

10004

ERA 10: CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES (1968 TO THE PRESENT)  
THEMES: CULTURE, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, POLITICS  
AND CITIZENSHIP

# How the Seventies Changed America

## Guiding Questions

How do historians know when a decade begins and ends?

In what ways have the Seventies shaped America today?

To what extent are the political events of the Seventies overshadowed by the economy?

## Question Focus Examples for Task 24

Although often dismissed as a “frivolous” decade, the Seventies helped define America today.



1970s Collage

DAVE JARBO

## Teacher-to-Teacher

The Lemann article could be used by teachers to unlock the 70's. It's a great stepping stone to the political, economic, and social changes taking place during the decade. Discussions could be generated over topics such as when the Seventies began and ended and how do historians know when a decade begins and ends. Additionally students could debate the changes as being overall more positive or negative. The speeches of Carter and Reagan could also be closely examined in a compare and contrast exercise. Connections could also be made between social and political events, such as the Carter speech and the movie poster or the significance of a hockey game in global context. Students can also consider some events of the 1970s that are missing, including rising environmental concerns/awareness evidenced by the creation of the EPA and the Love Canal evacuation.

**Literature Connection:** *All the President's Men* by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, *Breakfast of Champions* by Kurt Vonnegut, *Watership Down* by Richard Adams

## Contents

- ✦ **How The Seventies Changed America** by Nicholas Lemann  
ARTICLE
- ✦ **Security Officer's Log of the Watergate Office Building for June 17, 1972** IMAGE
- ✦ **"Smoking Gun" Conversation**  
DOCUMENT/AUDIO
- ✦ **Resignation of President Richard Nixon** DOCUMENT
- ✦ **Roe v. Wade** DOCUMENT
- ✦ **October, 1973: The First Energy Crisis** IMAGE
- ✦ **"How to Tell if Your Child is a Potential Hippie"** DOCUMENT
- ✦ **"Crisis of Confidence" Speech** DOCUMENT
- ✦ **Letter from Jimmy Carter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini**  
DOCUMENT
- ✦ **Ronald Reagan's Announcement for Presidential Candidacy** DOCUMENT
- ✦ **Top Historical Events of the 1970's** DOCUMENT

## Recommended Instructional Strategies

- Task 3**  
Unpack the Points
- Task 7**  
Close Reading: Focus Question
- Task 9**  
Close Reading: Rhetoric Devices
- Task 13**  
Form/Content/Context
- Task 23**  
Identifying Claim and Evidence
- Task 24**  
QFT (Question Focus Technique)
- Task 25**  
Document Sourcing

fourscore  
make history