Service Beyond Office

Read how a former president continued to serve.

USH.C.8.1.E "Describe the legacy of public service exemplified by President Carter's post-public service humanitarian efforts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action in each paragraph that Carter or the Carter Center took after his presidency. Circle a phrase showing the purpose or result of each action.

Jimmy Carter's Work After the White House

1 In 1981, Jimmy Carter left the White House after one term as president. For many former presidents, that moment could mark a retreat from public work. Carter treated it as a change in tools, not a change in purpose. In 1982, he and Rosalynn Carter founded the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The center worked with partners to advance peace, improve health, and strengthen human rights. Carter no longer had the powers of the presidency, but he could bring attention, connections, and steady effort to problems that might otherwise be ignored. His later work asks a larger question: When does a leader's service end?

2 One of the center's longest campaigns targeted Guinea worm disease, a painful infection spread when people drink water containing tiny infected water fleas. Carter Center workers and partners helped communities filter drinking water and keep infected people from entering water sources. These steps broke the parasite's life cycle without a vaccine or a drug that cures the infection. Cases fell sharply worldwide over decades, although the disease has not yet been eradicated. Carter also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, helping build and repair homes alongside other volunteers. Rather than simply speaking about need, he worked with neighbors on practical ways to meet it.

3 The Carter Center also observed elections in countries around the world. Observers checked voting processes and reported whether people could cast ballots freely and whether votes were counted fairly. Their reports could help citizens and leaders identify problems, even though observers could not run another country's election. Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for decades of work to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, advance democracy and human rights, and promote economic and social development. His post-presidency offers a model of public service based not on holding office, but on continuing to work with others for people's well-being.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did founding the Carter Center extend Carter's public service after his presidency?

2. How does the Guinea worm campaign show Carter's approach to helping others after leaving office?

3. How did Carter's Habitat for Humanity work show a kind of public service different from the work of a president?

4. What did election observation add to Carter's legacy of public service, and what limit did observers face?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum plaque about Carter's life after the presidency. Use two different efforts from the passage, explain what each contributed, and end with a sentence about what his example shows public service can be.

Service Beyond Office

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action in each paragraph that Carter or the Carter Center took after his presidency. Circle a phrase showing the purpose or result of each action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did founding the Carter Center extend Carter's public service after his presidency?	**It gave Carter a way to work with partners on peace, health, and human rights after he no longer held presidential power.**
2	How does the Guinea worm campaign show Carter's approach to helping others after leaving office?	**The Carter Center worked with communities on practical prevention steps, including filtering water and keeping infected people out of water sources. Cases fell sharply.**
3	How did Carter's Habitat for Humanity work show a kind of public service different from the work of a president?	**He volunteered alongside others to build and repair homes, helping meet a need through hands-on work rather than presidential authority.**
4	What did election observation add to Carter's legacy of public service, and what limit did observers face?	**It supported fair voting by identifying problems in election processes. Observers could report what they found, but they could not run another country's election.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After leaving the White House, Jimmy Carter kept serving people without the powers of a president. Through the Carter Center, he supported a campaign that helped communities prevent Guinea worm disease by protecting drinking water. He also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, building and repairing homes alongside neighbors. These efforts met different needs, but both depended on cooperation and practical action rather than a government title. His example shows that public service can continue wherever people organize to improve others' lives.

Accept responses that connect specific post-presidency actions to their purposes or effects. For the plaque, students may choose any two distinct efforts described in the passage.