

# Amending The Constitution

## Pre-Visit Activities

*A Program for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

*Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum*

GERALD R. FORD



PRESIDENTIAL  
LIBRARY & MUSEUM

# Pre-Visit Preparation

## Key Vocabulary

Abridged  
Amendment  
Amendment Process  
Basic Freedoms  
Bill of Rights  
Cabinet  
Confirm  
Constitution  
Declaration of Independence  
Equality  
Executive Branch

Individual Rights  
Legislative Branch  
Liberty  
Nominate  
President  
President Pro-tempore  
Ratify  
Representative  
Resign  
Scandal  
Senator

## Student Stations

Station 1: The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Station 2: The Equal Rights Amendment

Station 3: Betty Ford

Station 4: Gerald R. Ford

Station 5: Watergate

Station 6: Overview of the Amendment Process and  
Gerald Ford Becomes Vice President

*A special thank you to Grand Rapids Public School teachers Heather Lewis and Amy Holubeck for their significant contributions to the pre-visit activities included in Amending the Constitution.*

# Station 1:

The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Online Quizlet

<https://quizlet.com/76734940/flashcards>

&

Summarizer

# *Constitution of the United States*

## Provisions of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

*Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.*

### **Section 1.**

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

### **Section 2.**

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

### **Section 3.**

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

### **Section 4.**

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

**Note:** Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Station 1: The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Student Page

Do the Quizlet flashcards at <https://quizlet.com/76734940/flashcards>

1. Read each section of the Amendment.
2. Summarize each section in your own words.

Section 1	Section 2
Section 3	Section 4

# Station 2

Equal Rights Amendment

Text

Summary

Political Button Activity

# ERA text

## **Section 1.**

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

## **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

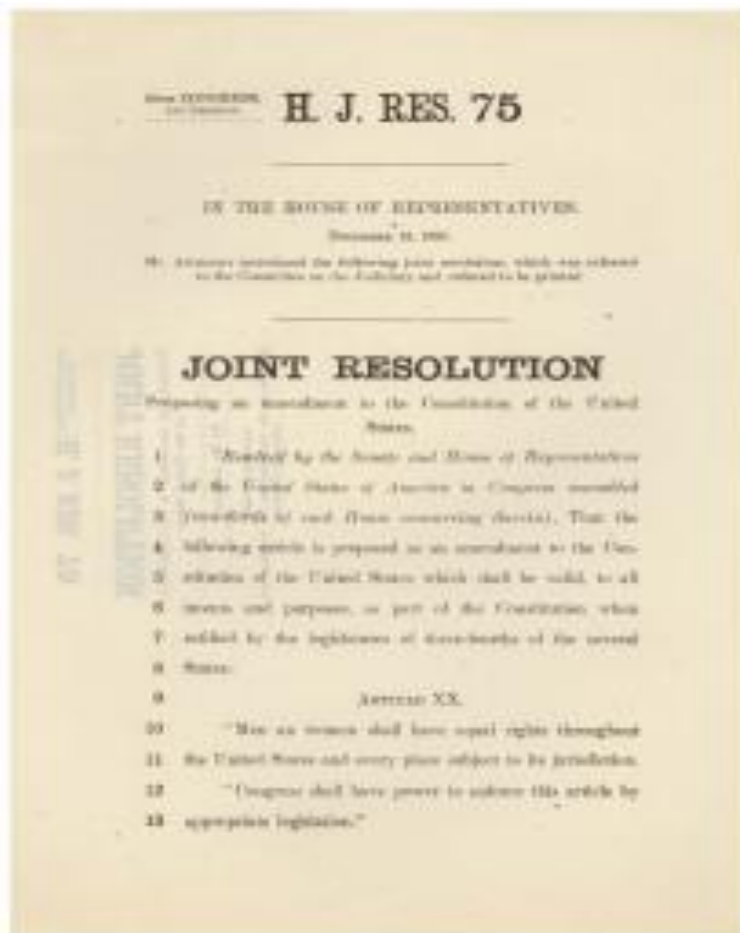
## **Section 3.**

This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

# The Equal Rights Amendment: The Most Popular Never-Ratified Amendment

Posted on [December 5, 2013](#) by [Christine](#)

