

Watergate

The downfall of Richard Nixon

What the heck is Watergate?

- June 17, 1972: a security guard uncovers an apparent break in the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate apartments in D.C.
- The burglars worked for a group called the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP), led by G. Gordon Liddy
- Five burglars and two Nixon advisors are arrested
- The Washington Post runs an investigation, led by two reporters, Woodward and Bernstein
 - They have a secret informant, nicknamed “deep throat” (yup, really)

How is Nixon involved?

- Nixon sets up a big cover-up
 - Paid \$10,000 in hush money to one aide
 - Threatens retaliation against the Post
- The Senate begins televised hearings, while a grand jury considers indicting those involved
 - Reveals Nixon installed a secret tape recording system in the Oval Office
 - Nixon refuses to give up the tapes, fires the prosecutor in charge of the case
 - Eventually he gives up some of the tapes, but with missing segments, erasures, and gaps, which he blames on his secretary
 - The tapes are transcribed and turned into a book, which sells millions of copies. Americans are fascinated
 - The Supreme Court rules Nixon must give up all tapes

Nixon Leaves Office

- After Supreme Court ruling, House votes to charge him with three articles of impeachment
- Nixon gives up the last tapes, which contain evidence that he knew about the break in AND knowingly tried to cover it up and slow down the CIA's investigation
- Nixon resigns on August 9, 1974. He is pardoned immediately by Gerald Ford, his successor.

Your Job

- Create a political cartoon that highlights the significance of Watergate and Nixon's involvement. You should have an image and a title or caption