

The Award Winning

Jimmy Carter Library & Museum

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Curriculum Guide: The President's Travels



Unit 15 of 19:

Launching Liberty – Democracy in Liberia

Launching Liberty: The Carter Center Strengthening Democracy in Liberia



A billboard welcoming the Carter's to Liberia during their historic 1978 visit

A Brief History of the Republic of Liberia

At a quick glance of Liberia's flag one might mistake it for "Old Glory". The Republic of Liberia's history binds it to the United States. President Carter's personal commitment to Liberia began in 1978, when he made the first state visit by a sitting U.S. president to sub-Saharan Africa, to meet then President William Tolbert. Since then, "The Carter Center has worked to foster peace and democracy in Liberia since March 1991, when invited by all sides in Liberia's civil war to assist in the peace process." (Carter Center, 2005). Liberia's turmoil began much earlier in the 19th century.

Liberia's turmoil-infused story begins with the indigenous people of the region, a mixture of native tribes such as the Gola, Kru and Vai - cohabitating for centuries. Liberia was unique in that it was one of only two countries not colonized by Europeans during the scramble for Africa; Ethiopia was the other. Instead, Liberia's borders were infringed upon by The *American Colonization Society*.

The *American Colonization Society* (ACS) or *The Society for the Colonization of Free People of Color of America*, was an organization supported by an eclectic group of white Southerners who were fearful of freed blacks revolting, white Northerners who were paranoid of being overrun by an influx of black workers that would deprive poor and needy whites from economic opportunities, and some who did not want slavery, but also did not want integration. The ACS also had support from some blacks who saw a return to Africa as the best solution to their troubles (Burin, 2005).

A Brief History of the Republic of Liberia

In 1821, The American Colonization Society, in conjunction with a U.S. government agent, sailed to what was then referred to as the Grain Coast to begin negotiations with local kings to purchase land for their settlement. Government agent Capt. Robert F. Stockton and ACS agent Dr. Eli Ayres engaged in several days of negotiation with indigenous kings who were not literate in English (Cassell, 1970).



Liberia's Iron Ladies protest for peace.

Under duress, the indigenous kings sold land at Cape Mesurado and the adjacent island of Dozoa, to the ACS. These negotiations changed Liberia's history and future forever. On January 7, 1822, the first groups of African Americans were formally settled on Providence Island in the present Liberian capital city of Monrovia. By 1847, the minority group that came to be called Americo-Liberians established the Republic of Liberia, an independent state. Liberia's connection to the United States spared Liberia from being a spoil of the "scramble for Africa" that roared across the continent after the 1884 Berlin Conference (Liebonew, 1969).

Nevertheless, the caste-like system of separate and unequal ethnic groups set up by the Americo-Liberians, along with a poor economy and weak infrastructure, propelled the country into civil wars that lasted over a decade. Liberia's leader during the latter part of the civil war was the infamous Charles Taylor. Taylor is currently on trial at The Hague for war crimes. Opposing factions came to the peace table in 2003, only after being prompted and spurred by Liberian women like Theresa Leigh Sherman and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who were part of a group of women that are known as Liberia's "Iron Ladies." Their story is told in the 2008 documentary film [Pray the Devil Back to hell](#).

Sirleaf went on to become Liberia's president and Africa's first modern and current elected female head of state. President Carter and the Carter center were instrumental in observing and monitoring the 2005 national election that brought this to fruition. The 2005 presidential elections represent the Center's shared goal with Liberia for a truly democratic society, moving the country beyond the shadows of the civil war. Fourteen years of civil war have devastated the infrastructure of the country and Liberians are still fighting to rebuild their beloved country.

Name _____

Date _____

Reading Comprehension Quiz

After reading "A Brief History of the Republic of Liberia," complete the following quiz. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What organization set up Liberia as a colony-like destination for former African American slaves?

- a) the NAACP b) the United Nations c) American Colonization Society d) ECOWAS

2. True or false, Liberia was uninhabited when the African-American settlers arrived in 1822.

- a) TRUE b) FALSE

3. President Carter's first visit to Liberia was in what year and to what president?

- a) 1978, Pres. Tolbert b) 1978, Pres. Taylor c) 2005, Pres. Sirleaf d) 1990 Pres. Doe

4. Which of these is not a cause of the Liberian Civil wars?

- a) widespread poverty b) slavery c) poor infrastructure d) inequality between ethnic groups

5. Who was the first female President of Liberia and contemporary Africa?

- a) Winnie Mandela b) Theresa Leigh Sherman c) Benazir Bhutto d) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

6-10. Write a brief summary of what you read about the history of Liberia. Use more paper if needed.

Cut out the squares below out and arrange them into to chronological order. Next, paste the squares on the flow map in chronological order beginning in the square marked “start your timeline here”.

The “Iron ladies” of Liberia help push opposing factions into peace talks

The Carter Center comes to Liberia to oversee the election that leads to the presidency of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

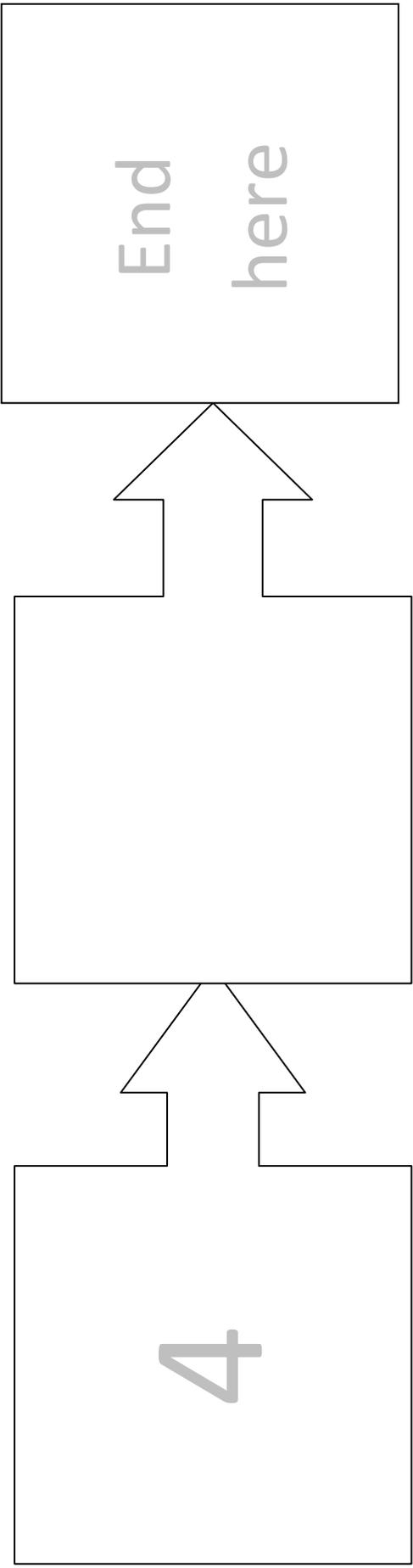
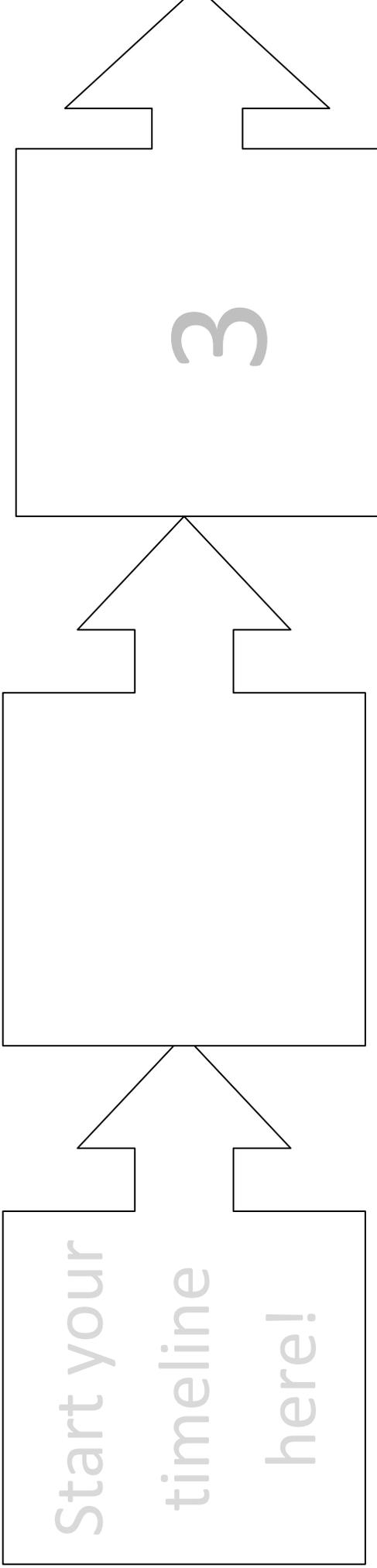
Because of an unequal class system and economic hardship civil war breaks out

