

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right. The flag appears to be draped or hanging, with some folds and shadows. The text "Watergate Scandal" is centered over the flag.

Watergate Scandal

Identify three occasions in which the Judiciary Committee drafted articles of impeachment.

- Andrew Johnson: (1868) Violated the "Tenure of Office Act"
- Richard Nixon: (1974) The Watergate coverup
- Bill Clinton: (1998-1999) Concealing an extramarital affair

Describe the Impeachment Process

- House Judiciary Committee drafts articles of impeachment and forwards them to the full House for action.
- If the full House approves any of the articles of impeachment the President is technically impeached.
- The Presidents impeachment trial is held before the Senate with the Chief Justice presiding.
- If 2/3 of the Senate votes to convict – the President is removed.

Who has the power of Impeachment and who conducts the trial of the president after he has been impeached?

a) The House of Representatives

b) The Senate

Briefly discuss Nixon's political career. What offices did he hold?

- Republican
- Served in the House of Representatives from 1946-1952.
- Served as Vice President from 1952-1960.
- In 1960 Nixon lost to Kennedy in the Presidential election.
- Lost a bid for Governor of California in 1962.
- Won the Presidency in 1968 over Hubert Humphrey.

What happened on 6/17/1972?

- A break-in occurred on the night of June 17, 1972, as five burglars entered the Democratic National Committee offices inside the Watergate Office Complex in Washington.
- Discovered by 24-year-old night watchman Frank Wills, they were arrested at the scene by police at 2:30 a.m.

What did investigations reveal?

- The Watergate burglars were employed by the Committee to Re-elect President Nixon.
- However, a White House spokesman dismissed the incident as a "third-rate burglary attempt."

What did Nixon and co. become deeply involved in?

- President Nixon and his top aides became deeply involved in an extensive coverup of the break-in and other White House sanctioned illegal activities.

What did the Times reveal in 1970?

- A secret bombing campaign against neutral Cambodia in Southeast Asia was being conducted as part of the American war effort in Vietnam.

What was Nixon's response?

- Nixon ordered wiretaps of reporters and government employees to discover the source of the news leaks.
- In an effort to achieve these goals Nixon and his aids created a special organization called the "Plumbers".

What were the *Pentagon Papers*?

- In 1971, the *Pentagon Papers* were published in *The New York Times*, detailing the U.S. Defense Department's secret history of the Vietnam War.
- The document revealed a pattern of dishonesty by the government toward the American people with respect to the war.

What was the purpose of the Plumbers unit?

- They had the sole purpose of gathering political intelligence on perceived enemies and preventing further news leaks.

Why did the plumbers break in to a psychiatrist's office?

- The "Plumbers" broke into a psychiatrist's office looking for damaging information on Daniel Ellsberg, the former defense analyst who had leaked the *Pentagon Papers* to the press.

What was the purpose of the Watergate break-in?

- In 1972, as part of Nixon's re-election effort, a massive campaign of political spying and 'dirty tricks' was initiated against Democrats, leading to the Watergate break-in to plant bugs (tiny audio transmitters) inside the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

What was discovered about Attorney General John Mitchell?

- Attorney General John Mitchell had controlled a secret fund which financed political spying and dirty tricks targeting Democratic presidential candidates.

What was established in Feb of 1973? What was its purpose?

- The U.S. Senate established a Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, chaired by Sen. Sam Ervin.
- Its purpose was to investigate all of the events surrounding Watergate and other allegations of political spying and sabotage conducted on behalf of Nixon's re-election.

What events implicated Nixon as being involved?

- Former Presidential Counsel John Dean testified there was an ongoing White House coverup and that Nixon had been personally involved in the payment of hush money to the five burglars and two other operatives involved in planning the Watergate break-in.

What became the focus of the battle between the three branches?

- A Nixon aide revealed the President had ordered hidden microphones installed in the Oval Office in the spring of 1971 and had recorded most conversations since then on audio tape.
- The tapes then became the focus of an intensive year-long legal battle between all three branches of the U.S. government.

What was the Saturday Night Massacre?

- In October of 1973, Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, who had been appointed by the Nixon administration, publicly vowed to obtain the tapes despite Nixon's strong objections.
- Nixon ordered the Attorney General to fire Cox
- The AG (Elliot Richardson) refused and resigned.
- Nixon then ordered the Deputy AG (William Ruckelshaus) to fire Cox – he too refused and resigned.
- Solicitor General Robert Bork agreed to fire Cox – and did.

After Nixon agreed to turn over the tapes, what was revealed? Who was blamed?

- Nixon responded to public outrage by initially agreeing to turn over some of the tapes.
- However, the White House then revealed that two of the tapes no longer existed and later revealed there was an 18 minute blank gap on a crucial recording of the President and H.R. Haldeman taped three days after the Watergate break-in.
- Nixon's personal secretary Rose Mary Woods was eventually blamed as having caused the erasure supposedly after she had been asked to prepare a summary of taped conversations for the President.

What did Nixon release in November of 1973? Why did this cause a national sensation?

- 1,254 pages of edited transcripts of 20 tapes in the spring of 1974.
- The transcripts caused a national sensation as Americans glimpsed behind closed doors for the first time at a cynical Nixon who frequently used obscene language in the Oval Office, in contrast to his carefully tailored public image.
- The transcripts also revealed Nixon frequently discussing Watergate including the raising of "hush money" to keep the burglars quiet.

What three articles of impeachment did the House Judiciary Committee approve?

- Obstruction of Justice
- Abuse of Power
- Contempt of Congress

What revelation resulted in a complete collapse of support for Nixon in Congress?

- On August 5, 1974, the long sought after audio tapes provided the "smoking gun" which revealed President Nixon had been deeply involved in the coverup and had ordered Haldeman to halt the FBI investigation just six days after the Watergate break-in

What happened on August 9, 1974? What did Nixon avoid by doing this?

- Nixon resigned the presidency and avoided the likely prospect of losing the impeachment vote in the full House and a subsequent trial in the Senate.
- He thus became the only U.S. President ever to resign. Vice President Gerald R. Ford succeeded him and a month later granted Nixon a full pardon for any crimes he might have committed while President