Next week marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first time the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was introduced in Congress. The purpose of the ERA was to establish legal gender equality. It was a proposed amendment to the Constitution which stated, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”



While the ERA failed to become part of the Constitution, it remains the most popular proposed amendment to the Constitution. About ten percent—over 1,100—of all the amendments introduced in Congress have been for the ERA. Three documents from the records of Congress can help your students understand why an amendment with considerable support ultimately failed to meet the constitutional bar for ratification.

The Equal Rights Amendment was drafted in 1923 by well-known women’s rights activist Alice Paul. It was first introduced in Congress on December 13 by Representative Daniel Anthony (R-KS), who was suffragette Susan B. Anthony’s nephew. The debate over the ERA continued for decades, and the ERA was reintroduced in every Congress until 1972.

*H.J. Res. 75, Proposing an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, December 13, 1923. From the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, National Archives Identifier [7452156](#)*

Central to the ERA debate was the argument over the value of protective legislation for women. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were many laws designed to protect women. These laws excluded women from certain jobs in some professions that were deemed too physically difficult for women’s fragile physiques. Some laws regulated the hours a woman could work so she would still have time to take care of her children. Those who supported protective legislation believed that an equal rights amendment would void this type of law and leave women open to exploitation.



13119 Dicky St.  
Shiloh, Ga. 30606  
Sept. 9, 1971

Rep. Don Edwards  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Edwards,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment, H.R. Res. 220.

The anti-protective, isolationist and conservative of women's lib main purpose seems to be to downgrade the survival vocation of career-women, have the government play babysitter, and have women feel subservient and aren't competing with men in the business world.

Women, of course, should receive equal pay for equal work, but to make it seem that a woman will find her fulfillment in searching for some traditionally male position just isn't so. Having worked in the personnel field a number of years before taking on the more challenging role of wife-mother-businessman, I am sure that most women don't have that exciting a job—many are doing, frustrating and dead-end.

I feel that if the aim of women's lib are realized it will be a big step down for women. If more women worked for a few years BEFORE marriage, they might come to a greater appreciation of the responsibility involved in rearing a family. What the high rate of crime, venereal disease, drug abuse and suicide among the young, and lack of respect for God and country, it would seem women are failing terribly in their most important job.

Please don't help the women's lib movement, but work toward restoring a higher regard for family life, which would greatly improve our country.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Thomas Zeko

Letter from Mrs. Thomas Zeko against ERA, September 9, 1971. From the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Proponents of the ERA felt that protective legislation enforced women's status as second class citizens and that absolute legal equality was necessary to combat discrimination. When Representative Martha Griffiths (D-MI) led the House to a vote on the ERA during 1970s, for example, she asserted that protective laws only confined women to poorly paying occupations with little opportunity for advancement. She also argued that protective legislation limiting working hours did not stop women from holding multiple, low salary positions, but put jobs like chief executive out of reach.

Both traditionalists, who believed that women belonged in the home taking care of the family, and protectionist feminists were vehemently opposed to the ERA's central demand for equality. This coalition managed to prevent the ERA from passing Congress, despite its reintroduction in every Congress from 1923 to 1972.

Letter from Liz Carpenter in support of ERA, September 23, 1971. From the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1970, after decades of receiving little attention and getting bottled up in committee, congressional hearings were held and the amendment was given serious consideration. By March 1972 the ERA had been approved by 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress and was sent to the states for ratification. Twenty-two states quickly ratified the amendment in 1972. But when the final deadline for ratification arrived in 1982, the constitutionally required number of ratifications—3/4 of the states—had not been attained. It was three states short. Although the ERA continues to be introduced in each Congress, it has never again reached the level of support it had in 1972.