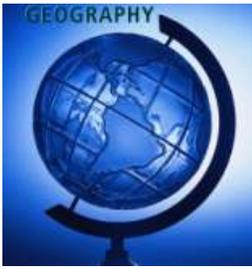
Indigenous people occupy what is known as the Grain Coast

Sponsored by the ACS, former enslaved African-Americans come to Liberia to create a settlement

The Americo-Liberian settlers become an elite minority group that control Liberia

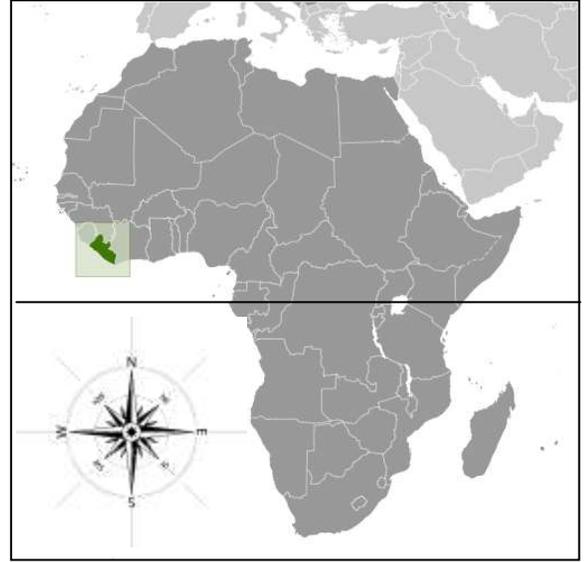
Name _____ Date _____





Liberia's Geography

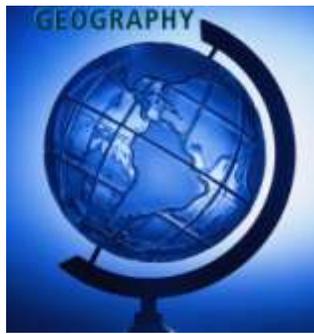
Use the maps below to fill in the blanks and respond to the questions.



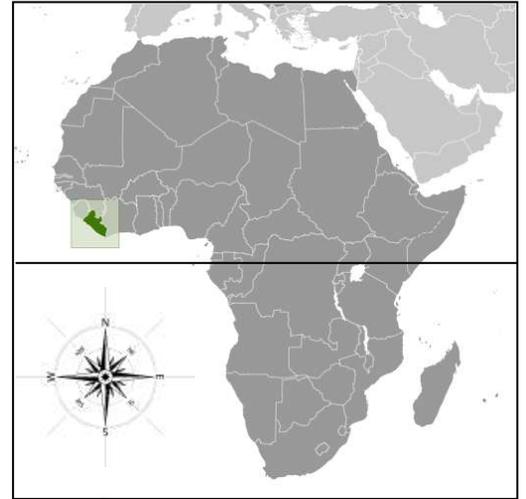
- 1) On what continent is Liberia located? _____
 - 2) In what region of the continent is Liberia located? _____
 - 3 -4) Liberia is located above the _____ in the _____ hemisphere.
 - 5-6) Liberia is also located west of the _____ in the _____ Hemisphere.
 - 7-9) What countries border Liberia?

 - 10) What major body of water is located off the west coast of Liberia? _____
 - 11) What is Liberia's capital city? _____
 - 12) What map tool would you use to find the distance from the city of Gbarnga to Greenville?

 - 13) What is the capital of Monrovia? _____
- ❖ Based on Liberia's location what inferences can you make about the climate in Liberia?



Liberia's Geography



Relative and Absolute Location

People need a method and system of identifying locations around the planet earth. This makes day to day things like travel and being able to ship items all around the world work much more efficiently. The GPS (Global Positioning System) in phone or automobiles depends heavily on our current system of using imaginary lines called parallels and meridians to mark and identify locations on Earth.

Relative location describes where a place is in relation to other places and features. Relative location is like when you say "My house is two miles from Stone Mountain." Relative location can also be using cardinal directions and the names of bordering cities, states or countries. For example: "Georgia borders Florida to the south, Alabama to the west, Tennessee and North Carolina to the north and South Carolina to the east." Absolute location is more specific and narrows down the location more precisely. Physical addresses and geographic coordinates using latitude and longitude are examples of absolute locations. For example Plains, Georgia home of President Carter is located at 32°N Latitude and 84°W Longitude which can also be written like this: 32°N, 84°W.

Use the maps above or an atlas to respond to the questions and tasks below.

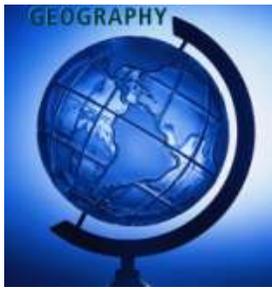
Locate Liberia using the map above or a world map or atlas.

Locate Liberia using Google Earth, Stratologica or similar map software.

What is Liberia's absolute location? Identify the geographic coordinates of Liberia in both forms shown in the passage above. Be sure to use the degree symbol:

_____ Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Describe the relative location of Liberia using cardinal directions and bordering countries:



The Carter Center on the Ground in Liberia

“Since 2006, building on its long history of engagement in Liberia, The Carter Center has been implementing an access to justice project in Liberia in response to these critical needs and invitations by the government.

Governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice, and in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Traditional Council, and other stakeholders, the Center works in four areas with the aim of helping to create a working and responsive justice system consistent with local needs and human rights, paying special attention to rural areas and the needs of marginalized populations.

At the invitation of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Center is helping the country rebuild its legal infrastructure, which is a prerequisite for lasting peace and democratic progress. We work in partnership with leaders at the highest levels of government as well as those in the most remote areas of Liberia and act as a communication bridge between these groups.

