

# Unit 12: Presidential Policies, Politics and Power (1972-2000)

<b>Unit #:</b>	APSDO-00022890	<b>Duration:</b>	2.0 Week(s)	<b>Date(s):</b>	
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**Team:**  
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**Grades:**  
11

**Subjects:**  
Social Studies

## Unit Focus

In this unit, students will examine how presidents responded to challenges facing the country and the impact of presidential leadership on government and American society. The students will examine various crises related to foreign and domestic politics as well as scandals that were a direct result of personal lapses in judgment. In addition to a unit test, students will compare and rank the presidents through research and analysis. Primary instructional materials for this unit will include primary and secondary sources as well as a U.S. History textbook *The American Pageant or The Americans*, maps and or artifacts.

## Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Established Goals	Transfer	
<p><b>Common Core</b> <i>History/Social Studies: 11</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1</i></li> <li>• Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.1</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Connecticut Goals and Standards</b></p>	<p><b>T1</b> (T1) Access and analyze text for context, reliability and accuracy to determine relevance.  <b>T2</b> (T3) Use textual evidence to form generalizations, make predictions and draw conclusions.  <b>T3</b> (T5) Apply social studies concepts and content to make connections to a given situation, problem or challenge.</p>	
	<b>Meaning</b>	
	<b>Understandings</b>	<b>Essential Questions</b>
	<p><b>U1</b> (U102) Governments make decisions on the allocation of resources.  <b>U2</b> (U501) Cultural Practices: Global diversity creates varied perspectives, contributions and challenges.</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> To what extent can beliefs on the political spectrum affect an economy?</p>

- Analyze how public policies promote changes, intended and unintended, in society. *CIV.9-12.18*
- Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. *INQ.9-12.10*
- Critique relationships among governments, civil societies and economic markets. *CIV.9-12.6*
- Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in the sources, the types of sources available and the potential uses of the sources. *INQ.9-12.5*
- Evaluate the credibility of a source by examining how experts value the sources. *INQ.9-12.7*
- Explain how current globalization trends and policies affect economic growth, labor markets, rights of citizens, the environment and resource and income distribution in different nations. *ECO.9-12.9*
- Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question. *INQ.9-12.2*

**U3** (U601) Cooperation: Conflict can have significant costs and benefits for both winners and losers.  
**U4** (U703) Effective leaders have the ability to influence the direction of a group.

**Q2**  
 To what extent is faith in leaders essential?

**Q3**  
 What were the social, economic, political and cultural factors that led to the rise of American Conservatism?

**Q4**  
 To what extent did the "New Conservatives" reach their goals between 1975 and 2000?

**Q5** (Q102) Who has power in a government and how did they gain it?  
**Q6** (Q601) What causes conflict between groups?

**Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill**

**Knowledge**

**Skills**

**K1**  
 Economic and foreign policy challenges undermined the confidence and optimism of Americans and their faith in government

**K2**  
 Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton followed policies which limited the role of the Federal government in the economy and social welfare

**K3**  
 Americans engaged in numerous "Culture Wars", revealing differences in their views of the family, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights and the role of religion in society

**K4**

**S1**  
 Conduct short research task to answer a question or solve a problem

**S2**  
 Cite specific textual evidence from primary and secondary sources to support analysis

**S3**  
 Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims with supporting evidence

**S4**  
 Determine or locate types of sources that help to answer a question

American foreign policy achieved a victory in the Cold War, yet struggled to navigate the responsibility of being the Superpower with conflicts in Iraq, Rwanda and Serbia

**K5**

Essential Concepts/Terms: Stagflation, Gerald Ford, Whip Inflation Now, Jimmy Carter, Iranian Hostage Crisis, Camp David Accords, Deindustrialization, Environmental Accidents, Malaise, Disco, Ronald Reagan, Moral Majority, Supply-Side Economics, Air Traffic Controller's Strike, Deregulation, Star Wars, Evil Empire, Morning in America, Iran-Contra Scandal, Crack epidemic, AIDS Crisis, George H.W. Bush, Operation Desert Storm, LA Race Riots, Election of 1992, Bill Clinton, New Democrats, Triangulation, Don't Ask Don't Tell, Defense of Marriage Act, NAFTA, Foreign Policy Crises in Somalia, Rwanda, and Serbia, Monica Lewinsky Scandal, Digital Revolution, Hate Crimes