**Liz Carpenter**  
4781 Woodley Lane, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20024  
September 23, 1971

Dear Congressman,

As you know, through the years women have been stamped upon, kept down and slighted upon. Still we find something to see in love -- and I will be glad to say this again to every one of you after the Equal Rights Amendment is passed without crippling amendments.

As you know, this issue has been with us since 1920, when women were given the vote. It would have passed by now except for being bogged up by the sorry issue of "protective" legislation for women.

It is high time our congress passed that more "protective" laws about women like liquor, and please keep women out of jobs where they'd life be hurt. Don't a three-year-old child die.

Don't be fooled by the headlines coined by the Amendment's opponents. Women will gladly trade protective laws for some equal pay and equal rights.

I hope very much that you will give this your real support. I have traveled 100,000 miles this past year, and one thing is clear -- women are ready for it. The country is ready for it. Won't you be with us?

Sincerely,  
Liz Carpenter

P.S. We need your help.  
The Congresswoman

Share these documents with your students to introduce the controversy over the Equal Rights Amendment. Get them to consider the timing—that the amendment was first introduced right after woman suffrage was secured, and came to fruition during the era of feminism. Pose these questions:

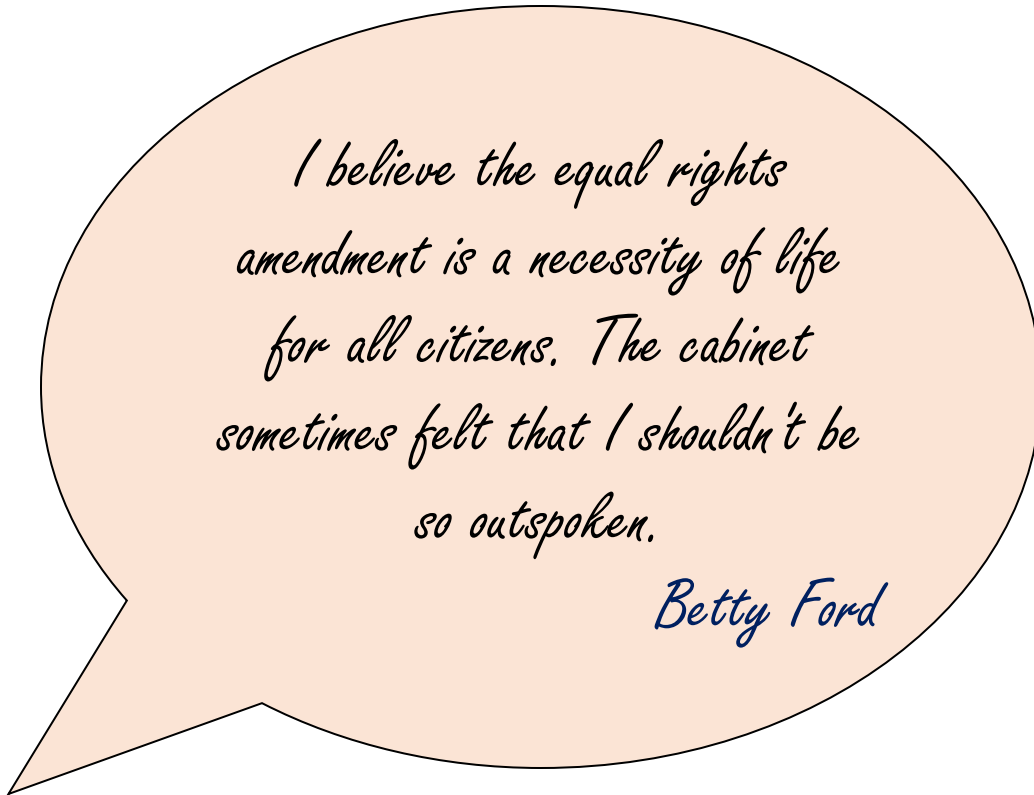
- *Why did these two women write to Congress?*
- *Why were some women opposed to equal rights for women?*
- *Why did some feel it was needed? Was an equal rights amendment necessary in 1971? Is it necessary today?*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

