

(193) Jimmy Carter

Podcast Length: 20:15

Character Value: **humility**

Health Message: **benefits of outdoors**

Synopsis

Today's episode of The Walking Classroom is about Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States. He was born and raised in Plains, Georgia. After high school, Jimmy Carter attended the United States Naval Academy, serving in the Navy for seven years before returning to Georgia to run the family peanut business when his father died.

Jimmy Carter was elected as a state senator and then governor of Georgia before serving as President of the United States from 1977 to 1981. After his term, he started the Carter Center with his wife, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and continued his work in global health, human rights, and the environment. He was the longest-living U.S. President and died in 2024 at the age of 100.

Objectives

- Identify key facts about Jimmy Carter's life, including his early years in Georgia, military service, and political career.
- Summarize President Carter's contributions to global health, human rights, and the environment.
- Reflect on how President Carter's lifelong dedication to helping others demonstrates the importance of leadership and public service.

Procedure

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary (*included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast*).
 - **rural (adjective)** - an area far from cities with lots of open space, farms, and nature instead of busy streets and skyscrapers. *My grandparents live in a rural area with lots of farms around them.*
 - **discrimination (noun)** - the act of treating some people unfairly because of prejudice. *It's not fair to show discrimination against people just because they are different from you.*
 - **environmentalism (noun)** - caring for the Earth by reducing pollution, preventing harm to nature, and making choices that help the environment survive for the future. *Anyone can practice environmentalism by doing things like picking up trash, recycling, and conserving water.*
 - **renewable energy (noun)** - energy that is made from resources that nature will replace, like wind, water and sunshine; also called clean energy or green power. *The sun and wind are two examples of renewable energy sources because they will never run out.*
 - **humanitarian (noun)** - a person who helps people in need and tries to make the world a better place, especially during natural disasters or when people are hungry, sick, or homeless. *The Red Cross is a famous humanitarian organization that helps people all over the world.*
2. Build background by asking students, "Who was Jimmy Carter? What do you know about him?"
3. Allow time for discussion.
4. Podcast preview: "Do you ever wonder what a President's life is like before and after their time in the White House? Today we're going to learn about Jimmy Carter and his life and accomplishments both before and after the Presidency. Ready? Let's go!"
5. Walk!

Questions for Thought and Discussion

Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

1. What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?

- Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, was born and raised in Plains, Georgia. After high school, he attended the United States Naval Academy, serving in the Navy seven years before returning to Georgia to run the family peanut business when his father died.
- Once he returned to Georgia, besides running the business, he got involved in politics. He was a Georgia State Senator, then governor of Georgia before being elected and serving as President from 1977 to 1981.
- After being President, he returned to Georgia, started the Carter Center with his wife, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and continued his work in global health, human rights, and the environment. He was the longest living U.S. President, dying in December 2024, at the age of 100.

2. What were some of Jimmy Carter’s accomplishments during his presidency, in the United States and abroad?

- Carter was concerned about how much energy people in the United States used. He created the Department of Energy to research other sources of energy, like wind and solar power and encouraged citizens to use these renewable energy sources. He signed legislation to protect the environment, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which doubled the size of the national park system and tripled the wilderness areas. He also supported deregulation, the removal of rules for businesses, in energy, transportation, communications, and finance; and he created the Department of Education. He appointed many women, African Americans, and Hispanics to government jobs, and he strengthened the Social Security system.
- His foreign policy accomplishments included the Panama Canal treaties, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China. His greatest success as president was when he brought Israel and Egypt together at Camp David in Maryland, where they signed a peace treaty called the Camp David Accords. Egypt and Israel have been at peace ever since.

3. With all his accomplishments, Jimmy Carter stayed humble and lived a simple life, continuing to serve others even after the presidency.

a. How did he do that?

- Suggestion: He and his wife, Rosalynn, returned to Plains, to the house they’d moved into in 1961, and he continued to make a difference. He and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center to promote peace and **human rights**. They also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps people build affordable homes. And he continued his environmentalism, by supporting agricultural programs in developing countries and managing his own land to become a certified Tree Farm. And, when he was 92, he had 3800 solar panels installed on his family’s land.

b. What can you learn from Jimmy Carter’s example?

- Suggestion: You can live simply and still accomplish many things, if you stay dedicated to what you believe in and keep working at it. In Jimmy Carter’s case, he never stopped working to make the world a better place, and he did this through promoting peace, helping the poor, and protecting the environment – always serving others.

Jimmy Carter Comprehension Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. **Which of the following is not true of Jimmy Carter?**
 - a. He was born and raised in Plains, Georgia.
 - b. Jimmy Carter attended the U. S. Naval Academy.
 - c. He served as president during the 1800's.
2. **Before becoming president, Jimmy Carter served as**
 - a. an officer in the Air Force.
 - b. a lawyer.
 - c. the governor of Georgia.
3. **Which of the following was not one of Jimmy Carter's accomplishments as president?**
 - a. winning World War II
 - b. bringing about peace between Egypt and Israel with the Camp David Accords
 - c. signing laws to protect the environment
4. **A humanitarian is a person who**
 - a. researches humans and how they live.
 - b. helps people in need and tries to make the world a better place.
 - c. is part of the human race.
5. **According to the podcast, what word would not describe Jimmy Carter?**
 - a. humanitarian
 - b. environmentalist
 - c. selfish
6. **Which of the following is a fact about Jimmy Carter?**
 - a. He was the longest-living U. S. president, dying at the age of 100.
 - b. He was a great example of someone who was always trying to make the world better.
 - c. He was a good role model because he worked hard and never gave up.
7. **Number the events in the order in which they happened (1, 2, 3).**

_____ Jimmy Carter served as president of the United States.

_____ Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter established the Carter Center.

_____ Jimmy Carter served in the United States Navy.
8. **What does Jimmy Carter's work with Habitat for Humanity, through the Carter Center, and for the environment tell us about him?**
 - a. He was not concerned about the world's problems.
 - b. He cared about making the world a better place.
 - c. He wanted to be famous.
9. **Spending as little as twenty minutes outdoors helps concentration.**
 - a. true
 - b. false
10. **Physical activity makes you forgetful.**
 - a. true
 - b. false

Answer key:

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. c
6. a
7. 2, 3, 1
8. b
9. a
10. b