

VFT: JIMMY CARTER

USER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Jimmy Carter virtual field trip takes students on a journey through the remarkable life of James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, Jr. from his hometown experiences and early years through to his time as governor and president, into achievements post-presidency. Documents, photographs and much more are available as guideposts along the way. We recommend that students explore this virtual field trip after they have completed Unit 8 of the [Georgia Studies Book: Our State and Our Nation](#). Teachers could use this activity as a group experience, provide class time for students to explore the field trip at their own pace, or assign it as homework in a flipped classroom setting.

FEATURES

- **video footage** of interviews with experts and Carter Center staff
- **picture galleries** with informative captions, including historic photos of Jimmy Carter’s life
- **primary sources** that illustrate the nuances of Carter’s legacy, both chronologically and thematically
- **fun facts** about the “Man from Plains”

GEORGIA STANDARDS

SS2H1 Describe the lives and contributions of historical figures in Georgia history.
f. Jimmy Carter (leadership and human rights)

SS2CG2 Identify the following elected officials of the executive branch and where they work:
a. President (leader of our nation) and Washington, D.C. – White House
b. Governor (leader of our state) and Atlanta, GA – State Capitol Building

SS2CG3 Give examples of how the historical figures in SS2H1 demonstrate positive citizenship traits such as: honesty, dependability, trustworthiness, honor, civility, good patience, sportsmanship, and compassion.

SS5H7 Trace important developments in America from 1975 to 2001.

SS8H12 Explain the importance of developments in Georgia since the late 20th century.
b. Describe the role of Jimmy Carter in Georgia as state senator, governor, president, and past president.

SS8CG3 Analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.
a. Explain the qualifications for the governor and lieutenant governor and their role in the executive branch of state government.
b. Describe how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies that administer programs and enforce laws.

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SSCG10 Demonstrate knowledge of the executive branch of government.

- b. Describe informal qualifications common to past presidents.

SSUSH22 Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations.

DISCUSS

1. To what degree was Jimmy Carter's life a representation of the state of Georgia?
2. How could Carter's work after he left office be considered more successful than when he was president?
3. To what degree is there a connection between Jimmy Carter's upbringing, his actions as governor, his actions as president, and his contributions after leaving the presidency?

EXTEND

1. A president's time in office is rarely just the successful signing of bills, pinning medals on generals, or shaking hands with supporters. Many presidents spend countless hours on white-knuckle negotiations, reactions to foreign affairs, and obstacles in the way of their promises. In speaking of his presidency, Jimmy Carter said, "We kept our country at peace. We never went to war. We never dropped a bomb. We never fired a bullet." Research some of the most challenging events during his time in office (such as the Iran Hostage Crisis, economic inflation, OPEC oil embargo, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, returning the Panama Canal). How did President Carter deal with these challenges without waging war?
2. President Carter also made many important contributions during his four-year term. Research some of his achievements (such as creating the Departments of Energy and Education, initiating the Camp David Accords and second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), and passing the Superfund Act). Compare his achievements and his challenges, and break into sets of paired groups that will debate the question of whether Jimmy Carter was a successful or unsuccessful president.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. [*Georgia Stories: Habitat for Humanity*](#)
2. [*Georgia Stories: Lillian Gordy Carter*](#)
3. [*Georgia Stories: The Executive Branch*](#)