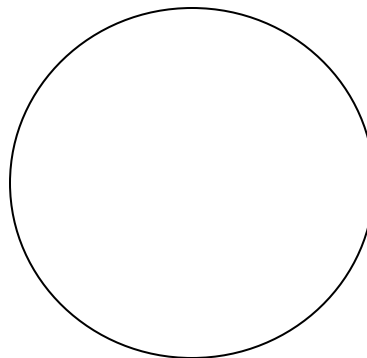
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Station 2: Equal Rights Amendment – Student Page



Design a Campaign Button About the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Design a campaign button that tells people what you believe about the Equal Rights Amendment. You will want your design to be simple while still getting your message across. It can include words and drawings. Your design can then be made into a button. Use the template below.



# Station 3

# Betty Ford

Biography with  
Thinking Map

Political Cartoon with Analysis Activity

# Betty Ford Biography



Betty Bloomer, ca. 1938.

Elizabeth Anne (Betty) Bloomer was born in Chicago on April 8, 1918 and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is the third child and only daughter of Hortense Neahr and William Stephenson Bloomer.

At an early age, Betty Bloomer developed a passion for dance. Upon graduation from Central High School in 1936, she attended the Bennington School of Dance, in Vermont. While studying there she met and began her long association with choreographer Martha Graham. She continued her studies in New York City, becoming a member of Graham's Auxiliary Performance Troupe and performing at Carnegie Hall.

Close family ties took Betty Bloomer back to Grand Rapids in 1941. She became fashion coordinator for Herpolsheimer's, a local department store, and continued her interest in dance. She also worked with handicapped children, helping them experience the joy of rhythm and movement in dance. In 1942 she married William Warren. The union did not last, and they divorced amicably several years later.

In 1947 a friend introduced her to Gerald R. Ford, Jr., a young lawyer who had served as Navy lieutenant during World War II. By February 1948 the couple was engaged to be married. Their wedding took place on October 15, 1948, two weeks before Mr. Ford was elected to his first term in Congress. They moved to Washington, D.C.

where he served as member of the House of Representatives for 25 years.

While in Congress, the Fords lived in Alexandria, Virginia. Mrs. Ford quickly assumed the tasks of a congressional spouse of the era, spending much of her time in volunteer work with the Congressional Wives Club, the 81st Congress Club, and the National Federation of Republican Women.

The Fords became the parents of four children: Michael Gerald, born March 14, 1950; John Gardner, born March 16, 1952; Steven Meigs, born May 19, 1956; and Susan Elizabeth, born July 6, 1957.

By 1973 the Fords were planning retirement from Congress when a turn of political events shook the nation and reshaped their own future. When Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned amidst a scandal, President Nixon nominated Congressman Ford to replace Agnew. After President Nixon himself resigned on August 9, 1974, Gerald Ford took the oath of office as 38th President of the United States.

As the new first lady, Betty Ford immediately revealed the openness and good-natured candor that became her trademark. She held her first press conference on September 4, 1974. Expressing herself with humor and forthrightness on controversial issues of the day, she answered questions about women in politics, abortion rights, and a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer later that month, she broke with social conventions by fostering public discussion of her diagnosis and treatment.

During her tenure as first lady, Betty Ford addressed public issues that were important to her. She was an outspoken advocate of women's rights and aspirations in an era when there was much debate on the matter, encouraged the appointment of more women to senior government posts, supported passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. On the CBS show 60 Minutes, Mrs. Ford candidly shared her opinions on provocative issues. Her

statements drew the ire of many conservatives. She continued to promote programs for handicapped children and brought public attention to the importance of the performing arts.

Mrs. Ford did not shirk the extensive social duties of a first lady, as she and her husband hosted numerous State dinners and other events, bringing an informality and warmth that guests and the nation welcomed. In 1975 she accompanied the president in journeys to fourteen countries, from China to the Vatican.

Betty Ford was an enthusiastic supporter of her husband during the 1976 presidential election campaign. She made several speaking tours throughout the east and mid-west. Her popularity was reflected on lapel buttons that proclaimed "Betty's Husband For President!" When Gerald Ford was defeated by former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, the couple left Washington and moved to Rancho Mirage, California.

