

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

## Answer Key: A Change in the Air: Modern US History Quiz for 8th Grade

Examine 10 pivotal shifts from the Camp David Accords to the Space Shuttle era, moving beyond basic dates to identify turning points in American life.

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**1. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter helped negotiate the Camp David Accords. Which two nations signed this historic peace agreement?**

**Answer:** B) Egypt and Israel

The Camp David Accords were a major diplomatic success for the U.S., leading to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

**2. True or False: The 'Challenger' disaster in 1986 was a major setback for the NASA Space Shuttle program.**

**Answer:** A) True

The explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger shortly after takeoff led to a temporary halt in shuttle missions and a review of safety protocols.

**3. In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor made history when she was appointed as the first female \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Supreme Court Justice

Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed by President Ronald Reagan, breaking the gender barrier on the nation's highest court.

**4. What major symbolic event in 1989 represented the beginning of the end of the Cold War in Europe?**

**Answer:** B) The fall of the Berlin Wall

The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolized the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the easing of Cold War tensions.

**5. True or False: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in public life.**

**Answer:** A) True

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The ADA was a landmark civil rights law that required 'reasonable accommodations' for people with disabilities in jobs and public spaces.

**6. The 1990s saw a massive shift in communication thanks to the creation of the World Wide Web by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Tim Berners-Lee

While many contributed to hardware, Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web, making the internet accessible to the general public.

**7. Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, which new Cabinet-level department was created to protect the U.S. from future threats?**

**Answer:** B) The Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security was created to coordinate national efforts against terrorism and handle emergency response.

**8. In 2005, the federal government faced heavy criticism for its slow response to \_\_\_\_\_, which flooded much of New Orleans.**

**Answer:** C) Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina highlighted issues of social inequality and raised questions about the efficiency of emergency management agencies like FEMA.

**9. True or False: The 2008 election was significant because it resulted in the first Hispanic president in United States history.**

**Answer:** B) False

The 2008 election was historic because Barack Obama became the first African American president, not the first Hispanic president.

**10. Which 21st-century movement focused on raising awareness about climate change and environmental protection through global protests?**

**Answer:** C) The Fridays for Future/Climate Strike Movement

The Climate Strike movement, often led by youth, has pressured modern governments to address global warming and carbon emissions.