

## Core Skills Analysis

### Geography

- Clifton learned how political events such as Watergate can influence a country's political geography by affecting governmental structures and public trust.
- The activity introduced Clifton to the significance of Washington D.C. as the geographical center of U.S. political power and governance.
- Clifton gained insight into how historical political scandals can impact the spatial distribution of power and influence within a nation.
- Through Watergate, Clifton understood the relationship between geography and political boundaries, including how regions respond to national events.

### Tips

To deepen Clifton's understanding of geography in political contexts, consider exploring how historical events reshape political maps over time, such as examining the impact of other major scandals or political changes globally. Encourage Clifton to research how different cities or regions are centers of political activity and their geographical significance. Another extension is to analyze the geographic distribution of media outlets that reported on Watergate using maps or digital tools, fostering skills in spatial analysis and critical thinking. Additionally, role-play activities simulating government decision-making from a geographic perspective could enhance Clifton's grasp of how location influences politics.

### Book Recommendations

- [Watergate: The Basics](#) by David Bressoud: A clear and accessible overview of the Watergate scandal, helping middle schoolers understand its political significance.
- [An Illustrated Atlas of U.S. History](#) by Richard Panchyk: This atlas provides historical maps linking political events like Watergate to the geographical landscape of the United States.
- [Political Geography: Power, People, and Landscapes](#) by Leonie Sandercock: An engaging introduction to how geography shapes political structures and major national events.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.3: Analyze how a text makes connections among individuals, events, and ideas.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas.
- National Geography Standard 6: How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.
- National Geography Standard 11: The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.

### Try This Next

- Create a timeline map plotting key locations related to the Watergate scandal in Washington D.C.
- Write a short essay explaining how the geography of Washington D.C. influences political power and events.