In 1978 her prescription drug and alcohol use led to a family intervention and her self-admittance to Long Beach Naval Hospital for treatment. In facing her personal problems, Betty Ford again dealt openly and honestly with the public. She became an active and outspoken champion of improved awareness, education, and treatment for alcohol and other drug dependencies.

In 1982, Ambassador Leonard Firestone, joined Mrs. Ford in co-founding the non-profit Betty Ford

Center at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California. Mrs. Ford worked tirelessly to raise funds and to help research and design treatments to assist men, women, and families in recovery from alcoholism and other drug dependency. Today, The Betty Ford Center is regarded as one of the most outstanding treatment facilities in the world.

Mrs. Ford has been the recipient of many honors and awards. In 1991 she was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George H. W. Bush for providing "selfless, strong, and refreshing leadership on a number of issues." In 1999 President and Mrs. Ford were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for "dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions."

Mrs. Ford has passed the leadership of the Betty Ford Center to her daughter, Susan Ford Bales, but she remains active and interested in the work that is done there. She continues to reside in Rancho Mirage, California.

After her husband's death on December 26, 2006, Mrs. Ford led her family and the nation with grace and strength through several days of national memorial observances. The world has come to expect such strength and guidance from the woman whose Grand Rapids upbringing helped her become an outstanding and well-loved first lady.





FOR MRS BERT FORD and ALL THE GANS

Paul Donald  
8/14/75



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Station 3: Betty Ford – Student Page

1. Read the Betty Ford Biography
2. Create a thinking map (ex: bubble map) summarizing the main points of the biography.
3. Study the political cartoon regarding Betty Ford.
4. Answer the questions related to the cartoon and write a short analysis of your interpretation.

Betty Ford Biography Thinking Map:

Betty Ford Political Cartoon Questions and Analysis:

What is the political cartoon saying?	Why is it saying it?	What does this mean for the United States?

# Station 4

## Gerald R. Ford

Biography with  
Thinking Map

Political Cartoon with Analysis Activity

## Gerald R. Ford Biography



Gerald Ford as a student at Madison Elementary School, ca. 1923.

Gerald Rudolph Ford, the 38th President of the United States, was born Leslie Lynch King, Jr., the son of Leslie Lynch King and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King, on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska. His parents separated and his mother took him to Grand Rapids, Michigan to live with her parents. On February 1, 1916, Dorothy King married Gerald R. Ford, a paint salesman. The Fords began calling her son Gerald R. Ford, Jr., although his name was not legally changed until December 3, 1935. The future president grew up in a close-knit family which included three younger half-brothers, Thomas, Richard, and James.

Ford attended South High School in Grand Rapids, where he excelled scholastically and athletically. He was also active in scouting, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in November 1927.

From 1931 to 1935 Ford attended the University of Michigan. He graduated with a B.A. degree in June 1935. A gifted athlete, Ford played on the University's national championship football teams in 1932 and 1933. He received offers from two professional football teams, the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers, but chose instead to take a position as boxing coach and assistant varsity football coach at Yale hoping to attend law school there. Yale admitted him in the spring of 1938. Ford earned his LL.B. degree in 1941, graduating in the top 25 percent of his class. His introduction to

politics came in the summer of 1940 when he worked in Wendell Willkie's presidential campaign.

After returning to Michigan and passing his bar exam, Ford and Philip A. Buchen (who later served on Ford's White House staff as Counsel to the President), set up a law partnership in Grand Rapids.

In April 1942 Ford joined the U.S. Naval Reserve receiving a commission as an ensign. In the spring of 1943 he began service on the light aircraft carrier USS *MONTEREY*. He was first assigned as athletic director and gunnery division officer, then as assistant navigator with the *MONTEREY* which took part in most of the major operations in the South Pacific. His closest call with death came during a vicious typhoon in the Philippine Sea in December 1944. He came within inches of being swept overboard while the storm raged. Ford spent the remainder of the war ashore and was discharged as a lieutenant commander in February 1946.

