



### 1973 Energy Crisis

On January 2, 1974, President Nixon signed into law the national 55 mph speed limit. The law required states to limit the maximum speeds on highways to 55 mph. The purpose was to conserve energy during the Arab Oil Embargo. The Arab Oil Embargo limited petroleum sales to the U.S. that lasted 5 months, from October 17, 1973 and ending on March 23, 1974. The embargo was in retaliation for the United States support of Israel during the October 1973 Yom Kippur War. In addition to the speed limit change, the government implemented odd-even gas rationing; meaning gas could be bought on days matching the last digit of your license plate. If it was odd, gas could only be bought on odd-numbered days. The gas rationing led to long lines and even violence (especially among truckers). Year-round daylight saving time was also implemented, causing many children to commute to school before sunrise. I remember walking to school in the dark.



#### Research questions:

1. What is an embargo?
2. What is the Yom Kippur War?