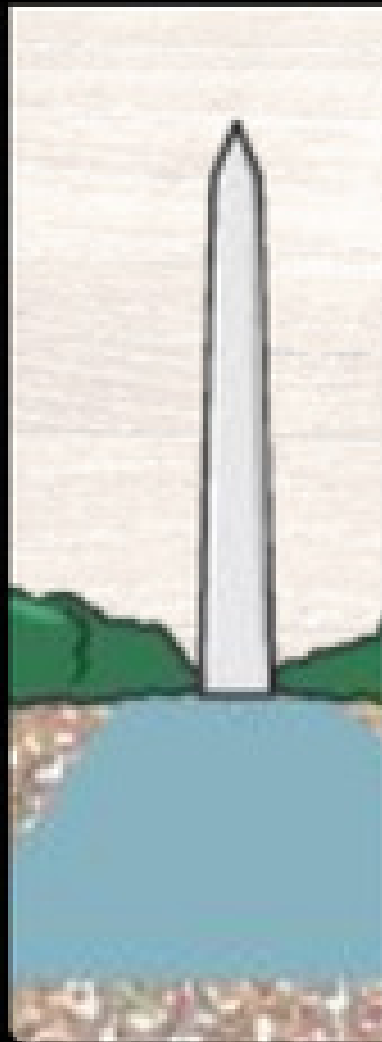


MARCH ON WASHINGTON

READING COMPREHENSION



Name: _____

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Comp

Directions: Choose the right

1. What event took place on

- A. Emancipation Proclamation
- B. March on Washington for
- C. Civil Rights Act passage
- D. Montgomery Bus Boycott

2. How many people, approx,
marched on Washington?

- A. 50,000
- B. 250,000
- C. 500,000
- D. 1 million

3. What challenge did African
Americans face in 1957?

- A. Segregation in schools
- B. Equal job rights
- C. Full voting rights
- D. Freedom to travel or to

4. Who had the idea to march?

- A. Martin Luther King Jr.
- B. A. Philip Randolph
- C. Bayard Rustin
- D. President Kennedy

5. Why did President Eisenhower

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

On a hot and clear day, August 28, 1963, in Washington, DC, more than 250,000 people from various races, ages, and religions gathered at the National Mall. The area between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, lined with activity as people sought relief from the heat by fanning themselves or dipping their toes in the Reflecting Pool. The diverse crowd had traveled from almost every state to participate in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



INEQUALITY

Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln a century earlier, African Americans were still grappling with inequality in the South. They faced segregation in schools and workplaces, earned less than their white counterparts, and were subjected to discriminatory practices. Acts of protest, such as bus boycotts and peaceful marches, marked the beginning of the civil rights movement. However, these acts were met with violence from the police, including the use of water hoses and dogs, and even bombings of homes and churches.

ORGANIZING

Recognizing the need for change, civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, and Bayard Rustin, among others, organized and attempted to lead a march, plans moved forward. The march, scheduled for August 28, 1963, aimed to demand equal rights and civil rights for all.

MARCH JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON

People from across the country traveled to Washington, DC. Some even embarked on a 25-day journey from New York City. By 1963, a massive gathering had formed at the Washington Monument, swelling to 500,000 people within two hours. The crowd, representing various ages and races, spread out around the Reflecting Pool and up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The event attracted millions of viewers through television and radio broadcasts.

**NO-PREP &
EDITABLE**

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

On a hot and sticky day August 28, 1963 in Washington, DC, more than 200,000 people from diverse races, ages, and regions gathered on the National Mall. The area between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial teemed with activity as people sought relief from the heat by fanning themselves or dipping their feet in the reflecting pool. The dense crowd had traveled from almost every state to participate in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



INEQUALITY

Despite the Constitution's prohibition issued by President Abraham Lincoln a century earlier, African Americans were still grappling with inequality in 1963. In the South, they faced segregation, violence, and lynchings, whereas those that were white counterparts, did not experience discrimination practices. Acts of violence, such as the bombing and peaceful marches, marked the beginning of the civil rights movement. However, these acts came with some costs from the state, including the use of water hoses and dogs, and harassment of homes and churches.

ORGANIZING

Recognizing the need for change, civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, and Bayard Rustin organized a mass march on Washington, DC. Despite initial concerns and attempts by President Kennedy to discourage the march, plans moved forward. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, scheduled for August 28, 1963, aimed to demand equal job opportunities, voting rights, and civil rights for all.

MARCH JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON

People from across the country traveled by train, truck, and car to reach Washington, DC. Some even embarked on a 200-mile march from Brooklyn, New York. In 1963, on a scorching day, a parade gathered just north of the Washington Monument, leading to 50,000 people within two hours. The crowd, representing various ages and races, spread out around the reflecting pool and the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The event attracted millions of viewers through television and radio broadcasts.

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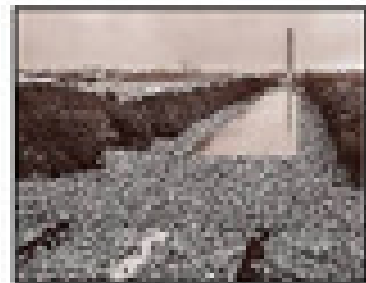


SPEAKERS

Various speakers addressed the crowd, advocating for justice, dignity, and equality for people of all races. The final speaker was the renowned 29-year-old Martin Luther King Jr., a prominent figure in the civil rights movement. Having traveled a few miles to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and others, King shared his dream of a nation where people would be judged by their character, not the color of their skin. His powerful speech resonated across the National Mall and the entire United States.