When he returned to Grand Rapids Ford became a partner in the local law firm of Butterfield, Keeney, and Amberg. With the encouragement of his stepfather and Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Ford decided to challenge Bartel Jonkman for the Republican nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1948 election. He won the nomination.

During the height of the campaign Gerald Ford married Elizabeth Anne Bloomer Warren. They had four children: Michael Gerald, born March 14, 1950; John Gardner, born March 16, 1952; Steven Meigs, born May 19, 1956; and Susan Elizabeth, born July 6, 1957.

Gerald Ford served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 1949 to December 6, 1973, being reelected twelve times. Ford's ambition was to become Speaker of the House.

In 1963 President Johnson appointed Ford to the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In both the 1968 and 1972 elections Ford was a loyal supporter of Richard Nixon, who had been a friend for many years. Because the Republicans did not attain a majority in the House, Ford was unable to reach his ultimate political goal--to be Speaker of the House. When Spiro Agnew resigned the office of Vice President of the United States late in 1973, President Nixon was empowered by the 25th Amendment to appoint a new vice president. He chose Gerald R. Ford. Ford was confirmed and sworn in on December 6, 1973.

The specter of the Watergate scandal, the break-in at Democratic headquarters during the 1972 campaign and the ensuing cover-up by Nixon administration officials, hung over Ford's nine-month tenure as vice president. When it became apparent that evidence, public opinion, and the mood in Congress were all pointing toward impeachment, Nixon became the first president in U.S. history to resign from that office.

Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as President of the United States on August 9, 1974. Within the month Ford nominated Nelson Rockefeller for vice president.

One of the most difficult decisions of Ford's presidency was made just a month after he took office. Ford decided to grant a pardon to Richard

Nixon prior to the filing of any formal criminal charges. Public reaction was mostly negative to the pardon.

In foreign policy, Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger continued the policy of detente with the Soviet Union and "shuttle diplomacy" in the Middle East. Ford's personal diplomacy was highlighted by trips to Japan and China, a 10-day European tour, as well as the reception of numerous foreign heads of state, many of whom came in observance of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976.

On two separate trips to California in September 1975 Ford was the target of assassination attempts.

During the 1976 campaign, Ford fought off a strong challenge by Ronald Reagan to gain the Republican nomination. He chose Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate and succeeded in narrowing Democrat Jimmy Carter's large lead in the polls, but finally lost one of the closest elections in history.

After leaving office, President and Mrs. Ford moved to California. The former president was the recipient of numerous awards and honors by many civic organizations.

President Ford died on December 26, 2006. After ceremonies in California, Washington, and Grand Rapids, he was interred on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids.

# THE MENDER

GERALD R. FORD  
1913 - 2006



Steve Greenberg  
steve@greenberg-art.com

Steve Greenberg  
VENTURA COUNTY STAR 2006

Steve Greenberg, Ventura County Star, 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 4: Gerald R. Ford – Student Page**

5. Read the Gerald R. Ford Biography
6. Create a thinking map (ex: bubble map) summarizing the main points of the biography.
7. Study the political cartoon regarding Gerald Ford.
8. Answer the questions related to the cartoon and write a short analysis of your interpretation.

Gerald Ford Biography Thinking Map:

Gerald Ford Political Cartoon Questions and Analysis:

What is the political cartoon saying?	Why is it saying it?	What does this mean for the United States?
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# Station 5: Watergate

Website

[http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate\\_files/index.html](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate_files/index.html)

&

Outline

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Station 5: Watergate – Student Page

1. Watch The Watergate Scandal at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9rfEVWA2Ig>.
2. Fill in the outline below as you watch, pausing as needed.
3. Visit the Watergate website at [http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate\\_files/index.html](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate_files/index.html)
4. Take notes on those involved and the timelines.