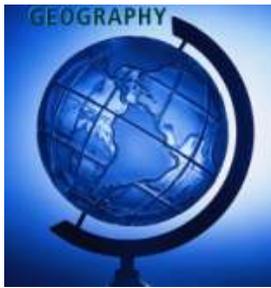
In underserved rural areas, local groups are educating people about new laws and legal means for resolving disputes. One of our local partners is a drama club performing skits that explain the how-tos of access to justice. They are dispelling traditional practices of justice, such as "trial by ordeal," and teaching people about new rights and laws, and means to resolve disputes. There is an emphasis on empowering traditionally marginalized groups, such as indigenous people, women, and youth, who historically have had little role in the political and legal processes that have shaped the nation.



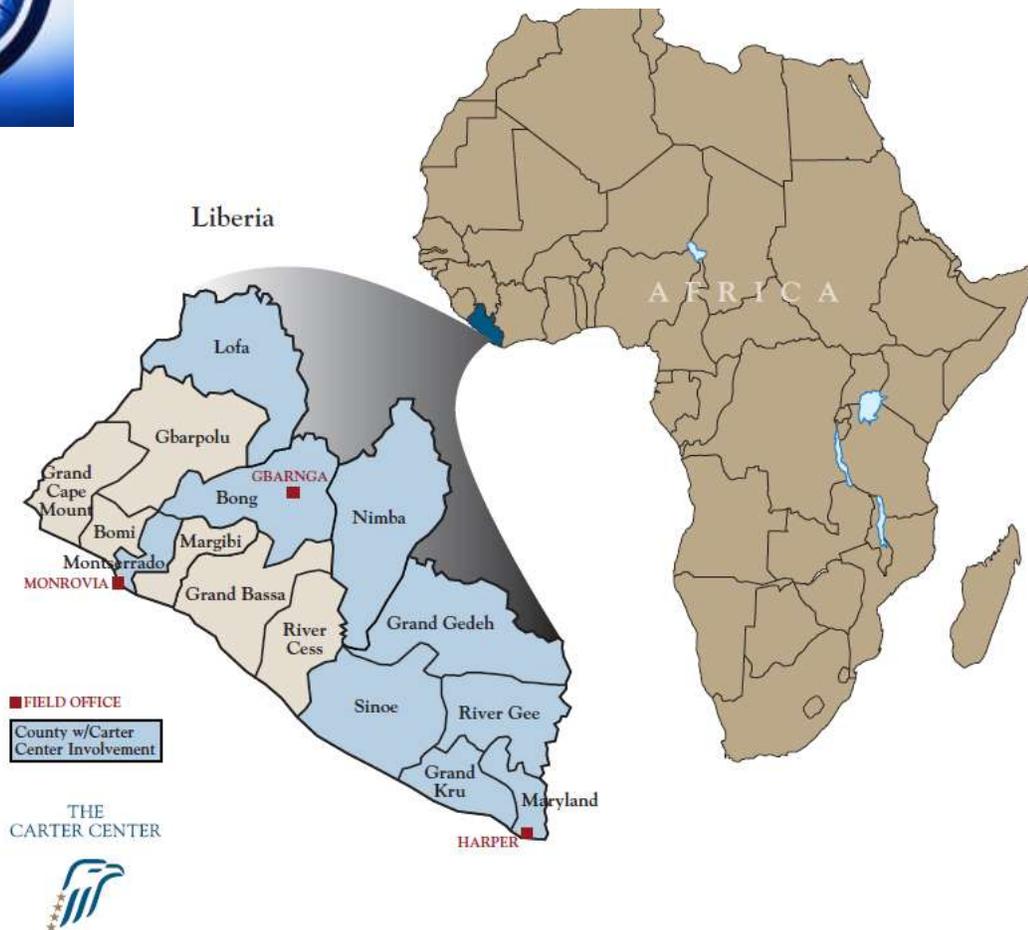
Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter observes the voting process in the historic 2005 Liberian elections.

The Center also is supporting the Ministry of Justice in developing a Gender Crimes Unit in the Solicitor General's Office; helping to expand training of lawyers, police, and other key legal administrators; and supporting the Arthur Grimes School of Law by assisting with curriculum development and other inputs.”

(Passage taken from the Carter Center Website)



The Geography of the Carter Center on the Ground in Liberia



- ✦ In how many counties is the Carter Center involved? _____
- ✦ In which cities and counties are the Carter Center field offices located?
- ✦ After reading the passage above, summarize and describe the type of work the Carter Center is doing in Liberia.

Liberia by the Numbers: CIA Factbook Hunt



Upon President Carter's return from Liberia in 2005 he released a statement. In his statement he said "Liberia is one of the most war-torn and poverty stricken nations in the world, despite its rich natural resources in land, timber, and minerals. Except for within foreign embassy compounds, there are no buildings that are not heavily damaged or totally destroyed in Monrovia or other urban areas. Fields are largely abandoned, unemployment is

astronomical, and the majority of people exist on less than 50 cents per day."

Unfortunately for Liberia, President Carter's statements still hold true.

Directions: Use the CIA Factbook(www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/) to find the important data and statistics listed below. Be sure to use the percent symbol (%) when needed.

Geography

☞ **Arable Land**(Land capable of growing crops)_____

People

☞ **Population**_____

☞ **Infant Mortality Rate**_____

☞ **Life Expectancy (total)**_____

☞ **Literacy Rate (total)**_____

Economy

☞ **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)**_____

country comparison: _____ out of _____

☞ **GDP- Per Capita (Gross Domestic Product)**_____

country comparison: _____ out of _____

Liberia by the Numbers: CIA Factbook Hunt



At Left: Unfinished and bullet riddled buildings serve as the backdrop as school children celebrate victory after a playoff basketball game in Monrovia, Liberia.

44% of Liberians are under the age of 15. With such a large youth population, Liberians, along with partners like the Carter Center, must work diligently to boost education and decrease high unemployment rates.

Economy (continued)

☞ **Unemployment Rate** _____

country comparison: _____ out of _____

☞ **electricity consumption** _____

country comparison: _____ out of _____

Communications

☞ **Telephones (Mobile Cellular)** _____

country comparison: _____ out of _____



A menagerie of vendors, umbrellas, cabs, and customers in Duala Market line the rough and rugged road to Monrovia, Liberia's capital.

Liberia by the Numbers: CIA Factbook Hunt Making Inferences

1. Describe some possible effects of having a small amount of arable land might have on Liberia?
2. What are some possible reasons for Liberia's high infant mortality rate?
3. What are some possible causes of Liberia's low life expectancy rate?
4. Does Liberia's GDP indicate that Liberia has a healthy economy?
5. What correlations are there between a country's literacy rate and that country's GDP.
6. How can a country improve its literacy rate?
7. Is the following statement true or false? Most Liberians are employed. If false, please correct the statement.
8. List ways not having electricity would affect a family?

Vocabulary and Terms



A mural of the Liberian flag painted on the library wall of Liberia's Rick's Institute.

