

Freedom Riders Movie Worksheet

Directions: Answer the questions below based on the film. The questions are listed in the order they appear in the film, and you do not need to answer in complete sentences.

1. What was the stated purpose of the Freedom Rider movement?
2. Who does the man on the TV say the “best friend the Negro has ever had” is?
3. What did everyone think would happen on the Civil Rights Issue when Kennedy was elected? Why was that a false assumption?
4. How did the Freedom Riders hope to force the Kennedy Administration to help them?
5. What kind of training did the Core Staff give its members before they got on the busses to go South?
6. Although the people of Core were nonviolent, why did they court violence in their actions? Was the South better or worse than they originally thought?
7. Who was Irene Morgan, and how was she connected to the Freedom Rider movement?
8. Why did Martin Luther King not join the Freedom Rider movement?
9. How many busses drove to Alabama on May 14, 1961 and how many made it to Birmingham?
10. Why was the Civil Rights movement so infuriating to Southern Whites?

11. How many people were at the bus station in Aniston, AL when the first Freedom Bus arrived?
What did these men do? Who organized this?
12. What did the bus driver do when he realized that all the tires were flat?
13. Why could no one on the bus get off at first, and why did the crowd eventually let the folks off of the bus?
14. What happened to the Black protestor when he told the man outside the bus he was okay?
15. How did the highway patrol react to the attack on the bus in Aniston?
16. What was the name of the Police Chief in Birmingham and what did he feel about segregation?
17. What agreement was in place between the Birmingham Police Department and the Klan concerning the bus that rolled into Birmingham?
18. What did the FBI know about the Klan's plans against the Freedom Riders and why did the FBI not try to intervene?
19. What did the reporter do when he looked at Jerry Iver Moore and why?
20. What did the Klan do when the bus stopped in Birmingham?
21. How did the policeman react when the Black woman told him that her husband was being beat to death?

22. What was the initial reaction of the Kennedy Administration to the violent attacks on the two Freedom Buses?
23. What did the Bus Driver of the bus at Birmingham do when the Freedom Riders wanted to move further south?
24. Why were the Freedom Riders still in the Birmingham Airport when the US District Attorney's representative got there? What was his mission?
25. How did the State Police officers in Louisiana react to the Freedom Riders?
26. Why were the student protesters from Nashville Tennessee the logical choice as the next Freedom Riders? Why was joining the movement a hard decision for many of the Nashville students to make?
27. Why did Diane Nash's group divide itself into two groups?
28. What did Diane Nash say when she was told by the Attorney General's office that her decision to send the Freedom Riders back to the South would result in getting people killed?
29. What happened to Nash's group when they arrived in Birmingham?
30. What conclusion did the Kennedy administration come to when Governor Patterson would not talk to them?
31. Why do the second group of Nashville Freedom Riders get stuck in Birmingham? T

32. What finally forced governor Patterson to intervene and protect the Freedom Riders that were stranded in Birmingham?
33. What happened to the Freedom Riders when they arrived at Montgomery? This time, who were the first people that the mob attacked?
34. What happened to US official John Segenthaler at the Montgomery Protest? How did the Kennedy Administration react to this?
35. What did King and many of the other mainstream Civil Rights Movement leaders do after the attack in Montgomery?
36. What happened to the Church in Montgomery where the Civil Rights Protestors and the Freedom Riders were meeting in?
37. What did Governor Patterson do to get the unruly mob surrounding the church in Montgomery under control?
38. What decision did the leaders of the Freedom Riders and the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement make concerning the Freedom Rides?
39. How did the Freedom Riders finally get out of Alabama?
40. Why was there no violent mobs awaiting the Freedom Riders in Mississippi?
41. What charge were the Freedom Riders arrested under?
42. What did the Freedom Rides do to the US's international reputation?

43. Where did Ross Barnett, the governor of Mississippi, send the Freedom Riders? How did the Freedom Rider movement respond to this?
44. What did Robert Kennedy do by the time 200 Freedom Riders had been jailed in Mississippi and how did the Freedom Riders respond to him?
45. How many Freedom Riders were ultimately jailed in Parchment and how did it change them?
46. What did the Interstate Commerce Commission do on December 22, 1962?
47. How do we know that the Freedom Riders influenced John Kennedy's decision to back and sign the Civil Rights Act of 1963?

Short Essay

The film you have just watched depicts the Freedom Rider movement of 1962 in meticulous detail. This protest, like many other protests used by the Civil Rights Movement was nonviolent and followed the pattern of Mohandas Gandhi's "Passive Resistance" movement. Gandhi once remarked that he disliked the name "Passive Resistance" to describe his Civil Disobedience movement because, "there was nothing passive about it." Write a short essay of 1-2 paragraphs explaining how the Freedom Riders can be seen as nonviolent soldiers. What similarities did these protestors bear to soldiers?