### Video: The Watergate Scandal (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9rfEVWA2Ig>)

1. What did the five men do?
2. What did the FBI discover?
3. What did the Watergate Senate Committee discover?
4. What did President Nixon repeatedly try to do?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
5. What did President Nixon's supporters do?
6. The FBI found that ...
7. What was this for?
8. What did President Nixon end up doing?



9. What did Gerald R. Ford do?

**Look up the word Pardon.**

What does it mean for someone to be pardoned?

Why was this circumstance a scandal? Use complete sentences. Think it through. (Hint: Think about what the office of the President means to our country.)

Notes on the Watergate Website:

[http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate\\_files/index.html](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/watergate_files/index.html)

# Station 6:

## Overview of the Amendment Process

### Ford Becomes Vice President

Brief Amendment Process Narrative

&

Timeline of Gerald Ford Becoming Vice President  
Under the Terms of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

&

Video of Gerald Ford's Vice Presidential  
Confirmation Hearings

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/amendment25/25thamendment.html>

# The Amendment Process

## How Amendments Are Made:

It takes two steps to add an amendment to the United States Constitution:

**Step 1: Proposal** – An amendment can be proposed by either a two-thirds vote in Congress, including both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or a national convention made up of two-thirds of the states. All our current amendments were proposed by Congress.

**Step 2: Ratification** – Next, the amendment has to be ratified. It can be ratified by either three-fourths of the state legislatures or by state conventions in three-fourths of the states. Only the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment used the state convention method.

## A Vice Presidential Resignation:

In 1973, Richard Nixon's Vice President, Spiro Agnew, was investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for illegal activities like tax fraud, bribery, and more. On October 10, 1973, in the midst of this scandal, Vice President Agnew resigned. President Nixon then became the first President to use the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to replace Mr. Agnew. He asked Gerald Ford, who was the Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, to compile a list of possible vice presidential candidates. Gerald Ford's Recommendations are in the letter on the next page. After talking with his advisors and giving serious thought to these suggestions, Richard Nixon made his decision ...



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

GERALD R. FORD  
MINORITY LEADER

October 11, 1973

Dear Mr. President:

On the basis of the criteria outlined by you at the meeting in your office I am recommending the following in the order of my preference:

1. John Connally
2. Mel Laird
3. Nelson Rockefeller or Ronald Reagan

I will not go into the reasons for my views as I'm sure you are familiar with reasons in each instance.

You can rest assured that I will fully cooperate and assist in this and all other problems in the months ahead.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

The President  
The White House

# Using the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Date	Event
9/26/1973	House Minority Leader Ford gives his views on the charges against Vice President Agnew. He believes that a House Investigation should be conducted in order to give Agnew a fair hearing, and that the House should act as soon as possible.
10/10/1973	Not knowing that Nixon would nominate him to be the next Vice President, Ford comments on Agnew's resignation, and what he thinks the next steps by Congress should be.  Upon Agnew's resignation, President Nixon requests that members of the Cabinet and Congress submit to him their recommendations for a Vice Presidential nominee.
10/11/1973	Congressman J. William Stanton of Ohio, submits a recommendation to President Nixon.  Ford submits his own recommendations to Nixon.
10/12/1973	President Nixon nominates House Minority Leader Ford to be Vice President. He is the first Vice President to be nominated under the 25 <sup>th</sup> Amendment.
10/13/1973	The FBI begins a background investigation of Ford, the largest and most intensive investigation ever of a candidate for public office. During its investigation, the FBI uses 350 special agents, interviews more than 1,000 witnesses, and compiles 1,700 pages of reports.
10/16/1973	Ford submits documents and information to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for use in considering his nomination.
10/30/1973	Ford seeks advice from Hubert Humphrey, Vice President under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Humphrey writes Ford a letter explaining the responsibilities of the Vice President, the power they hold, and suggestions on what the Vice President should do while in office.
11/1/1973	The Senate Judiciary Committee begins its confirmation hearings on Ford's nomination as Vice President.
11/15/1973	The House Judiciary Committee begins its confirmation hearings on Ford's nomination as Vice President.  Edward Hutchinson, Congressman from Michigan and close friend of Ford, speaks to the House Judiciary Committee on Ford's behalf.
11/19/1973	Gerald Ford writes an essay on what the Vice Presidency means to him.