Launching Liberty: The Carter Center Strengthening Democracy in Liberia

government / civics terms

autocracy - government in which one person possesses unlimited power

oligarchy - government by the few or a government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes

democracy - government by the people; especially the rule of the majority or a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections

citizen - an inhabitant of a city or town or a legal member of a state

rule of law - fundamental principle that asserts no person is above the law, and that no one can be punished by government unless they violate the law. That punishment must be in accordance with the law as well.

civil war - a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country

voting - the ability for citizens to participate in government by officially choosing or endorsing a leader, law, or referendum or position. Suffrage is the right to vote.

ethnic group - is a group of people whose members identify with each other, through a common characteristics such as a common language, a common culture and often a shared religion and an ideology that stresses common ancestry or endogamy

Notable People and Groups

The American Colonial Society – a coalition made up mostly of Quakers who supported abolition, and slaveholders who wanted to remove the perceived threat of free blacks to their society, the ACS founded in 1816, was the primary vehicle to support the "return" of free African Americans to what was considered greater freedom in Africa. It helped to found the colony of Liberia in 1821–22 as a place for freedmen.

William R. Tolbert - 20th President of Liberia of Tolbert was of Americo-Liberian descent. He served until being murdered in a violent coup led by Samuel Doe in 1980 ending 133 years of Americo-Liberian political domination.

Samuel Doe – was the 21st President of Liberia, serving from 1986 until Doe was captured, tortured and killed by faction leader Prince Y. Johnson in 1990

Charles Taylor – 22nd President of Liberia who is currently on trial in The Hague for war crimes. He participated and incited civil war in Liberia and Sierra Leone and the civil war that lead to the dispossession of Samuel Doe.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – 24th President of Liberia who survived the violent 1980 coup against President William Tolbert. She was elected President in the 2005 presidential election. Sirleaf is the first and currently only elected female head of state in Africa.



Carter Center staff working on the "Rule of Law" project in Liberia.

Government Assessment

Fill in the blanks using the best term from the chart below.

Government Systems		
Noun Form	Adjective Form	
autocracy	autocratic	Voting
oligarchy	oligarchic	Citizen
democracy	democratic	Rule of law

- 1) A legal member of a country/state is a _____.
 - 2) The _____ asserts that no one is above the law and that government can only punish citizens who violate the law.
 - 3) A citizen would most likely be able to run for President, vote and criticize the government without fear of retaliation in a _____ government.
 - 4) In which form of government would their most likely be freedom of press and freedom of speech for citizens to express themselves? _____
 - 5) In which form of government would there be one leader with unlimited power?

 - 6) In which form of government would you find a small group of a particular ethnic group or elite citizens in control? _____
 - 7) The most common way citizens participate in government is by _____.
 - 8) The former slaves who traveled to Liberia from the United States went on to become an elite minority ethnic group that controlled the government and economics of Liberia, The Americo - Liberians as they became known had more access to government positions, good jobs and opportunities. A government that only allows a few usually wealthy or elite participate can best be described as _____.
 - 9) Liberia was led by Charles Taylor from 1997-2003. When a government is led by one leader or dictator who makes all decisions independent of the people's input this government's level of citizen participation can best be described as _____.
 - 10) In 2005 President Carter and the Carter Center helped monitor and oversee the post civil war elections that lead to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf being elected by the people. This was a major progress in Liberia establishing a _____ government.
- ❖ Rank the three forms of government from 1-3. One being the government system with the highest level of citizen participation three being the government system with lowest level of participation.

citizen participation 	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	 citizen participation
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Liberia honored President Carter in 1981 by commemorating him on a twenty dollar silver coin. The Liberian Currency is the Liberian Dollar (LRD).

SIX STEPS TO READING A POEM

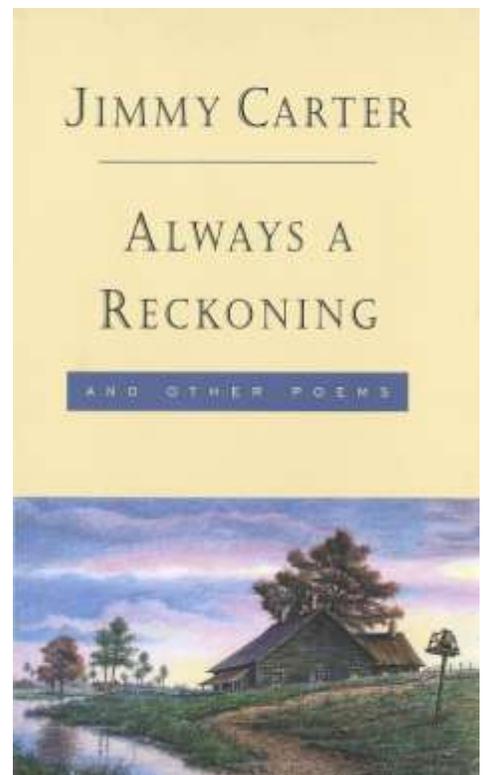
1. Look at the title and think about the image or images it creates. Write down what kind of picture is created in your mind.
2. Read the poem silently. Pay attention to punctuation. Pause briefly at commas and semicolons, and longer after periods. If there's no punctuation at the end of a line, don't pause. What purpose did punctuation serve in the poem that you read?
3. Read the poem aloud. It's often easier to make sense of the poem if you hear how it sounds. Feel the poem's rhythm as you read. Poetry has a special rhythmic sound, like music. What was the rhythm of the poem? Did you tend to read it fast or slow? Why or why not.
4. Read the poem a third time and think about the images that come to mind as you read. Look for vivid verbs that help you to see the action. Look for comparisons that help you see something in a new way. What vivid verbs did you identify? Was there any figurative language?
5. Poets pay special attention to word choice. Use context clues or a dictionary to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Do any of the words have more than one meaning? What words didn't you know or understand what they meant?
6. Think about the poem's meaning. What does the poem say to you? Does it relate to your life in any way?

In 1994 President Jimmy Carter became the first U.S. President to publish a book of poetry. The name of the book was *Always a Reckoning*. The Nobel Prize winning President pulls from personal and private memories about his childhood, his family and political life to create this patchwork of poetry. One of the poems in the book is called “Why We Get Cheaper Tires from Liberia”. It was inspired by his relationship and experiences with Liberia.

Before reading the poem, refer to the “Six Steps to Reading a Poem”. After reading the poem complete the poetry analysis sheet.

Why We Get Cheaper Tires from Liberia

1 The miles of rubber trees bend from the sea.
2 Each of the million acres cost a dime
3 nearly two Liberian lives ago.
4 Sweat, too,
5 has poured like sap from trees, almost free,
6 from men coerced to work by poverty
7 and leaders who had sold the people's fields.
8 The plantation kiln's pink bricks
9 made the homes of overseeing whites
10 a corporation's pride
11 Walls of the same polite bricks divide
12 the worker's tiny stalls
13 like cells in honeycombs;
14 no windows breach the walls,
15 no pipes or wires bring drink or light
16 to natives who can never claim this place as theirs
17 by digging in the ground.
18 No churches can be built,
19 no privy holes or even graves
20 dug in the rolling hills
21 for those milking Firestone's trees, who die
22 from mamba and mosquito bites.
23 I asked the owners why.
24 The cost of land, they said, was high.



