

Name:

Date:

THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

In 1979/ a revolution broke out in Iran/ a country in the Middle East. Islamic fundamentalists/ led by religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini/ overthrew the shah/ or king, of Iran. The shah fled from Iran/ and the Ayatollah took over the country. The Ayatollah wanted the shah to return to Iran to go on trial as a criminal.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter let the shah enter the United States to be treated for cancer. Some Iranians were angry that Carter had let the shah come into the country. They were afraid the United States might help the shah take back Iran.



On November 4, 1979, 500 Iranian students took over the American embassy in Tehran, Iran. They took some of the American employees hostage. Some hostages were later let go/ but 52 of them were held as prisoners inside the embassy for over a year.

President Carter stopped importing oil from Iran. He also froze Iranian assets in the United States. Carter hoped to pressure Iran to free the hostages. He then tried talking with the Iranians, but nothing worked. On April 24, 1980/ the United States sent in a rescue mission. Something went terribly wrong/ though, and three rescue helicopters broke down in the desert. Another helicopter crashed into a plane. Eight people died in the accident/ and the rescue mission failed.

News of the rescue mission failure frustrated Americans. Each night/ they watched news programs count the days the hostages had been held prisoner. Americans began to talk badly about President Carter. They worried about how the United States was losing control over world events.

In 1980/ two important events happened. The shah died/ and Iraq invaded Iran. These two events made Iran feel differently about ending the hostage crisis. The United States agreed to unfreeze most Iranian assets. In exchange, Iran had to let the hostages go. On January 20, 1981, President Ronald Reagan's inauguration day, the hostages were freed. They had been prisoners for 444 days.

The release of the hostages on Reagan's inauguration day lifted Americans' spirits. Americans had suffered through ten years of economic problems and over a year of the hostage crisis. The country needed some good news. In his inaugural address/ Reagan told Americans he would deliver what they wanted. Reagan said/ Let us begin an era of national renewal And let us renew our faith and hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams."

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Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

- D** 1. In 1979, Islamic fundamentalists overthrew the shah of _____
A. Iraq
B. Iran
C. Israel
D. Syria
- D** 2. President Jimmy Carter let the shah enter the United States to _____
A. vacation
B. work
C. be treated for cancer
D. none of the above
- D** 3. Iranian students took over the American embassy and held hostages for _____
A. 4 days
B. 444 days
C. 4 weeks
D. 4 months
- D** 4. To try to make Iran let the hostages go, President **Carter**-----'
A. stopped importing oil from Iran
B. froze Iranian assets in the United States
C. talked with the Iranians
D. all of the above
- D** 5. The hostages were finally let go on _____'s inauguration day.
A. Jimmy Carter
B. Ronald Reagan
C. Gerald Ford
D. George Bush

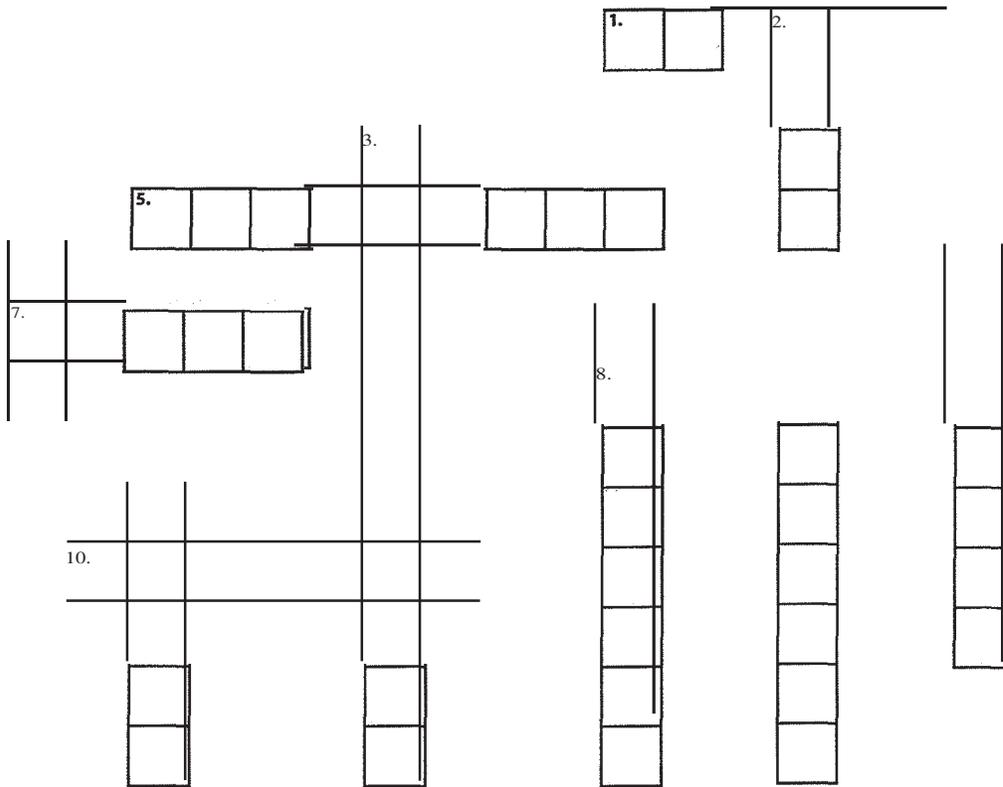
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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

1. Iranian students took over the American embassy in _____ Iran.
5. Fifty-two Americans were held as _____ for over a year.
7. _____ overthrew the shah and took over Iran.
10. Three rescue helicopters broke down, and another one _____ into a plane.

DOWN

2. Eight people died in the helicopter accident, and the _____ failed.
3. Americans worried about how the United States was losing control over _____.
4. In 1980, the _____ died.
6. The Ayatollah wanted the shah to go on trial as a _____.
8. The release of the _____ lifted Americans' spirits.
9. Iranians were angry that _____ had let the shah come into the United States.

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Time Line – The Hostages

Use the time line to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

November 4, 1979	• Sixty-six Americans are taken captive in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran.
November 19–20, 1979	• Thirteen hostages are released.
April 24, 1980	• The rescue mission fails.
July 11, 1980	• One hostage is released.
January 20, 1981	• The remaining 52 hostages are released.

1. How many total hostages were taken captive?

2. In what year did the rescue mission fail?

3. What happened on January 20, 1981?

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Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Why do you think Iran agreed to release the hostages on President Reagan's inauguration day? Explain your answer.

2. Imagine you are one of the hostages. In a few sentences, describe how you might feel as you step off the plane in the United States after 444 days as a prisoner in Iran.

3. Jimmy Carter was President from 1977-1981. Look on the Internet or at the library to find out three facts about President Carter.

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QUIZ: THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. President Carter let the shah enter the United States to be treated for cancer.
- _____ 2. Iranian students held hostages for four months.
- _____ 3. In 1980, President Carter died.
- _____ 4. Americans worried about how the United States was losing control over world events.
- _____ 5. Iranians wanted Ayatollah Khomeini to go on trial as a criminal.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

- D** 6. In 1979, _____ overthrew the shah of Iran.
- A. American troops
 - B. Islamic fundamentalists
 - C. Iraqi troops
 - D. Israeli troops
- D** 7. On Ronald Reagan's inauguration day, _____
- A. the shah of Iran was overthrown
 - B. Iranian students took over the American embassy in Iran
 - C. the hostages were released
 - D. the rescue mission failed

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Why did the rescue mission fail?
