

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Unsung Architects: 6th Grade Civil Rights Strategy Quiz

Synthesize the tactical shifts and high-stakes legal logic used by activists to dismantle systemic inequality during the mid-20th century.

1. In 1947, the 'Journey of Reconciliation' served as a precursor to the Freedom Rides of the 1960s. What was the primary legal basis these activists used to justify their defiance of local segregation laws?

Answer: C) The Supreme Court ruling in Morgan v. Virginia regarding interstate commerce

Activists relied on the 1946 Morgan v. Virginia ruling, which stated that segregation on interstate buses was an unconstitutional burden on commerce.

2. The 1964 ___ Summer project was a highly organized volunteer campaign designed to increase Black voter registration in Mississippi, a state known for violent disenfranchisement.

Answer: B) Freedom

Freedom Summer was a pivotal 1964 effort that used college-aged volunteers to highlight the lack of voting rights in the South.

3. True or False: The 1963 Birmingham Children's Crusade was a calculated strategy to use the imagery of young protesters to provoke a federal response and international outrage.

Answer: A) True

SCLC leaders, including James Bevel, argued that involving children would gain more sympathy and force the Kennedy administration to act faster.

4. Which organization, founded by Diane Nash and John Lewis, focused on 'top-down' social change through grassroots student-led sit-ins and nonviolent direct action?

Answer: B) The SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)

SNCC emerged from the Greensboro sit-ins and became a major force for youth-led activism throughout the 1960s.

5. Bayard Rustin was a key strategist who organized the 1963 March on Washington, yet he often stayed behind the scenes due to his previous involvement in ___ and his personal identity.

Answer: C) pacifist and socialist movements

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Rustin's past political affiliations and his identity as a gay man made him a target for opponents, leading him to work out of the spotlight.

6. True or False: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was primarily a symbolic gesture that did not grant the federal government power to oversee local elections.

Answer: B) False

The Act gave the U.S. Attorney General the power to send federal examiners to register voters and required 'preclearance' for changes to election laws in certain states.

7. Analyze the impact of the 24th Amendment. How did this specific constitutional change directly support the goals of the Civil Rights Movement?

Answer: B) It ended the use of poll taxes in federal elections

Poll taxes were used as a financial barrier to keep poor Black citizens from voting; the 24th Amendment removed this barrier for federal elections.

8. Ella Baker, a veteran activist, criticized 'charismatic leadership' and instead promoted ____, which empowered local communities to lead their own struggles for justice.

Answer: A) group-centered leadership

Baker believed that long-term change came from developing many leaders at the local level rather than relying on a single famous individual.

9. Fannie Lou Hamer's testimony at the 1964 Democratic National Convention was a pivotal moment because it:

Answer: B) Exposed the violent suppression of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Hamer's emotional testimony about being beaten and jailed for trying to vote brought national attention to the exclusion of Black voters from the political process.

10. True or False: The Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s was entirely unified, with all leaders agreeing that nonviolence was the only effective method for achieving justice.

Answer: B) False

While nonviolence was a dominant strategy, other groups and leaders advocated for 'Black Power' and self-defense, reflecting a diversity of opinions and tactics.