Always a Reckoning, Jimmy Carter, 1995

Poetry Analysis Questionnaire

1. What is the title of this poem?
2. Who is the author of the poem?
3. List some important facts about the author.
4. Where is the setting of the poem?
5. What person (1st, 3rd) is the poem written in?
6. What other sound devices (alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia) have been included by the poet? Give an example of each.
7. What figures of speech are included (metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, apostrophe, etc)?
8. What is the tone (mood) of the poem at the beginning, at the end, and overall?
9. What is the mood of this poem? Explain your answer.
10. What is a possible theme of the poem?
11. Write one line from the poem that you think tells the theme or main conflict of the poem.
12. Why does the speaker feel compelled to speak out?
13. What kinds of patterns are there in the poem?
14. Does the poem rhyme? Does it have a particular rhythm or beat?
15. Does it have a visual pattern when you look at it?
16. What do you think is the most important line of the poem? Why do you think so?

Analyze the author's use of words by going line by line of the poem and compiling a word list sorted by part of speech. Use slash marks like this / if the word is repeated.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives/ Adverbs	Prepositions	Conjunctions	Pronouns	Articles

Focus on Imagery

What image(s) does the poet use to make his or her point?

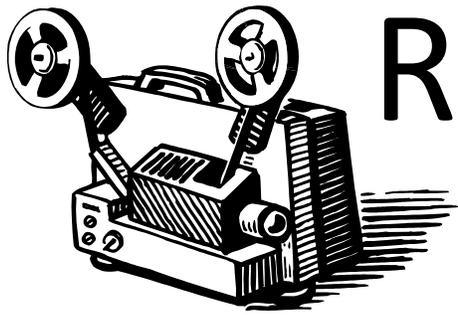
Pick out two images from the poem in the form of a phrase or sentence and write them below. Then explain what you think the author is trying to convey with this use of imagery.

1. Image: _____

Meaning: _____

2. Image: _____

Meaning: _____



Roll Tape!



Use the motion picture analysis worksheet to analyze Carter center videos on issues in Liberia. A PDF of the analysis sheet can be found at this link:

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/motion_picture_analysis_worksheet.pdf



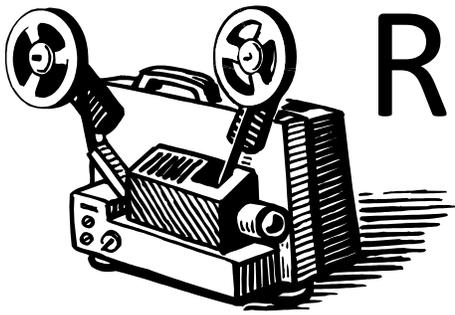
Building Mental Health Care for Liberia

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/HealthPrograms/BuildingMentalHealthCareforLiberia.html>



Freedom of Information in Liberia

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/FreedomofInformationinLiberia.html>



Roll Tape!



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Community Legal Advisors in Liberia

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/CommunityLegalAdvisorsinLiberia.html>



Justice in Rural Liberia

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/JusticeinRuralLiberia.html>



Civil Society Organizations in Liberia

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/CivilSocietyOrganizations-Liberia.html>

Motion Picture Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Pre-viewing

A. Title of film: _____

Record Group source: _____

B. What do you think you will see in this motion picture? List Three concepts or ideas that you might expect to see based on the title of the film. List some people you might expect to see based on the title of the film.

Concepts/Ideas

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

People

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Step 2. Viewing

A. Type of motion picture (check where applicable)

___ Animated cartoon

___ Documentary film

___ Newsreel

___ Propaganda film

___ Theatrical short subject

___ Training film

___ Combat film

___ Other

B. Physical qualities of the motion picture (check where applicable)

___ Music

___ Narration

___ Special effects

___ Color

___ Live action

___ Background noise

___ Animation

___ Dramatizations

C. Note how camera angles, lighting, music, narration, and/or editing contribute to creating an atmosphere in this film. What is the mood or tone of the film?

Step 3. Post-viewing (or repeated viewing)

A. Circle the things that you listed in the previewing activity that were validated by your viewing of the motion picture.

B. What is the central message(s) of this motion picture?

C. Consider the effectiveness of the film in communicating its message. As a tool of communication, what are its strengths and weaknesses?

D. How do you think the filmmakers wanted the audience to respond?

E. Does this film appeal to the viewer's reason or emotion? How does it make you feel?

F. List two things this motion picture tells you about life in the United States at the time it was made:

1. _____

2. _____

G. Write a question to the filmmaker that is left unanswered by the motion picture.

H. What information do you gain about this event that would not be conveyed by a written source? Be specific.

Examining Photos:

As the old cliché says, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” The Carter Center documents all of its travels and missions with photographs. Visit the links below which lead to photo slideshows located on the Carter Center website and view the pictures in each slide show. Be sure to read the caption for each photograph. Select an assigned amount of photographs from each slideshow and complete a Photo Analysis Worksheet on the specific photo(s). Be sure to identify the photo you choose to analyze.

Strengthening Liberia’s Rule of Law



<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/StrengtheningLiberiasRuleofLaw.html>

Elections Mark Turning point in Liberia’s History



<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/ElectionMarkTurningPointinLiberiasHistory.html>



Above: Entrepreneurs in the hustle and bustle of Duala Market near Monrovia.

For even more photographs go check out the Jimmy Carter Library photo page at:

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents/>

or the Carter Center photo page here:

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/photos/index.html>

Photo Analysis Worksheet

electronic version: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo.html>

Step 1. Observation

- A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

- B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

<u>People</u>	<u>Objects</u>	<u>Activities</u>

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

- A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

- B. Where could you find answers to them?

Designed and developed by the
Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

Use the NARA Written Document Analysis Worksheet to examine President Carter's report on his trip to Liberia to "wage peace" and "build hope" in civil war torn Liberia. The analysis sheet is included and available electronically at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/document.html>. The report is available electronically as well on the Carter Center website at the following link: <http://www.cartercenter.org/news/documents/doc2221.html>



THE CARTER CENTER

Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

Jimmy Carter's Trip Report: Liberia and Ghana, Oct. 8-15, 2005

18 Oct 2005

LIBERIA: Our earliest visit to Liberia was in 1978, which happened to be the first time an American president went to sub-Saharan Africa on an official visit. We chose Nigeria and Liberia because Nigeria was and is the largest and most influential African nation and because Liberia was founded by freed American slaves in the early 19th century. Also, at that time, Liberia's President Tolbert was the leader of the Baptist World Alliance. About a year later, Tolbert and 13 of his cabinet members were lined up and assassinated by insurrectionist Samuel Doe.

This was the beginning of an era of extreme violence and corrupt government that has made Liberia one of the most war-torn and poverty stricken nations in the world, despite its rich natural resources in land, timber, and minerals. Except within foreign embassy compounds, there are no buildings that are not heavily damaged or totally destroyed in Monrovia or other urban areas. Fields are largely abandoned, unemployment is astronomical, and the majority of people exist on less than 50 cents per day.

The Carter Center began our remediation efforts in Liberia in 1989, when staff members, Rosalynn, and I made regular visits. Only 5 percent of Liberia, around Monrovia, was protected by peacekeeping forces and governed by an appointed president, while 95 percent of the nation was controlled by Charles Taylor and other warlords.

After several years of work, led by leaders from other West Africa nations, disbandment of armies and substantial disarmament was orchestrated, and a technically fair election was held in 1997, resulting in Taylor's gaining a substantial majority. This was due to his longtime control in the interior and the general belief that conflict would recommence if he was rejected by the voters.

