

**CHAPTER**  
**24**

**GUIDED READING** *Watergate: Nixon's Downfall*

**Section 2**

As you read about Watergate, answer the questions shown on the following time line.

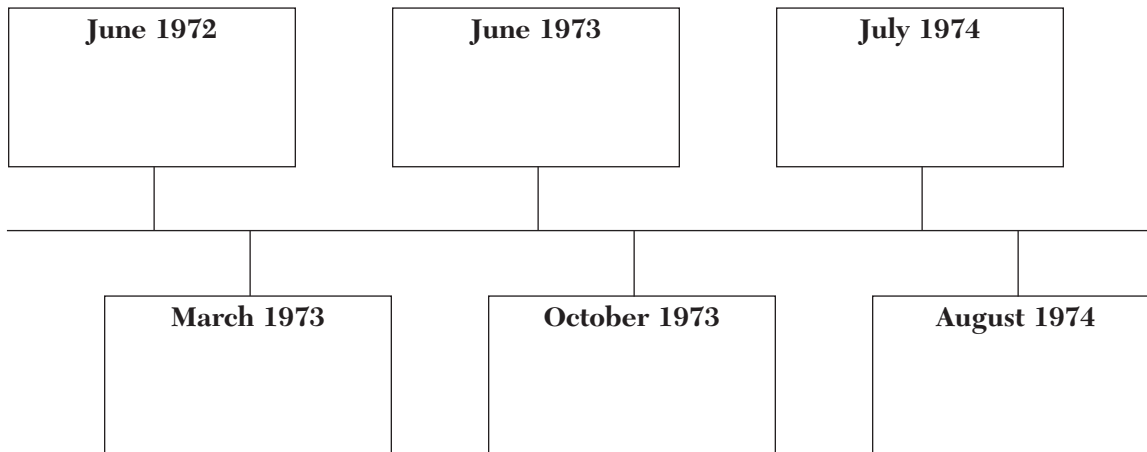
<b>1972</b>			
<b>June</b>	<b>Break-in at DNC campaign office</b>	→	1. How were the "plumbers" connected to President Nixon?
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Nixon wins reelection.</b>		
<b>1973</b>			
<b>Jan.</b>	<b>Plumbers go on trial.</b>	→	2. Who was the judge? Why did he hand out maximum sentences?  3. How were Mitchell and Dean connected to Nixon?  4. How were Haldeman and Erlichman connected to Nixon?  5. What did the following men tell the Senate about Nixon? a. Dean b. Butterfield  6. Who was fired or forced to resign in the "massacre"?
<b>Mar.</b>	<b>Mitchell and Dean are implicated.</b>	→	
<b>April</b>	<b>Dean is fired; Haldeman and Erlichman resign.</b>	→	
<b>May</b>	<b>Senate opens Watergate hearings.</b>	→	
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Saturday Night Massacre</b>	→	
<b>1974</b>			
<b>April</b>	<b>Edited transcripts of tapes are released.</b>	→	7. Why weren't investigators satisfied with the transcripts?  8. What did the tapes reveal?
<b>July</b>	<b>Supreme Court orders surrender of tapes.</b>		
<b>Aug.</b>	<b>House committee adopts impeachment articles.</b>	→	
	<b>Unedited tapes are released.</b>	→	
	<b>Nixon resigns.</b>		

**CHAPTER**  
**24**  
**Section 2**

**RETEACHING ACTIVITY** *Watergate: Nixon's Downfall*

**Sequencing**

**A.** Complete the time line below by describing the key events of the Watergate scandal.



**Main Ideas**

**B.** Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. Why did Vice President Spiro Agnew resign?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the House Judiciary Committee charge President Nixon with?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the legacy of Watergate?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER  
**24**

## Section 2

**PRIMARY SOURCE** *from All the President's Men*  
by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward

*Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein first broke the Watergate story. As you read this excerpt from their book on the scandal, consider why they made an unlikely team.*

June 17, 1972. Nine o'clock Saturday morning. Early for the telephone. Woodward fumbled for the receiver and snapped awake. The city editor of the *Washington Post* was on the line. Five men had been arrested earlier that morning in a burglary at Democratic headquarters, carrying photographic equipment and electronic gear. Could he come in?

Woodward had worked for the *Post* for only nine months and was always looking for a good Saturday assignment, but this didn't sound like one. A burglary at the local Democratic headquarters was too much like most of what he had been doing—investigative pieces on unsanitary restaurants and small-time police corruption. Woodward had hoped he had broken out of that; he had just finished a series of stories on the attempted assassination of Alabama Governor George Wallace. Now, it seemed, he was back in the same old slot.

Woodward left his one-room apartment in downtown Washington and walked the six blocks to the *Post*. The newspaper's mammoth newsroom—over 150 feet square with rows of brightly colored desks set on an acre of sound-absorbing carpet—is usually quiet on Saturday morning. . . . As Woodward stopped to pick up his mail and telephone messages at the front of the newsroom, he noticed unusual activity around the city desk. He checked in with the city editor and learned with surprise that the burglars had not broken into the small local Democratic Party office but the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate office-apartment-hotel complex. . . .

