

NOBEL PRIZE RECIPIENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

Learn something about the Nobel Prize recipients of 2009. Who are they? What did they win their prizes for? What did they have to say about winning? Also find out more about the Nobel Prizes themselves. Use the website below to explore the various pages of information, and to chase down the clues to the mystery questions below in order to find the answers.

B. RESOURCES

THE NOBEL PRIZE:

<http://nobelprize.org/>

C. STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. This Nobel Prize winner was born in 1953, in Banat, Romania. She was harassed in Romania and labelled a spy because she refused to become one. She claims that she "learnt to live by writing", and writes in a variety of formats, including poems, novels, short stories, and essays. In her poetry, she cuts out words from Romanian print sources and creates collages of words. Who is this Nobel recipient, and what did she win the prize for?
2. Both of the winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2009, are American -- Elinor Ostrom, and Oliver E. Williamson -- and both won the prize for their work in economic governance. What is economic governance? What are two types of classes of institutions that govern human interactions? How did Williamson contribute to our understanding of economic governance? And what did Elinor Ostrom challenge?
3. This Nobel Prize recipient's award caused much controversy this year. American President Barack Obama was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples". Other world presidents have also been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Name four of them. Who was the last American President to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? How many American Presidents have been awarded this honor? When questioned about how early in his presidency Obama was singled out for this award, what was the Nobel Committee's Thorbjørn Jagland's reply?
4. Three physicists were awarded the Nobel Prize this year. Who were they? What were they awarded for? Who did what? Who won one-half of the prize? Where do the two American physicists work?
5. Three scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine 2009. They shared the award equally. Who won? What did they win for? What "long-standing, fundamental problem in biology" did they solve? What did they demonstrate?