DIRECT

The March on Washington, attended by an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 people, marked a turning point for African Americans. Recognized as a pivotal event, it inspired Martin Luther King Jr. to file his historic lawsuit, "Rise of the Man" in 1964 and the Civil Rights Act in the following year. President Johnson responded to the momentum by signing the Civil Rights Act in 1964, promising segregation to come to an end. The significance of the March on Washington, creating many African Americans' right to vote, many attribute these historic acts to the significant impact of the March on Washington.



March on Washington

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W
VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name _____

Date _____

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Comprehension Questions

Directions: Choose the best answer.

1. What event took place on August 28, 1963, in Washington, D.C.?

- A. Emancipation Proclamation signing
- B. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- C. Civil Rights Act passage
- D. Montgomery Bus Boycott

2. How many people, approximately, gathered at the National Mall for the March on Washington?

- A. 10,000
- B. 250,000
- C. 500,000
- D. 1 million

3. What challenge did African Americans face in the South despite being free in 1863?

- A. Segregation in schools and restaurants
- B. Equal pay in jobs
- C. Full voting rights
- D. Freedom to travel interstate

4. Who led the drive to organize a mass march on Washington, D.C.?

- A. Martin Luther King Jr.
- B. A. Philip Randolph
- C. Bayard Rustin
- D. President Kennedy

5. Why did President Kennedy try to discourage the leaders from organizing the March on Washington?

- A. Fear of union problems
- B. Concern about the weather
- C. Opposition to civil rights
- D. Support for rights leader's assassination

6. How did people travel to Washington for the march?

- A. Only by plane
- B. Only by train
- C. Buses, trains, and cars
- D. Walking from nearby states

7. Who was the final speaker at the March on Washington?

- A. A. Philip Randolph
- B. Bayard Rustin
- C. Martin Luther King Jr.
- D. President Kennedy

8. What did Martin Luther King Jr. emphasize in his speech at the March on Washington?

- A. The importance of voting in protests
- B. His dream of a nation with equal rights
- C. Support for segregation
- D. Opposition to voting rights

9. How many people, approximately, attended the March on Washington according to estimates?

- A. 100,000 people
- B. 250,000 people
- C. 500,000 people
- D. Over 1 million

10. What legislation was passed in response to the momentum generated by the March on Washington?

- A. Emancipation Proclamation
- B. Voting Rights Act of 1965
- C. Civil Rights Act of 1964
- D. Montgomery Bus Boycott Act

Questions

1. What was the main purpose of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom?

2. Why did President Kennedy attempt to discourage the leaders from organizing the March on Washington?

3. Who were the key organizers of the March on Washington, and what were their roles?

4. What significant events or challenges did African Americans face in the South despite the Emancipation Proclamation being signed a century earlier?

5. What impact did the March on Washington have on subsequent legislation, and what groups were most involved in the process?

Answers Key

1. What event took place on August 28, 1963, in Washington, D.C.?

Answer: B. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

2. How many people, approximately, gathered at the National Mall for the March on Washington?

Answer: C. 500,000

3. What challenge did African Americans face in the South despite being free in 1863?

Answer: A. Segregation in schools and restaurants

4. Who led the drive to organize a mass march on Washington, D.C.?

Answer: B. A. Philip Randolph

5. Why did President Kennedy try to discourage the leaders from organizing the March on Washington?

Answer: A. Fear of union problems

6. How did people travel to Washington for the march?

Answer: C. Buses, trains, and cars

7. Who was the final speaker at the March on Washington?

Answer: D. Martin Luther King Jr.

8. What did Martin Luther King Jr. emphasize in his speech at the March on Washington?

Answer: B. His dream of a nation with equal rights

9. How many people, approximately, attended the March on Washington according to estimates?

Answer: C. 500,000 people

10. What legislation was passed in response to the momentum generated by the March on Washington?

Answer: C. Civil Rights Act of 1964

Answers Key

1. What was the main purpose of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom?

Answer: B. To demand equal employment opportunities and civil rights

2. Why did President Kennedy attempt to discourage the leaders from organizing the March on Washington?

Answer: A. He was concerned about the potential for violence and the impact on the economy

3. Who were the key organizers of the March on Washington, and what were their roles?

Answer: A. A. Philip Randolph (co-organizer), Bayard Rustin (co-organizer), Martin Luther King Jr. (key speaker)

4. What significant events or challenges did African Americans face in the South despite the Emancipation Proclamation being signed a century earlier?

Answer: A. Segregation, discrimination, and violence

5. What impact did the March on Washington have on subsequent legislation, and what groups were most involved in the process?

Answer: A. It led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

6. How did people travel to Washington for the march?

Answer: C. Buses, trains, and cars

7. Who was the final speaker at the March on Washington?

Answer: D. Martin Luther King Jr.

8. What did Martin Luther King Jr. emphasize in his speech at the March on Washington?

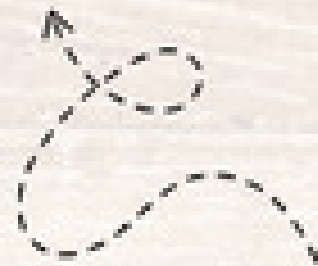
Answer: B. His dream of a nation with equal rights

9. How many people, approximately, attended the March on Washington according to estimates?

Answer: C. 500,000 people

10. What legislation was passed in response to the momentum generated by the March on Washington?

Answer: C. Civil Rights Act of 1964



10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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