

USA Bicentennial

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

Berlin Wall

corruption

hostages

Black Monday

factory

taxes

In 1976, the year of the USA Bicentennial, the country was ready to look forward to a new era of optimism. The country wanted to put the problems of Watergate behind. The movie *Star Wars* opened; the movie *Rocky* was voted an Academy Award for Best Picture. The newly elected President, Jimmy Carter, promised to rid the government of _____. Carter also started the nation thinking about alternative energy sources such as solar or nuclear power (as oil prices rose). Carter also orchestrated a peace accord between traditional enemies Israel and Egypt.



Then, suddenly, the USA seemed powerless to resolve a new crisis in the Middle East as, in 1979, _____ were taken in Iran. Carter was blamed for a pessimistic mood that came over the country. He lost in 1980 to his rival candidate for the Presidency, Ronald Reagan, who promised a stronger military and lower _____.

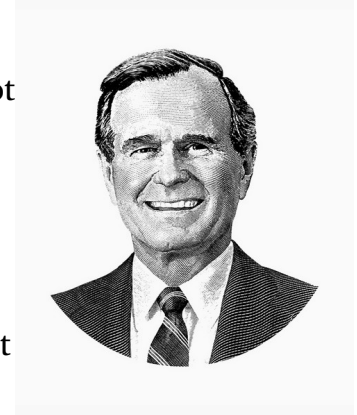


Many of the 225 million Americans believed that the road to the good life was just ahead. For most of the 1980s Wall Street was booming in spite of high inflation ... until “ _____ ,” October 19, 1987. The stock market took a nosedive, sending fear through many

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corporations, and provoked a closer look at the country's financial affairs in general. Nevertheless, Ronald Reagan completed two terms – as the 1980s came to a close, his Vice President George Bush was elected President.

Entering the postindustrial era, the job market was changing – traditional _____ jobs were diminishing in number. Working factory jobs had been satisfactory for supporting a family, but not so in the 1990s. Even though many Americans was experiencing prosperity, those who relied on such jobs were left out. New technologies flourished; computers started appearing in workplaces and in homes. Computers appeared where they hadn't been seen before – in medicine, in video games, movies, and banking.



Women also came into view in more workplaces while they continued to manage their homes and families; they were know as “supermoms.”

The 1990s was a decade of great change, domestically and abroad. On the world stage, the _____ had already fallen and in 1991 the Soviet Union officially decentralized - the Cold War ended. Domestically, drugs, violence and homelessness were key issues. As Americans began looking inward at domestic problems; they elected Bill Clinton to the White House. Americans also looked outward at the environment and the future of fragile planet Earth.



Bicentennial Questions ~

- 1) In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- 2) What was the main purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
- 3) Who did the authors intend their audience to be?
- 4) Was issuing the Declaration the first time the colonists relayed their grievances to the British King and Parliament? Explain the reasoning for your answer.