



## WHEN THE BORDER VANISHES

### Two Presidents and Oil: Domestic and International Dilemmas

Standard:

- II. Time, Continuity, and Change
- III. People, Places, and Environment
- V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- VI. Power, Authority, and Governance
- VII. Production, Distribution, and Consumption
- IX. Global Connections
- X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Grade Level: 7–12

Objectives:

The student will:

- Analyze the 1973 Oil Crisis during President Nixon’s Administration and the 1979 Oil Crisis during President Carter’s Administration
- Analyze the content and tone of the two speeches
- Compare and contrast the diplomatic and domestic actions of Presidents Nixon and Carter
- Explore the significance of OPEC to the world’s oil production
- Determine the international implications of oil dependency

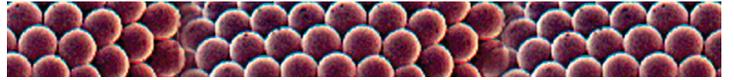
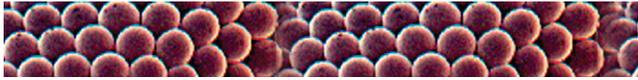
Time: 1–3 class periods

Materials:

Speeches: Nixon’s Energy Crisis speech, November 25, 1973  
Carter’s “Crisis of Confidence” speech, July 15, 1979  
*Chart #1: Two Presidents and Oil*  
*Chart #2: Two Presidents and Oil Answer Key*  
World Map [located in the Toolkit]  
Pictures: 1970s Oil Crises  
Chart: Recent Oil Production

Procedures:

- 1.** Distribute copies of President Richard Nixon’s Energy Crisis Speech, November 25, 1973, and President Jimmy Carter’s “Crisis of Confidence” Speech, July 15, 1979.
- 2.** Read the speeches and complete the information requested in *Chart #1: Two Presidents and Oil*.
- 3.** Review the two speeches.
  - Why is President Carter’s speech called the “Crisis of Confidence” speech? (for analysis of speech:  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/carter/peoplevents/e\\_malaise.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/carter/peoplevents/e_malaise.html))
  - How would you have reacted to President Carter’s speech?
  - Why do you think his speech eventually was referred to as his “malaise” speech?
  - President Nixon’s speech is remembered as significant. Would it have captured your attention as he delivered the speech?
  - What is the cause of each energy crisis?



- Is one speech more detailed than the other, with the details more obvious?
- Does one year, either 1973 or 1979, seem more urgent than the other?

**4.** More information is needed to complete the chart. Specifically, what were the crises that prompted the speeches, and how were the crises resolved?

Options for additional reading for teacher and/or students:

[http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/1979\\_energy\\_crisis/id/1900636](http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/1979_energy_crisis/id/1900636)

[http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/1973\\_oil\\_crisis/id/1900461](http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/1973_oil_crisis/id/1900461)

**5.** Complete chart information based on additional readings and/or instruction.

**6.** Examine the role of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries—often “the” is dropped when using the full name) in these crises. Discuss the formation of OPEC and how its purpose and impact have changed over the years. Identify its members. (There currently are twelve members: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.)

[http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/about\\_us/24.htm](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/24.htm)

<http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,2019120,00.html>

**7.** Distribute copies of a world map. Have students label the OPEC countries. Discuss the distribution of members—not all are in the Middle East.

**8.** Compare the photos from the 1970s. What do these pictures tell us about the oil crises? Additional source—1973 car ads prior to oil crisis:

<http://www.oobject.com/category/oil-crisis-car-ads/>

#### Extension Activities:

- 1.** Discuss the energy situation, especially with gasoline, as the students remember from recent years. Has there been another crisis, or a “near” crisis?
- 2.** Have students analyze the Recent Oil Production Charts. What conclusions can be drawn from lists of producers, consumers, importers, and exporters. ■