Despite the best efforts of us and others, he turned out to be both corrupt and a despot, not only persecuting his own people but inciting conflict in neighboring countries. We were forced to close our office in Monrovia after about three years because of intimidation and harassment that resulted from our public condemnation of Taylor's regime. International pressures finally removed him from office and forced him into exile in 2003, and he is now under house arrest in Nigeria. Efforts continue to bring him to trial before an international court.

The United Nations and ECOWAS (a coalition of West African States) negotiated a Comprehensive Peace Accord in 2003 that ended civil conflict in Liberia and set the stage for an election on October 11, 2005, designed to choose a president, 30 senators, and 64 representatives. Twenty-two pairs of candidates qualified for president and vice-president, and 718 others competed for the legislative seats. Beginning in March of this year, The Carter Center reestablished its presence in three offices in Liberia and deployed long-term election observers in August.

One of the top candidates for president is Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who had been one of the few surviving cabinet officers of the Tolbert administration and was later a senior official of the U.N. Development Program. She ran unsuccessfully for president in 1997. The other leading candidate is George Weah, a famous soccer star and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, who seems to have strong support among young Liberians. Others who have nationwide campaign efforts are Charles Brumskine (Senate President Pro Tempore under Taylor), Roland Massaquoi (graduate of Cornell with Ph.D. from LSU, a rice scientist, and former Minister of Agriculture under Taylor), Varney Sherman (close associate of interim government chairman Gyude Bryant), and Winston Tubman (Minister of Justice under Samuel Doe and later a special representative of the U.N. in Somalia).

Although Weah and Johnson-Sirleaf are best known among the international media, several of the others are favorite sons in the hinterlands, and it was uncertain which ones would be on top.

The U.N. has deployed a substantial military and administrative force in Liberia (UNMIL), which has resulted in a relatively peaceful environment conducive to a successful election process. In addition, there are about 400 international observers deployed, including 40 (from 14 nations) representing The Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute. Former President Nicephore Soglo of Benin is co-chairman of our delegation.

We arrived in Liberia Sunday night, 9 October, and were met and briefed by U.S. Ambassador Don Booth. Our observer teams had already completed two days of intensive training and were deployed throughout the country. It is interesting to note that about 10 percent of the polling sites with an equivalent number of voters are officially "inaccessible." This means that no vehicles can reach them, and from one hour to four days of human transport is necessary to deliver voting materials. Other "difficult" places require substantial carrying of supplies through jungles and across streams.

As has been our custom during 60 previous election monitoring missions, we met with our staff, other foreign observers, local and international officials, election commission leaders, candidates, and party officials. In this case, we were especially heartened by the obvious commitment and competence of UNMIL and ECOWAS and their clear determination to maintain a substantial presence until next March, after a new government is established. This major foreign presence is unprecedented in Liberia and is crucial to permanent stability and progress.

A potentially serious last minute election problem was created when the Supreme Court ruled that each person could vote for two senatorial candidates. The National Election Commission had mandated one vote only and was forced to modify instructions, which created voting delays, and the resulting confusion also will lead to possible legal challenges. All legislative seats will be determined by a plurality of voting, so a run-off is only possible for president, where a majority is required.

Hundreds of people began lining up at poll sites soon after midnight, and there were enormous lines of voters by the time polls opened officially at 8 a.m. Rosalynn and I visited 48 polling stations during the day at 15 different sites, all within the Monrovia area, and we found the voters surprisingly patient. There were many women with babies on their backs, some of them having been in line for more than 10 hours before entering the voting booths. Voting procedures were complex, but election officials seemed to be well instructed and meticulous in performing their duties. Reports received from our son Chip (in Buchanan) and other deployed observer teams were similar to our own observations: huge lines, a slow but orderly process, with no violence.

We witnessed the sorting and some counting of ballots in the five polling stations in City Hall, one of the few places blessed, although tardily, with electric lights. (Two battery operated lanterns had been distributed to each election team.) Results in our first site showed that Johnson-Sirleaf and Weah were the leading candidates,

neither of them receiving a majority of votes. Later and wider reports showed that Weah was strongest all over the country with a surprisingly small plurality (about 30 percent), and challenged by Johnson-Sirleaf (20 percent) and local favorites, which means that there will be a run-off election on November 8th.

We met several times with other international leaders, and all agree that it is crucial for UNMIL to extend its presence for at least a year after a new administration takes office in January, and for sustained financial support and advice from other sources are required. The abject poverty, deprivation, destruction of property, and the culture of government corruption are all too deeply ingrained to be quickly corrected, even by honest and well-meaning new leaders. I have never seen such a united and determined commitment for the international community to insure that the democratic progress will be sustained.

On Thursday (10/13), our observer teams made their collective reports, and we issued our interim statement at an afternoon press conference ([available on our Center's Web site](#)). In addition, I had a series of media interviews and made a visit to NEC headquarters and to the vote tabulation center, where results were trickling in from the 15 county headquarters. We also visited the health ministry and found that Liberia has a substantial sum (about \$20 million) being distributed through UNDP from the World Fund for AIDS, TB, and malaria. Others are helping with onchocerciasis, but they have no program for trachoma. They have not distributed any impregnated bed nets, which is a good indication that the available resources are going primarily for salaries and other "administrative" costs.

Summary: Liberia has been devastated by conflict and corruption; the people are determined to improve their own lives; the international community has finally marshaled a concerted effort to be of assistance; a successful election process is in place; unique international monitoring of financial processes will be imposed on the newly elected government; an extended UNMIL presence needs to be authorized by the U.N. Security Council; development assistance is needed for all humanitarian causes from international agencies, nations, and NGOs.



The Carter Center helps provide training to judges, magistrates, prosecutors and public defenders, helping to strengthen the formal legal system.



Carter Center-sponsored programs have helped train people throughout rural Liberia's justice sector, including this River Gbeh magistrate.

Document Analysis Worksheet

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/document.html>

TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Check one):

1. Newspaper Map Advertisement
 Letter Telegram Congressional record
 Patent Press release Census report
 Memorandum Report Other

2. UNIQUE PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more):

- Interesting letterhead Notations
 Handwritten "RECEIVED" stamp
 Typed Other
 Seals

3. DATE(S) OF DOCUMENT:

4. AUTHOR (OR CREATOR) OF THE DOCUMENT:

POSITION (TITLE):

5. FOR WHAT AUDIENCE WAS THE DOCUMENT WRITTEN?

6. DOCUMENT INFORMATION (There are many possible ways to answer A-E.)

A. List three things the author said that you think are important:

B. Why do you think this document was written?

C. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

D. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written:

E. Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document:

Designed and developed by the

Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408.