As Woodward began making phone calls, he noticed that Bernstein, one of the paper's two Virginia political reporters, was working on the burglary story too.

Oh God, not Bernstein, Woodward thought, recalling several office tales about Bernstein's ability to push his way into a good story and get his byline on it.

That morning, Bernstein had Xeroxed copies of notes from reporters at the scene and informed the city editor that he would make some more checks.

The city editor had shrugged his acceptance, and Bernstein had begun a series of phone calls to everybody at the Watergate he could reach—desk clerks, bellmen, maids in the housekeeping department, waiters in the restaurant.

Bernstein looked across the newsroom. There was a pillar between his desk and Woodward's, about 25 feet away. He stepped back several paces. It appeared that Woodward was also working on the story. That figured, Bernstein thought. Bob Woodward was a prima donna who played heavily at office politics. Yale. A veteran of the Navy officer corps. Lawns, greensward, staterooms and grass tennis courts, Bernstein guessed, but probably not enough pavement for him to be good at investigative reporting. Bernstein knew that Woodward couldn't write very well. One office rumor had it that English was not Woodward's native language.

Bernstein was a college dropout. He had started as a copy boy at the *Washington Star* when he was 16, become a full-time reporter at 19, and had worked at the *Post* since 1966. He occasionally did investigative series, had covered the courts and city hall, and liked to do long, discursive pieces about the capital's people and neighborhoods.

Woodward knew that Bernstein occasionally wrote about rock music for the *Post*. That figured. When he learned that Bernstein sometimes reviewed classical music, he choked that down with difficulty. Bernstein looked like one of those counterculture journalists that Woodward despised. Bernstein thought that Woodward's rapid rise at the *Post* had less to do with his ability than his Establishment credentials.

They had never worked on a story together.

*from Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, All the President's Men (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1974), 13–15.*

### Research Option

Find and read a *Washington Post* article about Watergate that was written by Woodward and Bernstein. Then write a summary of the article.

CHAPTER  
**24**

Section 2

AMERICAN LIVES

# Barbara Jordan

## *Brilliant Speaker, Able Legislator*

*"We are a people in search of a national community, attempting to fulfill our national purpose, to create and sustain a society in which all of us are equal."*  
—Barbara Jordan, keynote speech to the Democratic National Convention (1976)

Barbara Jordan (1936–1996) impressed millions of Americans with the eloquence of her words. She impressed colleagues inside the legislatures where she served with her ability to get things done.

At age 16, Jordan won a national contest in speechmaking. She later led her college debating team to a number of championships. After graduating from law school, she returned to Texas and opened a private practice. Soon, Jordan became involved in politics. In 1960, she organized a get-out-the-vote drive that won an unprecedented 80-percent turnout among black voters in her home county. She twice lost races for the Texas House of Representatives. In 1966, however, she won election to the Texas Senate—the first African American elected since 1883 and the first woman ever.

In the Senate, Jordan quickly won admiration for her intelligence and her political skills. She did not want to change the Senate's ways, she said, but to get things done. She pushed the Senate to pass new laws protecting the environment, setting a minimum wage, and fighting job discrimination. In her six years in the Senate, half the bills she introduced became law.

In 1972, Jordan won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Two years later, she rose to national attention. She was part of the Judiciary Committee that debated whether to impeach President Richard Nixon for his involvement in the cover-up of the Watergate affair. Jordan's speech—televised live across the nation—was powerful. She pointed out that as an African-American woman she had not originally been "included" in the Constitution. Now, she said, she was included. Then she vowed, "I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator in . . . the destruction of the Constitution."

Her speechmaking ability brought her fame again two years later. Her keynote address at the 1976 Democratic National Convention electrified the crowd. Many called for her to be named as the party's vice-presidential candidate. Later that year,

a magazine surveyed Americans to find who they would most like to see as the first woman president. Jordan's name topped the list.

Jordan transferred her success in the Texas legislature to the national Congress. She worked for education and the environment, racial justice, and economic opportunity. Many people were dismayed in 1979 when she retired from the House. She became a teacher at the University of Texas, where her courses in policy and political ethics were always in demand.

Though Jordan no longer held elected office, she continued to speak out on issues that she cared about. She helped start a group that backed liberal causes. She served as a special advisor to the governor of Texas on ethics in government and chaired a presidential commission that studied immigration.

Jordan suffered many illnesses in her later years, but the magic and power of her voice continued. Speaking from a wheelchair, she brought the crowd to its feet at the Democrats' 1992 convention. In 1994 she testified in Congress about a new immigration law. "I would be the last person to claim that our nation is perfect," she said. "but we have a kind of perfection in us because our founding principle is universal—that we are all created equal regardless of race, religion, or national ancestry." That same year Jordan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

### Questions

1. What did Jordan mean by saying that our "national purpose" was to "create and sustain a society in which all of us are equal"?
2. Was Jordan an effective lawmaker? Explain your answer.
3. Why did Jordan say, in 1974, that she would not allow the Constitution to be destroyed?