

# MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

## READING COMPREHENSION



### MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

In 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led by Martin Luther King Jr., focused its efforts on Selma, Alabama, aiming to register African American voters in the South. The backdrop was set by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which aimed to eradicate racial discrimination in voting.



#### THE STRUGGLE

Despite the legislative progress, the SCLC and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) encountered staunch opposition in southern states, particularly in Alabama, where Governor George Wallace adamantly resisted desegregation. Only 2% of Selma's eligible African American voters were registered due to local resistance.



#### TENSIONS

Martin Luther King Jr.'s international recognition, marked by the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, brought heightened attention to Selma. The situation turned dire when white segregationists attacked peaceful demonstrators in Marion, leading to the tragic death of Jimmie Lee Jackson at the hands of an Alabama state trooper.

#### BLOODY SUNDAY

In response to the violence, King organized a march from Selma to Montgomery. The first attempt on March 7, 1965, ended in the violent "Bloody Sunday" confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The violence against the marchers in Selma...

# NO-PREP & EDITABLE



On March 9, the troopers...

The...

MARCH...

The un...

successful march

## READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

### MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

In 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led by Martin Luther King Jr., focused its efforts on Selma, Alabama, aiming to register African American voters in the South. The backdrop was set by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which aimed to eradicate racial discrimination in voting.



#### THE STRUGGLE

Despite the legislative progress, the SCLC and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) encountered staunch opposition in southern states, particularly in Alabama, where Governor George Wallace adamantly resisted desegregation. Only 2% of Selma's eligible African American voters were registered due to local resistance.



#### TENSIONS

Martin Luther King Jr.'s international recognition, marked by the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, brought heightened attention to Selma. The situation turned dire when white segregationists attacked peaceful demonstrators in Marion, leading to the tragic death of Jimmie Lee Jackson at the hands of an Alabama state trooper.

#### BLOODY SUNDAY

In response to the violence, King and the SCLC organized a march from Selma to Montgomery. The first attempt on March 7, 1965—dubbed Bloody Sunday—resulted in a brutal confrontation at the



Edmund Pettis Bridge. The act of violence ignited national outrage, prompting civil rights and religious leaders to join the protests in Selma.



#### A SECOND ATTEMPT

A second attempt on March 9, 1965, faced renewed opposition from state troopers. The tragic death of white minister James Ray heightened tensions. However, a U.S. district court judge's order and President Lyndon Johnson's televised support paved the way for subsequent success.



#### THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

President Johnson's call for federal voting rights laws in March 1965 led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in August. The landmark legislation prohibited literacy tests for voting and challenged the use of poll taxes, ensuring the right to vote for all African Americans.

#### THE TRIUMPHANT MARCH

Protected by U.S. Army troops and the Alabama National Guard, the march from Selma to Montgomery covered approximately 54 miles. Protesters walked 12 hours a day,



reaching Montgomery on March 25, 1965.



Nearly 50,000 supporters, representing various races, gathered at the state capital to hear King and other speakers.

#### LASTING IMPACT

The Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act significantly reduced disparities between African American and white voters, opening doors for increased political participation at local, state, and national levels. The Selma-to-Montgomery march remains a pivotal moment in American history, symbolizing the unwavering pursuit of equality and civil rights for all.



# Ready to Print & Editable

## READING COMPREHENSION

### COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

### Comprehension Questions

Directions: Choose the right answer.

1. What was the primary focus of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1955?

- a. Economic equality
- b. Voter registration for African Americans
- c. Desegregation in schools
- d. Employment opportunities

2. Which state became a significant battleground for voter registration efforts in the South during the civil rights movement?

- a. Mississippi
- b. Georgia
- c. Alabama
- d. Louisiana

3. What event prompted Martin Luther King Jr. to plan a protest march from Selma to Montgomery?

- a. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- b. The Nobel Peace Prize announcement
- c. The death of Jimmie Lee Jackson
- d. The March on Washington

4. What was the outcome of the first march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965?

- a. Successful completion of the march
- b. Violent confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge
- c. Peaceful negotiations with state officials
- d. Recognition of African American voting rights

5. Who ordered the protection of the marchers during the successful march from Selma to Montgomery?

- a. Martin Luther King Jr.
- b. Alabama Governor George Wallace
- c. U.S. Army Troops and the Alabama National Guard
- d. Federal Marshals

7. What significant legislative response followed President Lyndon Johnson's call for federal voting rights laws in March 1965?