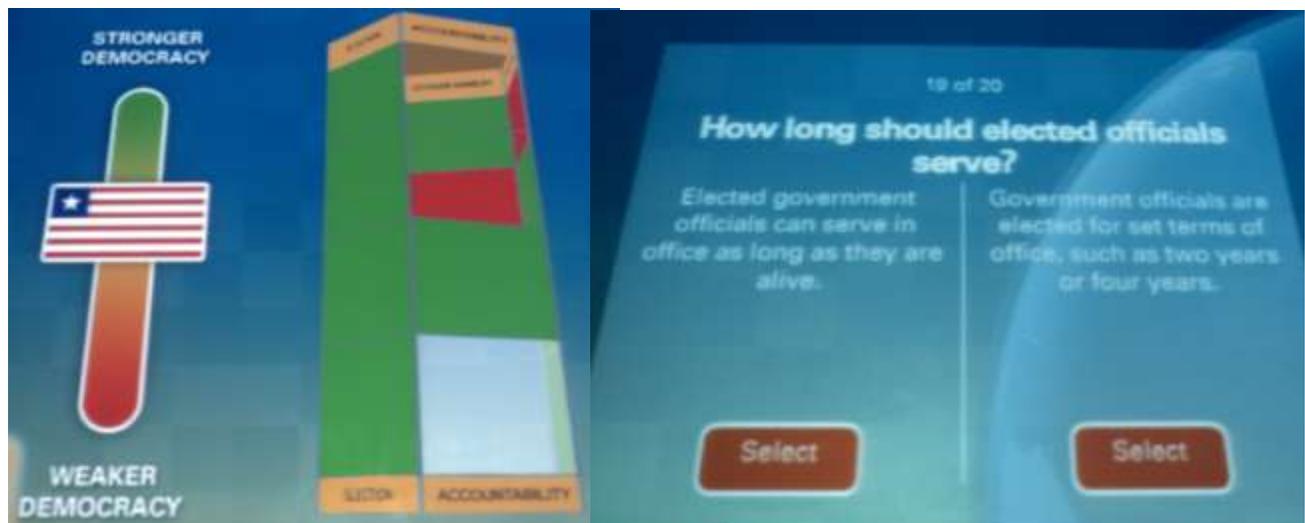
ON-SITE ACTIVITY

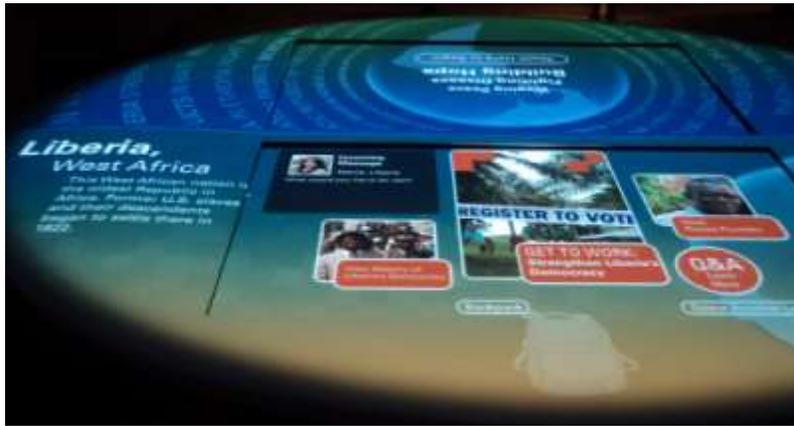
Strengthening Democracy in Liberia: Jimmy Carter Library and Museum Interactive Map Table

Our interactive map table is able to accommodate up to 18 users at once. This state-of-the-art display utilizes six workstations, a flat-panel display monitor, overhead projection system, and customizable educational hardware and software to teach multi-disciplinary content: from geography, science, and history, to health & welfare, and human and political rights issues! You get to travel on your own airplane, virtually collect stamps of visited countries in your passport, and even email souvenirs and information about your travels to yourself and others. While visiting the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum you can further explore the work of President Carter and the Carter Center in Liberia with the Interactive Map Table. This fully interactive exhibit allows the user to take a virtual junket to Liberia.

Once you arrive in Liberia you can begin by viewing an interactive history of Liberia's democracy but that is just the beginning. Next get to work Strengthening Liberia's democracy. The Interactive map table puts the user in the role of a leader in the position to make decisions and choices that directly impact Liberia's levels of democracy by way of freedom justice and equality. (Picture)

The Interactive map table even gives user the opportunity to meet an actual Carter Center team member. "Carter Center program officer Pewee Flomoku is a native Liberian who now helps coordinate the Liberia justice project." the interactive experience allows the user to see the work Peewee does in Liberia with the help of the Carter Center. A Q&A with Peewee is also featured on the Carter Center website at the following link: http://www.cartercenter.org/news/features/p/conflict_resolution/pewee-flomoku-son-of-liberty.html Users wrap their trip up with a Q&A that allows users to learn more about the work of building hope in Liberia.





ON-SITE ACTIVITY

Strengthening Democracy in Liberia: Jimmy Carter Library and Museum Interactive Map Table

Questions from the Interactive Map Table

How did Liberia come to be?

What happened to Liberia in 1980?

How did Liberia find its way back to democracy?

Who is Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?

What plans did President Johnson Sirleaf set for Liberia?

What is The Carter Center doing to help strengthen democracy in Liberia?

PBS: Global Connections Liberia

“Global Connections is the online home to a family of sites created to help teachers, students, and the general public learn more about events around the world through readings, lesson plans, links, timelines, and maps.”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/liberia/index.html>

PBS HOME PROGRAMS A-Z TV SCHEDULES WATCH VIDEO SUPPORT PBS SHOP PBS SEARCH PBS

AMERICA'S STEPCILD
A story of great hopes and bitter disappointments: Liberia.
[Watch the Trailer](#) [Buy the Film](#)

Putting world events in context
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS Liberia

Timeline
Review milestones of Liberia's rich political history, a history of triumph, sadness, disappointment, and hope.

Essays & Lessons
Learn about the complex relationship between Liberia and the United States.

The Film
Liberia: America's Stepchild looks at the shattered land that once had the closest relationship with the U.S. in all of Africa.

↳ Educator's Resources / Glossary / Links / Map / Search: Go

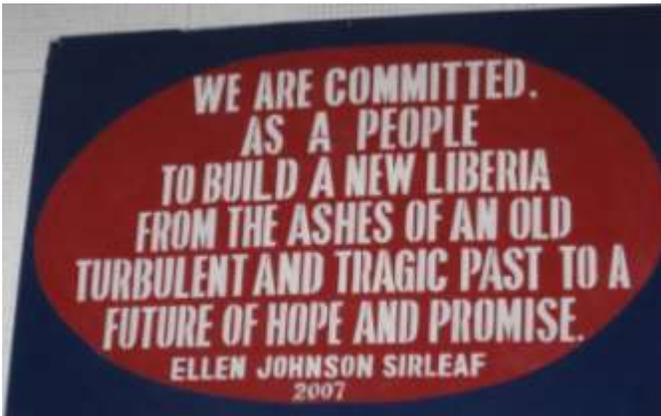
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The website also spotlights *Liberia: America's Stepchild* by filmmaker Nancee Oku Bright.