11/27/1973

The Senate confirms Ford's nomination by a vote of 92 – 3.

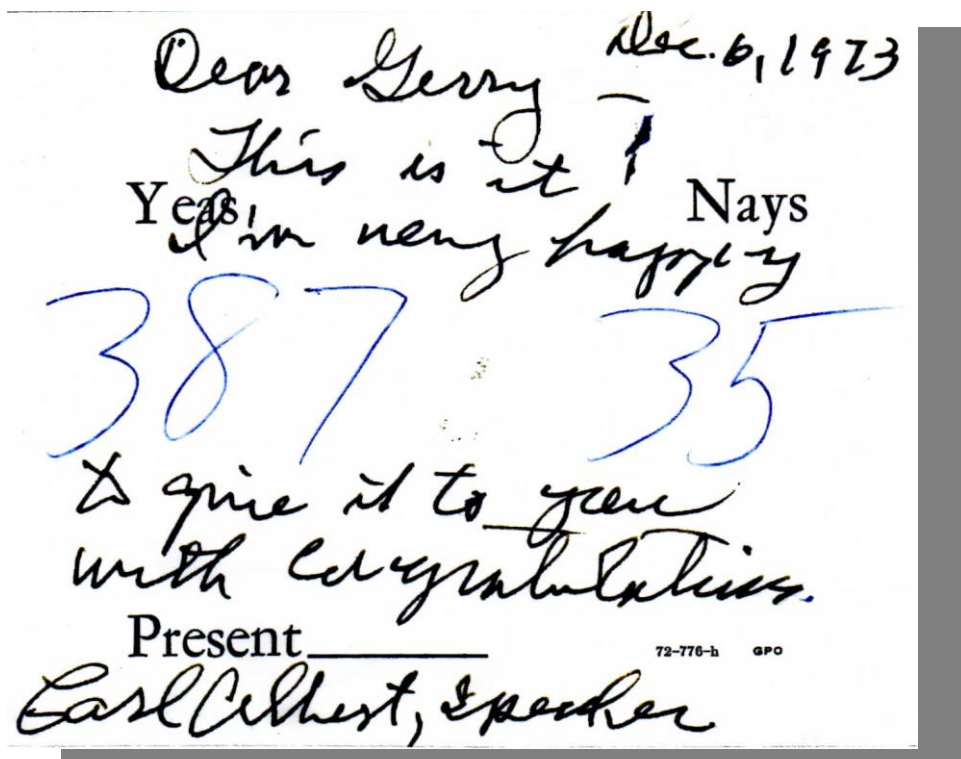
12/6/1973

The House confirms Ford's nomination by a vote of 387 – 35. (See tally below.)

In front of a Joint Session of Congress, Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as 40<sup>th</sup> Vice President by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger.

End this section by watching the first six minutes of the Ford Confirmation Hearings – the opening statement by Howard Cannon YouTube video:

(<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/amendment25/25thamendment.html>)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 6: Overview of the Amendment Process/Ford Becomes VP – Student Page**

1. Read the brief overview of the Amendment process.
2. Write one sentence to summarize the two steps.
3. Read the brief paragraph on the use of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to replace a Vice President.
4. Summarize the paragraph in your own words.
5. Read through the timeline of events leading up to Gerald Ford becoming Vice President.
6. Watch the first 6 minutes of the video – Ford Confirmation Hearings.  
(<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/amendment25/25thamendment.html>)

1. & 2. Read the brief overview of the Amendment process. Write one sentence to summarize the two steps.
  - a. Step One:
  - b. Step Two:

3. & 4. Write a summary of how the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment is used to replace the Vice President.

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5. Read the timeline of events leading up to Gerald Ford becoming Vice President.
6. Watch the first 6 minutes of the video – Ford Confirmation Hearings.  
(<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/amendment25/25thamendment.html>)