- a. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- b. The Voting Rights Act
- c. The Equal Pay Act
- d. The Fair Housing Act

8. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 aim to address?

- a. Economic disparities
- b. Segregation in schools
- c. Barriers preventing African Americans from voting
- d. Employment discrimination

9. How many miles did the marchers cover each day during the march from Selma to Montgomery?

- a. 5 miles
- b. 10 miles
- c. 2 hours a day
- d. 25 miles

10. What did the Selma-to-Montgomery march symbolize in American history?

- a. Economic reforms
- b. Religious freedom
- c. The pursuit of equality and civil rights
- d. The end of segregation

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What was the primary focus of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1955?
2. What tragic event prompted the planning of a protest march from Selma to Montgomery?
3. Why did the first march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965, become known as "Bloody Sunday"?
4. What legislative response followed President Lyndon Johnson's call for federal voting rights laws in March 1965?
5. How did the successful march from Selma to Montgomery impact American history?

## Answers Key

### Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. What was the primary focus of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1955?

- Answer: b. Voter registration for African Americans

2. Which state became a significant battleground for voter registration efforts in the South during the civil rights movement?

- Answer: c. Alabama

3. What event prompted Martin Luther King Jr. to plan a protest march from Selma to Montgomery?

- Answer: c. The death of Jimmie Lee Jackson

4. What was the outcome of the first march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965?

- Answer: b. Violent confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge

5. Who ordered the protection of the marchers during the successful march from Selma to Montgomery?

- Answer: b. U.S. Army Troops and the Alabama National Guard

6. What tragic event occurred on the night of March 7, 1965, during the march?

- Answer: b. Violent confrontation with state troopers

7. What significant legislative response followed President Johnson's call for federal voting rights laws in March 1965?

- Answer: b. The Voting Rights Act

8. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 aim to address?

- Answer: c. Barriers preventing African Americans from voting

9. How many miles did the marchers cover each day during the march from Selma to Montgomery?

- Answer: a. 5 hours a day

10. What did the Selma-to-Montgomery march symbolize in American history?

- Answer: c. The pursuit of equality and civil rights

March 9, 1965, during the second

## Answers Key

### Multiple-Choice Questions Requiring Explanation

1. What was the primary focus of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1955?

- Answer: The SCLC aimed to register African American voters in the South, focusing on Selma, Alabama.

2. What tragic event prompted the planning of a protest march from Selma to Montgomery?

- Answer: The fatal shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young African American demonstrator, by an Alabama state trooper in Montgomery, Alabama.

3. Why did the first march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965, become known as "Bloody Sunday"?

- Answer: State troopers attacked the peaceful demonstrators at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, resulting in a violent confrontation against non-violent marchers.

4. What legislative response followed President Lyndon Johnson's call for federal voting rights laws in March 1965?

- Answer: The passage of the Voting Rights Act in August 1965, which guaranteed the right to vote for all African Americans and prohibited literacy tests and poll taxes.

5. How did the successful march from Selma to Montgomery impact American history?

- Answer: The march symbolized a triumph for voting rights, leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act, which significantly reduced discrimination against African Americans and white voters in the United States.

10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

**READY TO PRINT**

**NO-PREP !**

**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



**EASY EDITING**

**EDITABLE**

**\* FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**



# \$\$ SAVE MORE GET THE COMPLETE BUNDLE

SPECIAL OFFER  
UP TO 50% OFF


## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. READING COMPREHENSION

**INCLUDES:**

- \*BIOGRAPHY
- \*LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL
- \*MARCH ON WASHINGTON
- \*"I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH (HARD)
- \*MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY
- \*MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT
- \*SIT-INS
- \*MLK & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

**NO-PREP & EDITABLE**

*Bundle*



CLICK HERE!

**13 RESOURCES**

Memorial

Ready to Print & Editable

Biography



### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

### MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

SIT-INS

I Have a Dream