“Jimmy Carter served as the 39th president of the United States of America from 1977-1981. *Liberia: America's Stepchild* filmmaker Nancee Oku Bright interviewed President Carter in 1997, shortly after he returned from Liberia, where he served as an international observer of the elections in which Charles Ghankay Taylor was confirmed as president.” The transcript of that interview and other information can be found at this link: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/liberia/film/jimmycarter.html>



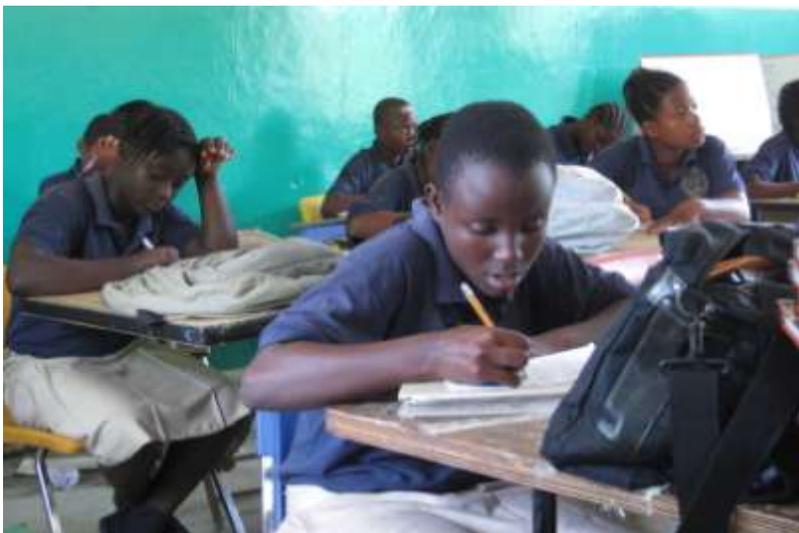
This sign displayed in one of Liberia's oldest schools portrays the importance and role of hope in rebuilding their country.

Hope me please!

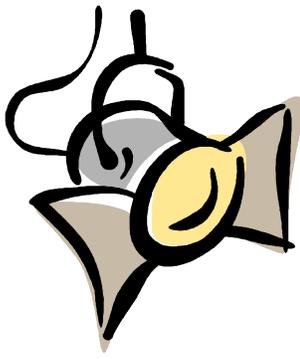
One of the Carter Center's mottos is Building Hope. In fact **Rosalynn Carter** says **"That's what we do here at the Carter Center" – build hope.** When you meet Liberians they are a very proud people who ask just that, not for help but for people to "hope" them into building their future and rising from the plight and blight of 14 years of civil war. A future where the "rule of law" is the law of the land and people can grow to their full potential fueled by freedom, justice and equality.

Q: One of the themes that emerge throughout the work associated with the Carter Center is hope. Why should people be hopeful in regards to humanitarian assistance, peace and human rights?

A: First of all, we have to be aware of what's going on in the rest of the world. You know we just finished helping with an election in Liberia. It's very disturbing to know that over half of the people in Liberia are living on less than 50 cents a day, and over half the people in the whole world live on less than two dollars a day. That's almost inconceivable to rich, prosperous, safe and satisfied Americans. If you just stop for a few minutes and think how [you] would survive if [you] only had that much money to pay for a place to live and to pay for food and clothing, you can see that there's nothing left over for health care, education, self-respect or hope that the future will be better than you've already known it. The absence of opportunities [along with] human suffering, persecution, being in the midst of war and suffering from unnecessary diseases [are] all factors [that] eliminate hope among many people in the world, and to give them a better opportunity provides hope.



At Left: 4th Grade students at Liberia's Rick's Institute display both focus and hunger for education. With a literacy rate of about 58%, education is definitely a huge component to providing hope and rebuilding civil war torn Liberia.

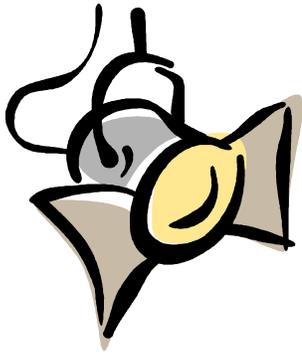


Vocabulary Spotlight Quiz

1. _____ - a varied mixture items
2. _____ - of, relating to, or arranged in or according to the order of time
3. _____ - not distant but nearby
4. _____ - a division of society based on differences of wealth, inherited rank or privilege, profession, occupation, or race
5. _____ - forced to do something under pressure or compulsion by threat
6. _____ - produced, growing, living, or occurring naturally in a particular region or environment

WORD BANK

indigenous
duress
adjacent
caste
chronological
menagerie



Vocabulary Spotlight Quiz Key

1. **menagerie** - a varied mixture items
2. **chronological** - of, relating to, or arranged in or according to the order of time
3. **adjacent** - not distant but nearby
4. **caste** - a division of society based on differences of wealth, inherited rank or privilege, profession, occupation, or race
5. **duress** - compulsion by threat; *specifically*: unlawful constraint
6. **indigenous** - produced, growing, living, or occurring naturally in a particular region or environment

Standards

Elements of topics like government and poetry are interwoven in most state and national standards. Here are some examples from the Georgia Performance Standards.

GPS

SS7CG1 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

- a. Describe the ways government systems distribute power: unitary, confederation, and federal. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.
- b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.

SSCG7 The student will describe how thoughtful and effective participation in civic life is characterized by obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury, participating in the political process, performing public service, registering for military duty, being informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions.

Grade Two | SS2H1

The student will read about and describe the lives of historical figures in Georgia history.

A. Identify the contributions made by these historic figures: Jimmy Carter (leadership and human rights).

ELA7R1. The student demonstrates comprehension and shows evidence of a warranted and responsible explanation of a variety of literary and informational texts.

ELAALRL1 The student demonstrates comprehension by identifying evidence (i.e., examples of diction, imagery, point of view, figurative language, symbolism, plot events and main ideas) in a variety of texts representative of different genres (i.e., poetry, prose [short story, novel, essay, editorial, biography], and drama) and using this evidence as the basis for interpretation.

ELA7R2 The student understands and acquires new vocabulary and uses it correctly in reading and writing.

From the GPS Frameworks:

The student identifies and analyzes elements of poetry and provides evidence from the text to support understanding; the student:

- a. Identifies, responds to, and analyzes the effects of diction, syntax, sound, form, figurative language, and structure of poems as these elements relate to meaning.
 - i. sound: alliteration, end rhyme, internal rhyme, consonance, assonance
 - ii. form: lyric poem, narrative poem, fixed form poems (i.e., ballad, sonnet)
 - iii. figurative language: personification, imagery, metaphor, simile, synecdoche, hyperbole, symbolism

Resources

Beyslow, Christopher Momo, Personal Interview, Virginia, Liberia, 19 June 2009

Brown, S. T., & Tarlowoh, J. A. Social Studies Book Six: People and Society. Monrovia: Macmillan Education Limited, (1998).

Burin, Eric. Slavery and the Peculiar Solution: A History of the American Colonization Society. University Press of Florida, 2005.

Cassell, Dr. C. Abayomi, "Liberia: History of the First African Republic", Fountainhead Publishers Inc., New York, 1970.

Liberia Elections: Carter Center Plays Key Role in Historic Presidential and Legislative Oct. 11 Vote 4/5/2005 <http://www.cartercenter.org/news/documents/doc2208.html?printerFriendly=true>

Liebonew, Gus J (1969). Liberia: Evolution of Privilege, New York: Cornell University Press, pp. 12-203.

Sherwood, Henry Noble. "The Formation of the American Colonization Society." Journal of Negro History 3 (July 1917): 209-28.

www.merriam-webster.com

Photographs and Clip Art

The Carter Center www.cartercenter.org

Microsoft Clip Art <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>

National Archives and Records Administration <http://www.archives.gov/>

Dumaka X. Moultrie (Taken while in country in 2009.)

Other Helpful Links

Background information on countries' governments:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Carter Center Multimedia Clearinghouse

<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/GeneralTopics/BuildingHope.html>

Document Analysis Worksheets:

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/>

Interactive voting exhibit from the Smithsonian:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/vote/patchwork.html>

Information about voting from the United States government:

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Voting/Learn.shtml>