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the presidency of Gerald Ford."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the break-in, one cover-up action, one turning point in the investigation, the evidence that led to Nixon's resignation, and Ford becoming president. Number these five events in time order.

How Watergate Changed the Presidency

1. On June 17, 1972, police arrested five men breaking into Democratic National Committee offices in Washington's Watergate complex. The burglars had ties to President Richard Nixon's reelection campaign. They were trying to photograph documents and install listening devices. Nixon won reelection that November, but reporters and investigators kept tracing money and connections from the burglars to his campaign. The break-in became a national crisis when evidence pointed beyond the burglars to efforts inside the administration to hide the truth.

2. Nixon's aides paid the burglars to stay quiet and tried to limit the FBI investigation. In 1973, televised Senate hearings exposed parts of this cover-up. A former White House aide then revealed that Nixon had secretly recorded Oval Office conversations. Investigators demanded the tapes, and Nixon resisted. In October, he ordered the firing of the special prosecutor seeking them. The resulting "Saturday Night Massacre" deepened public suspicion that the president was obstructing the investigation.

3. In July 1974, the Supreme Court ordered Nixon to release recordings, and the House Judiciary Committee approved articles of impeachment. A tape released in August showed that Nixon had approved a plan, days after the break-in, to use the CIA to impede the FBI's inquiry. With conviction by the Senate likely, Nixon announced his resignation on August 8 and left office August 9. Vice President Gerald Ford, appointed after Spiro Agnew resigned in 1973, then became president.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the break-in become an investigation of Nixon's administration?

2. What did Nixon's aides do that turned the case into a cover-up?

3. How did the discovery of the Oval Office tapes lead toward Nixon's resignation?

4. What sequence of events made Ford president instead of Spiro Agnew?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence news brief tracing at least four linked events from the break-in to Ford becoming president. Explain how at least one event made the next more likely.

ANSWER KEY

From Break-In to Resignation

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.15b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the break-in, one cover-up action, one turning point in the investigation, the evidence that led to Nixon's resignation, and Ford becoming president. Number these five events in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the break-in become an investigation of Nixon's administration?	**Investigators traced the burglars to Nixon's reelection campaign, and evidence pointed to efforts inside the administration to hide the truth.**
2	What did Nixon's aides do that turned the case into a cover-up?	**They paid the burglars to stay quiet and tried to limit the FBI investigation.**
3	How did the discovery of the Oval Office tapes lead toward Nixon's resignation?	**Investigators demanded the tapes, and the Supreme Court ordered their release. One showed Nixon had approved a plan to impede the FBI inquiry, making conviction by the Senate likely.**
4	What sequence of events made Ford president instead of Spiro Agnew?	**Agnew resigned in 1973, Ford was appointed vice president, and Ford became president when Nixon resigned.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Watergate break-in led investigators to men tied to Nixon's reelection campaign. As investigators followed those connections, Nixon's aides tried to keep the burglars quiet and limit the FBI inquiry. Senate hearings and the discovery of White House recordings brought the cover-up under closer scrutiny. A released tape showed Nixon had approved a plan to impede the inquiry, making his conviction by the Senate likely. Nixon resigned, and Gerald Ford, who had replaced Spiro Agnew as vice president, became president.

Accept other accurate chains of events supported by the passage. The news brief should explain a causal link, not merely list dates.