Carter's Lasting Legacy

Weigh the results and limits of a presidency

USH.C.8.1 "Evaluate the foreign and domestic policies, as well as the legacy of President Jimmy Carter. Examine the economic challenges of the 1970s, including stagflation (characterized by slow economic growth, high unemployment..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Carter's actions, circle the challenges he faced, and number two results that shaped his legacy. Use your marks to weigh what his policies achieved and what they could not solve.

A Presidency Under Pressure

1. In 1973, years before Jimmy Carter became president, Arab members of OPEC stopped selling oil to the United States to protest its support for Israel. Gasoline shortages and higher prices pushed Americans to seek smaller cars and conserve fuel. Carter took office in 1977 amid stagflation: slow growth, high unemployment, and rising prices. Another oil disruption followed the 1979 Iranian Revolution, worsening fuel lines and inflation. Carter urged conservation, backed energy development, and created the Department of Energy. These measures aimed to reduce dependence on imported oil, but they could not quickly end the economic strain families felt.

2. At Camp David in 1978, Carter brought Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin together for talks. Carter helped them reach agreements for peace. In 1979, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty: Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, and Egypt recognized Israel. The treaty ended decades of war between them, although it did not settle the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Persian Gulf oil was important to U.S. energy supplies. After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, Carter issued the Carter Doctrine in 1980, warning that attempts by outside powers to control the Persian Gulf would be resisted by the United States.

3. In November 1979, Iranian militants seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held Americans hostage. Carter used diplomacy and economic sanctions, but the standoff continued. An April 1980 rescue attempt failed when equipment problems and a collision in the Iranian desert killed eight U.S. service members. The hostages were freed on January 20, 1981, after 444 days, just as Carter left office. The crisis damaged confidence in his leadership, yet his later service reshaped his legacy. Through the Carter Center, founded after his presidency, he worked to fight diseases and monitor elections, showing that public service can continue beyond elected office.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Carter's energy policies address one cause of economic strain, and what could they not fix quickly?

2. Why can the Camp David negotiations be called a success with limits?

3. How does the earlier OPEC embargo help explain why Carter declared the Persian Gulf important to U.S. interests?

4. How did the length of the Iran hostage crisis and the failed rescue attempt affect judgments of Carter's leadership?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label arguing whether Carter's work after his presidency should change how visitors judge his legacy. Include one presidential achievement, one presidential setback, and one specific example of later service, then explain your judgment.

ANSWER KEY

Carter's Lasting Legacy

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.8.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Carter's actions, circle the challenges he faced, and number two results that shaped his legacy. Use your marks to weigh what his policies achieved and what they could not solve. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Carter's energy policies address one cause of economic strain, and what could they not fix quickly?	**Conservation and energy development aimed to reduce dependence on imported oil, but they could not quickly end the economic strain of stagflation and rising fuel prices.**
2	Why can the Camp David negotiations be called a success with limits?	**They led to an Egypt-Israel peace treaty that ended war between those countries, but the treaty did not settle the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**
3	How does the earlier OPEC embargo help explain why Carter declared the Persian Gulf important to U.S. interests?	**The embargo showed how disrupted oil supplies could cause shortages and higher prices. Persian Gulf oil mattered to U.S. energy supplies, so Carter warned against outside control of the region.**
4	How did the length of the Iran hostage crisis and the failed rescue attempt affect judgments of Carter's leadership?	**The hostages remained captive for 444 days, and the rescue attempt failed with eight U.S. service members killed. The continuing crisis damaged confidence in Carter's leadership.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Carter's work after his presidency should strengthen how visitors judge his legacy. His Camp David negotiations helped Egypt and Israel make peace, but the Iran hostage crisis damaged confidence in his leadership. After leaving office, he worked through the Carter Center to fight diseases and monitor elections. That service shows a lasting commitment to helping others, even though it does not erase the setbacks of his presidency.

Accept well-supported judgments that weigh achievements against limitations. For the museum label, check for exactly four sentences, the three requested examples, and an explained judgment.